City of Norcross Congratulates Police Chief Warren Summers on Retirement

As an integral part of the Norcross Police Department, the city of Norcross would like to congratulate Norcross Police Chief Warren Summers on his retirement. Chief Summers brought over 30 years of law enforcement experience to the community and so much more. The city of Norcross will be forever grateful for his contributions and efforts in keeping Norcross ‘a place to imagine.’ While the accomplishments are many, the city of Norcross would like to specifically recognize the following achievements:

- Began an extensive outreach program to the City’s Hispanic residents
- Awarded the Personajes Destacados del Año (Outstanding Person of the Year) by Mundo Hispanico as Amigo de Los Hispanos (Friend of the Hispanics) in 2014
- Began an annual Hispanic Citizens Police Academy conducted entirely in Spanish to mimic the police department’s ongoing English speaking Citizens Police Academy
- Substantially increased the Norcross Police Department’s outreach through social media outlets including Facebook, Twitter, newsroom and Nixle
- Expanded the City’s limited CCTV camera system to include major routes in the City allowing police detectives the tools necessary to identify suspect vehicles
- outfitted all uniformed officers with body worn cameras
- Overhauled the police department’s fleet of vehicles creating a systematic method of replacing vehicles and keeping the fleet standardized
- Advanced in-car technology to include robust equipment used to connect in-car laptops to the Internet and city resources, GPS tracking for safety and security of officers, and state-of-the-art in-car camera systems which seamlessly interact with the City’s WIFI to offload stored video
- Implemented the Guardian Tracking personnel management software which was ultimately adopted by all other departments in the City
- Trained and equipped the City’s first certified Crime Scene Technician who is now an expert in latent print examination. One of very few metro-Atlanta agencies to have IAFIS - Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System with a direct link to the GBI and GCIC/NCIC for quick turnaround of fingerprint submissions in criminal cases
- The Norcross Police Department was once again awarded State Certification in 2014 and just recently completed a 2015 CALEA Reaccreditation
- Partnered with PredPol (Predictive Policing) bringing in a new and innovative way of analyzing crime so that officers know which areas in the City need more focus than others
- Created a Crime Suppression Team of detectives and officers to combat quality of life issues such as vice, narcotics, robberies and burglaries
- Created a two-person Motorcycle Traffic Unit to combat the increasing number of traffic accidents in the City
- Instituted a department-wide Cooper Fitness physical fitness testing program
Meet Jolyn Barrow: New Chairperson for the Sustainable Norcross Bike/Ped Committee

Do you walk? Bike? Why? Is it because you like being environmentally conscientious or saving money on gas for your car or need to walk your dog or maybe it’s for health reasons?

Better yet, do you walk your children to school? Do you expect safe routes for walking your children to school?

Let me introduce myself. I am Jolyn Barrow and I have lived in Norcross for almost two years. I moved here from Johns Creek where it is not a friendly place to walk. Since moving here I have become a member of the Norcross Garden Club, volunteered at a few events focused on making Norcross a better place to live, and have joined the Sustainable Norcross Bike/Ped Committee. Most recently I was asked to take over as chair to free Connie Weathers’ time so she can focus on ALL the other Sustainable Norcross Commission activities.

What do we, as a committee, want to accomplish?
Primarily making Norcross a safe and friendly place to bike and walk for all residents.

How? Following a number of already published assessment tools to help identify strengths and weaknesses when it applies to moving around a community by bike or on foot.

Why? Benefits abound, improved health, increased air quality and reduced noise pollution (oh, and bragging rights!). More importantly, the initiative is important for helping our community retain its Green Communities Gold status and all the benefits mentioned that continue due to our efforts.

Technically our committee falls under the umbrella of the Sustainable Norcross Commission. The Bike/Ped Committee’s goal is to focus efforts on assisting the city of Norcross in becoming a certified Walk Friendly Community, in the short term, and in the long term, a Bike Friendly Community. The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), recognizes certifications for bike/ped efforts. The Bike/Ped Committee is tasked with meeting the requirements of lengthy assessments and applications to accomplish our goals for the ARC’s Green Communities program (remember we’re Gold). Does anyone see Platinum status in the future?

The effort does not stop there. We will endeavor to attain the two certifications, which will also support the goals of the Lifelong Communities (LLC), another ARC program, which is headed by Gary Brace. The Bike/Ped Committee, along with the support of the Sustainable Norcross Commission, LLC, Gwinnett CID, Community Improvement District, and our councilman, Andrew Hixson will work together to continue improvements to the quality of life for Norcross residents.

My first action: a CHALLENGE to create a proclamation signed by the Mayor to the City of Norcross enforcing eight principles based on a worldwide effort through Walk21:

1. Increased inclusive mobility
2. Well designed and managed spaces and places for people
3. Improved integration of networks
4. Supportive land-use and spatial planning
5. Reduced road danger
6. Less crime and fear of crime
7. More supportive authorities
8. A culture of walking

More information can be found by visiting walk21.com. If you are interested in volunteering on this committee, please contact me at: sustainablenorcrossbikeped@gmail.com
Norcross Police Officer Receives Highest Award for Bravery at Gwinnett Chamber Valor Awards Ceremony

The Gwinnett Chamber and Presenting Sponsors Mobile Communications of Gwinnett and Motorola recently hosted its Valor Awards Ceremony, which pays tribute to Gwinnett’s public safety professionals, including firefighters, police and emergency personnel. The ceremony includes the presentation of the Medal of Valor, Lifesaving Award, Public Safety Person of the Year, Public Safety Unit of the Year, Communications Officer of the Year and the Purple Heart.

The city of Norcross is proud to announce that one of its very own, City of Norcross Police Sergeant Joseph Harkeroad, was awarded the Gold Medal of Valor. This is the highest award for bravery and heroism and is bestowed in cases where the public safety official knowingly placed his/her/their life/lives in peril of death or serious bodily harm while saving or attempting to save the lives of others.

Sgt. Harkeroad was recognized for his extreme act of bravery during an incident involving a police chase with Gwinnett County Police Unit driven by Sgt. Morales. While at the intersection of Jimmy Carter Blvd. and Brook Hollow Parkway, Sgt. Harkeroad noticed the Gwinnett County police unit attempting to pull over a vehicle with a flat tire. Knowing the officer would need backup, Sgt. Harkeroad activated his blue lights and joined the pursuit. While attempting to flee, the suspect’s car catapulted into the air after striking the guardrail and became engulfed in flames. Upon investigating the scene, Sgt. Harkeroad, with the assistance of Gwinnett County Police Department Officer Begtar, was able to cut the seatbelt and pull the suspect from the vehicle. After pulling the suspect away from the burning vehicle and extinguishing the driver’s clothes that were burning, it was determined that the driver was deceased.

The city of Norcross is beyond grateful for Sgt. Harkeroad’s extreme acts of bravery to keep Norcross safe. It is because of his efforts and the many other highly trained public safety professionals that Norcross remains a safe place to live, work and play.

Congratulations to Norcross Police Sgt. Wolf on earning his Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies from Liberty University where he graduated cum laude. The city of Norcross would also like to congratulate Norcross Police Detective Natalie Watson who recently graduated magna cum laude from Liberty University with a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

GET TO KNOW City of Norcross Tax Officer Alesia Daniel

With the month of April comes longer days, warmer weather, green grass, spring flowers…and tax day. One of those doesn’t go with the others, but at the city of Norcross Tax Officer Alesia Daniel aims to make the tax process a walk in the park (say Betty Mauldin Park?) on a warm spring day. Employed by the city of Norcross for over five years, Alesia brings over 20 years of work experience in both county and local government to her current position. She also earned her paralegal degree from an ABA approved college, has an active real estate license in the state of Georgia, and is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in management. But most importantly, Alesia makes the tax process for city of Norcross residents and business owners, well…a little less taxing.

Q. What does your position entail and how do you help the city?

As the tax officer, my primary duty is to accurately calculate and collect the property, business and occupational taxes for the city. I also review alcohol and business license applications for issuance. This requires me to familiarize myself with statutory regulations to remain in compliance.

Q. What is your favorite aspect of your job?

My favorite part of my job is the customer interaction with both internal and external customers. Oftentimes people have preconceived opinions about government employees. When I’m able to speak with a customer and address their concerns so we both have clear understandings of each other’s position, it’s rewarding to see the smile on their face or hear it in their voice over the phone. I also work with a great group of people in my department! We all work together to make the day go smoothly.

Q. What do you feel makes Norcross unique?

I think Norcross is sort of a beautifully hidden secret. There’s so much to do here between the shops, restaurants, parks and the festivals—it is a great place to explore.

Q. When you are not crunching numbers, what do you like to do?

When I’m not working, I enjoy DIY decorating projects and spending time with family and friends.
Save the DATE!

Norcross Garden Club Plant Sale
April 22 & 23
from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Cash and checks only.

Business license renewals were due by March 31, 2016. There is a 10 percent penalty added to all unpaid occupational tax licenses.

The 2016 Spring Cemetery Tour: A unique look at the History of Norcross

Join local historian Gene Ramsay for a free tour of the Norcross City Cemetery at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 9. Hear a new set of stories of our city’s past, highlighting:

- Edward Buchanan, whose rags-to-riches to rags tale started as an orphan in Norcross
- Wyatt Davenport, a collegiate baseball star killed by a tragic accident on the diamond
- Tom Ed and Lala Summerour, whose civic contributions to the city live on today
- WD Burtschaill, Irish immigrant and railroad construction engineer
- Dodger DeLeon, Depot Garg member whose Norcross Car Show is an annual tradition
- Allen Sudderth, town marshal shot at a rowdy carnival
- Floy Twitty Robertson, long time town telephone operator
- And many others

For more information, visit norcrossga.net.

FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT

The Breeze Kings

APRIL 1
7 p.m. - 9 p.m. • Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center
10 College Street, Norcross, GA 30071

Reserve your table as seating is limited. Bring your favorite food and drink! We hold your seat until start of show.

CITY NUMBERS

Business Licenses 770.448.2122
Community Center 678.421.2024
Court Services 770.448.2173
Economic Development 678.421.2023
Yard Debris Pick-up 678.421.2060
Code Enforcement 770.448.7327
Parks 678.421.2010
Permits & Signs 678.421.2027
Police 770.448.2111
Property Tax 770.448.2122
Street Lights 678.421.2069
Streets & Paving 678.421.2069
Trash/Recycling Pick-up 770.448.2122
Utilities Billing 770.448.2122
Downtown Manager 678.421.2049
PR/Marketing 678.421.2033

Spectacular EVENTS

APRIL 1 – First Friday Concert, The Breeze Kings, 7-9 p.m., Norcross Community Center
APRIL 2 – Spring Recycling Event, various times, various locations (www.norcrossga.net)
APRIL 4 – City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Council Chambers
APRIL 9 – Historic Cemetery Tour, 10 a.m., Norcross Cemetery
APRIL 11 – Movie Monday, War Room, 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center
APRIL 18 – Movie Monday, The Perfect Guy, 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center
APRIL 18 – Policy Work Session, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room
APRIL 17-23 – Georgia’s Cities Week
APRIL 22 – After the Rain Art Exhibit Opening Reception, 6-8 p.m., Kudzu Art Zone

Sign up for EVENT REMINDERS!

Registrate para obtener información sobre los eventos locales!
Most events are free and open to the public; for more event info,
visit www.aplacetoimagine.com