

A PLACE TO IMAGINE

JANUARY 2018



GREETINGS FROM NORCROSS' NEW MAYOR, CRAIG NEWTON

"With the New Year offering renewal and new beginnings, I am excited to serve as your City of Norcross mayor. With a strong foundation built by dedicated leaders and volunteers, I am eager to serve the citizens of Norcross. I am humbled and appreciative of the support that I received on this amazing journey to become mayor of this, even more so, amazing city. With Norcross' dedicated community, volunteers and city staff, I am confident that together we will achieve great things in the years to come.

After serving several terms as a city council member, citizens can expect a seamless transition with open communication and diligence on the issues that matter to the Norcross community. With your support and with God's guidance, we will continue to make Norcross "a place to imagine."

Mayor: Craig Newton • **Mayor Pro Tem:** Josh Bare
City Council: Andrew Hixson, David McLeroy, Josh Bare, Dan Watch, Chuck Paul
City Manager: Rudolph Smith • **Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Works, Utilities & Parks:** Mary Beth Bender • **City Clerk:** Monique Lang

City Hall: 65 Lawrenceville Street, Norcross, GA 30071
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
770.448.2122 | Fax: 770.242.082
www.norcrossga.net

NORCROSS SALUTES OUTGOING MAYOR BUCKY JOHNSON

Leaving a legacy of success and a strong foundation for the future, the City of Norcross would like to extend its sincere appreciation to outgoing Mayor Bucky Johnson. Mayor Johnson has led the City of Norcross for 10 years with recent highlights under his term including multi-family and library development surrounding Lillian Webb Park, the announcement of Pinnacle Park, continued greenway and trail development and the city being recognized this past year by the ARC as a Platinum-level Green Community.

Bucky Johnson began his tenure as mayor of Norcross in 2008 and was re-elected five times. During his tenure as mayor, he served as Chairman of the Metro Atlanta Mayors Association, and President and Vice President of the Gwinnett Municipal Association. He also served as member and Chair of the Gwinnett Tech Board, the Gwinnett Mayoral representative to the ARC Board and the Chair of the Metro Atlanta Roundtable for the Transportation Investment Act. In addition, Bucky was instrumental in helping to resolve the Service Delivery case between the Gwinnett cities and county. He has also served on the Executive Board of the Georgia Municipal Association and as a member of their Legislative Committee.

As mayor of the City of Norcross, Johnson was instrumental in keeping the city 'a place to imagine.' Forever indebted to his service, the City of Norcross wishes him well as he enjoys more time with his family and specifically his grandchildren.



CITY OF NORCROSS NAMES POLICE OFFICER COLEMAN LINDSAY AS 2017 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

The City of Norcross is pleased to announce that Officer Coleman Lindsay has been named the 2017 Employee of the Year!

His creativity, innovation and dedication to the citizens of Norcross are some of the many reasons why he was selected for the 2017 Employee of the Year. The city is grateful to have him a part of the Norcross team and is thankful for his service and selfless acts in keeping Norcross safe and 'a place to imagine.' Thank you and congratulations Officer Lindsay!

REMINDER

Leaf vacuuming in the city ends January 31. As a reminder, please do not blow leaves into the streets as this can clog our storm water drains. Leaves must be blown to edge of property, not on sidewalk, street, or in storm drain infrastructure. After January 31, all yard debris will have to be bagged.



SUSTAINABLE NORCROSS SEEKS BOARD MEMBERS – BE A PART OF A "PLATINUM" TEAM!

Make an impact on your community by serving on the Sustainable Norcross committee. Recent accomplishments of the committee include obtaining recognition for the city by the ARC as a Platinum-level Green Community. Through involvement on the award-winning Sustainable Norcross Committee, you will have the opportunity to help the city keep this designation along with many other important initiatives.

Recent retirements, work schedules, and family commitments have recently left the Sustainable Norcross board with four seat openings. If interested, please continue reading a few of the benefits and requirements and consider submitting an application:

- Meet once a month – second Wednesday, 6 p.m. at City Hall
- Advise City of Norcross employees, mayor and council on maintaining and improving activities related to sustainability, and
- Promote volunteerism

Simply visit the norcrossga.net website and search for Board and Commission Application. Follow directions provided in the paperwork. Questions about the position can be addressed to info@sustainablenorcross.net.

LET'S KEEP NORCROSS "PLATINUM"!



GREEN COMMUNITIES SPOTLIGHT

The City of Norcross swapped out its former decorative downtown lighting in favor of LED lights, and installed photocells for dusk-to-dawn operation.

The lights on the city Christmas tree were replaced with C9 LED lights. These changes save more than 57,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity each year, for a cost savings of \$6,400.

These changes, along with other LED lighting retrofits, earned the city points in the Green Communities program.

- ARC's Green Communities Program Newsletter Spotlight





HOME ENERGY SAVING TIPS ON BEHALF OF THE NORCROSS ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

Heating and Cooling:

- Install a programmable thermostat to automatically reduce energy use while you are sleeping or away from home.
- Set the temperature to 78 in the summer and 68 in the winter when you are home.
- Change your air filter once a month and have your HVAC system serviced once a year.
- Make sure your duct work is sealed and insulated properly.
- If you have a fireplace, make sure the damper is closed when you are not using it.
- Use a ceiling fan in summer to make a room feel cooler, but be sure to turn it off once you leave the room.

Water Heating:

- Set your water heater to 120 or lower. This is also much safer for washing and bathing than warmer temperatures.
- Install low-flow shower heads and take quick showers instead of baths.

Lighting:

- Install Energy Star qualified CFL or LED bulbs in place of traditional incandescent bulbs.
- Be sure to turn off lights when you leave the room.

Home Electronics:

- Turn off the TV when leaving a room. If you like background noise, use a small radio instead.
- Activate power save mode on your computer rather than using a screen saver.

Appliances:

- If your refrigerator is more than 20 years old, you should consider replacing it with a new model. The energy savings from doing this could pay for the new refrigerator in about two years.
- Do not use a second refrigerator or freezer unless it is necessary. Unplug your spare refrigerator or freezer until you actually need the additional cold storage space.
- Keep the condenser coils on the bottom or back of your refrigerator clean.
- Only use the washer and dryer for full loads. Try to use cold or warm water when possible. Clean the lint filter on your dryer after each use.
- Only use your dishwasher when it is full. Avoid hand-washing or pre-rinsing dishes.



RECYCLING REMINDERS:

Please do not put glass in your curbside recycling bins. Glass recycling is available at Norcross Public Works, Utilities & Parks facility at 345 Lively Avenue. This service will be available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Please ring bell at the front door for assistance.

Also, pizza boxes are acceptable in curbside recycling. We apologize for any confusion and thank you all for keeping the City of Norcross a Green Community!

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



THE PEOPLE'S ART

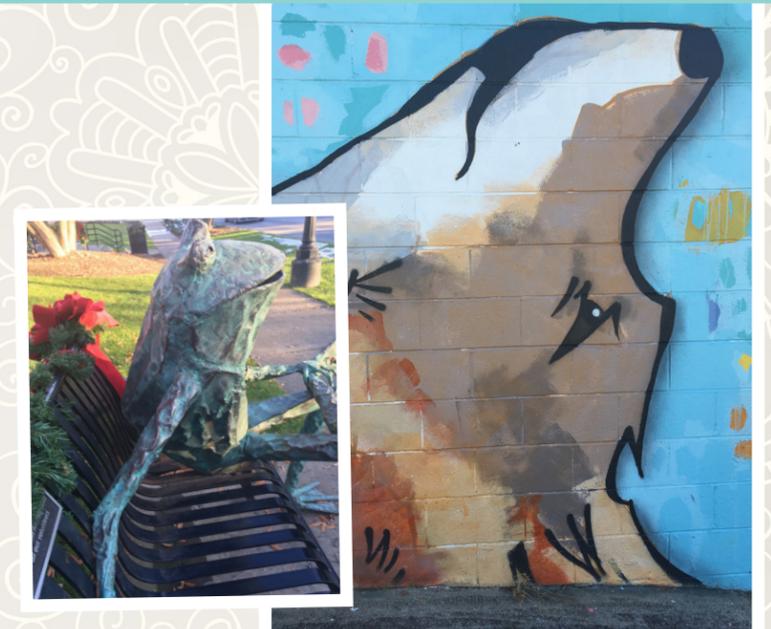
Did you know that as a citizen of Norcross, you own art? It's called public art, and is managed by the Norcross Public Arts Commission (NPAC).

What is the NPAC?

- The NPAC serves in an advisory capacity to the mayor and city council on promoting, furthering and increasing support for the city's artistic and cultural assets and integrating public art and culture into community life.

What are some of its upcoming projects?

- To mark this important geographic and historic placement of Norcross on the Eastern Continental Divide, NPAC put out nationwide bids for a creative way to mark the spot! Local mosaic artist Jennifer Freeman won the approval and her work will soon be displayed in Thrasher Park.
- Inspired by advertising agency Atomic Wash's proposed welcome mural on Paizano's wall, a nostalgic "Greetings from Norcross" themed mural is now in the works! It will celebrate famous people and events in our town's history with entertaining and educational visuals.
- The Jose Marti Historical Society has chosen Norcross to place a bronze sculpture of their namesake, a Cuban national literary hero, thanks to our cultural diversity and appreciation for the arts! NPAC is working with the Society and the city to make this a reality.
- Norcross has a long and storied love for baseball—at one point, we boasted more pro-ball players per capita than virtually anywhere in the nation! To honor this legacy, NPAC is reviewing bids for a sculpture in or around Lillian Webb Park, the site of the Norcross baseball field. Look for this in 2018!



MEET THE NPAC BOARD

NPAC is a seven-member board comprised of the following individuals:

Bob Grossman (Chair): Bob retired from the pharmaceutical industry. He formerly hosted a children's TV show in Washington, D.C. and is actively involved in the arts.

Charlie Riehm (Treasurer): Charlie is a longtime resident of Norcross who, during his time as a City Councilman, helped establish NPAC. He has been a longtime supporter and champion of the arts for the city.

Sean Casey (Secretary): Sean is a teacher and a regular volunteer at Lionheart Theater company.

Anna Balkan: Anna is a talented artist in her own right and you have probably seen her extraordinary offerings at her jewelry store right in the heart of downtown!

Hannah Tran: Hannah is a graphic designer and has great knowledge of social media. We are looking to beef up NPAC's presence in this important realm.

LA Bonds: LA is no stranger to the arts, having recently been involved in the city's Performing Arts Charter School. She loves to write and hosts an internet talk show.

Jose Marquez: Jose is an entrepreneur and musician who is the CEO of a technology organization and runs the Georgia Latino Film Festival.

NPAC meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month. To learn more about NPAC, log onto the City's website at www.norcrossga.net or email npac@norcrossga.net.



NORCROSS IN THE KNOW



IT'S NOT TOO COLD TO WARM UP WITH A WALK

Whether walking in the woods or walking around the lake, the weekend walking group is staying warm even during the cold weather months of winter. Join the group on weekends at 9 a.m. Meet up at the Thrasher Park Pavilion.

Contact Jolyn at susnorbp@gmail.com for more info.



FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT JANUARY 5, 2018 | BROWN DOG BAND

Atlanta's premier Rhythm and Blues band
7-9 p.m. with doors opening at 6 p.m.
Call 678.421.2048 to make your reservation.
Tables will be held until 7:15 p.m.

Bring your food and beverages from one of the many excellent Downtown restaurants to enjoy with the show. Table reservations are limited to groups of 10 and under.



JANUARY MOVIE MONDAYS

JANUARY 8
BRIDGET JONES'S BABY

JANUARY 22
INFERNO

Free movie showing at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
at the Norcross Community Center.

Free popcorn and drinks.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CITY'S FIRST FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE ON FEB. 9TH!

Dads and daughters are invited to the City of Norcross' first-ever Father-Daughter Dance on February 9 from 6 – 8 p.m. at the Community Center. Fathers and father figures can treat the little lady in their lives to an evening of dancing, light appetizers and drinks. Dads and daughters will make memories that will last a lifetime as they dance the night away to music provided by a DJ who will be playing songs for the young ladies and fathers alike. The event is open to Norcross residents only and is for young ladies between the ages of 5-12.

Reservation only, limited seating.
RSVP at www.aplacetoimagine.com.



SAVE THE DATE! WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14 5:30PM - 7:30PM

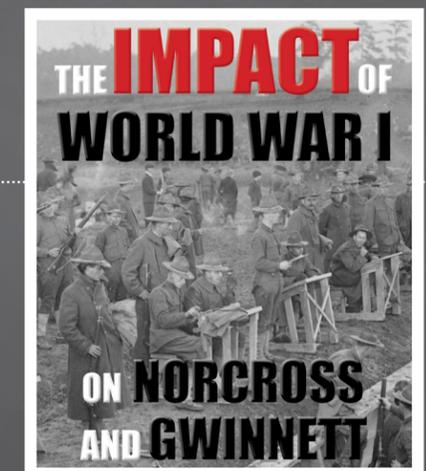
Along with your sweetie, the City of Norcross invites you to fall in love with Norcross' downtown merchants at this year's Valentine's Day Celebration.

Visit www.aplacetoimagine.com for more details!



CITY OF NORCROSS "SPARKLED" AT HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

The arrival of Santa marked the beginning of the City of Norcross' annual holiday celebration, Sparkle! A Celebration of Kids, Creativity and Magic'. The event also included carriage rides, photos with Santa, a Christmas tree lighting in the park, holiday entertainment and more starting on December 1. The start of the celebration of the evening on the 1st was a lovely night with the addition of s'mores in the fireplace and jolly elves who brought Christmas cheer to all. All of those on the nice list enjoyed watching "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" on the big screen while waiting in line to meet Santa. Chase's Grille & Wingery handed out free samples of soup, Lions Club gave out hot chocolate and the Norcross Masonic Lodge passed out cookies during the event. In addition, a local group of Disney princess performers were on hand to add to the Christmas magic.



Save the Date APRIL 8, 2018

The Impact of World War I on Norcross and Gwinnett
(a part the Gwinnett Bicentennial celebration)
Lecture in the Banquet Room at 4 p.m. with Exhibit
opening at 6 p.m. in the Rectory.



NORCROSS GIVES BACK FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Thanks to the city's dedicated community members, Norcross gave back in a big way this past holiday season through the Mayor's Motorcade and The Love Circle Foundation's charity events.

The City of Norcross held its annual giving campaign with the Mayor's Motorcade where the community helped to make the holiday season special for residents of the state's mental health hospitals. A special thank you goes to Newell Recycling Southeast and Steve Edwards with Advanced Disposal for their contributions to the Mayor's Motorcade. For 58 years, cities across Georgia have brought the joy of the holiday season to patients, many of whom have lived in these hospitals for most of their lives and have little, if any, contact with friends or family. THANK YOU to everyone else who donated to this great cause!

The City of Norcross once again teamed up with The Love Circle Foundation for the "Walk A Mile In My Shoes" celebration, designed to bring the community together to help those in need during the holiday season. The event helps to drive donations for food, toys and other items for local families in need. Collected items were distributed to eligible families selected by the Norcross Co-op. The city would like to especially thank the following organization and volunteers for their support: Norcross First United Methodist Church, Norcross Cooperative Ministry (NCM), Eastern Data, Norcross Top Dog Volley Ball and Victory World Christian School. Thanks to the support of the Norcross community, 100 families were served food, gifts and toys this holiday season.

JANUARY 2

Swearing In, City Hall, 6:30 p.m.

JANUARY 22

Movie Monday: **Inferno**
Norcross Community Center,
1:30 & 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 9

Father Daughter Valentines Dance
Norcross Community Center, 6 - 8 p.m.
Limited Seating, RSVP Required
www.aplacetoimagine.com

FEBRUARY 14

Norcross Night to Remember,
Valentine's Day Celebration
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

WEEKEND WALKS

Thrasher Park Pavilion, 9 a.m.



JANUARY 8

Movie Monday: **Bridget Jones's Baby**
Norcross Community Center,
1:30 & 6:30 p.m.

For more event information: www.aplacetoimagine.com