

A PLACE TO IMAGINE

FEBRUARY 2018

THE CITY'S FIRST

Father-Daughter Dance

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. Make memories that will last a lifetime as you dance the night away to music provided by a DJ who will be playing songs everyone will enjoy. The event is for young ladies between the ages of 5-12.

Space is limited. Please register at aplacetoimagine.com/city-of-norcross-father-daughter-dance/.



NORCROSS A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Valentine Day Celebration

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. How do we love our downtown merchants? Help us count the ways this Valentine's Day! From their dedication to offering unique, one-of-a-kind gifts and treasures to their desire to give back to the community they call home, the reasons why we love our downtown merchants are too many to count. Providing a charming antidote to big mall shopping—they offer much to love with an upscale shopping experience in a relaxed small town setting.

With endless options for a romantic outing, an evening spent in historic downtown promises to be a night to remember. The streets of historic Norcross provide the perfect romantic backdrop for a Valentine's celebration with its charm and bistro-lined streets. On February 14th from 5:30 – 8 p.m., the City of Norcross is pulling out all the stops for those with love in their eyes. Cozy up in free a carriage as you ride through the streets of Norcross, enjoy being serenaded by a traveling barber shop quartet and take an opportunity to look in your significant others eyes to renew the vows you exchanged on your wedding day. You can also take a romantic photo, all at no charge.

Downtown Norcross restaurants will be offering romance specials for those who would like to wine and dine their significant other. Whether you would like to dine al fresco under the stars or enjoy the warmth of a candlelit dinner inside one of our unique bistros, the restaurants of downtown Norcross have the perfect ambiance for a romantic evening. If you are looking for the perfect gift for the one you love, you won't have to look far. While you are meandering through the romantic streets of downtown Norcross, you may find yourself doing more than just "window shopping." Shops of one-of-a-kind antiques, boutique apparel, whimsical home and garden accessories, original artwork and custom fine jewelry will open your heart and wallet to the unique treasures offered by the assortment of merchants in Norcross.

We look forward to seeing you on South Peachtree Street and hope you fall even more in love your sweetheart and our downtown merchants. Please note that the carriage ride pick-up location will be at Taste of Britain, 73 S Peachtree Street and the photo booth will be stationed on South Peachtree near 45 South Peachtree Street. Share why you love downtown Norcross merchants and your sweetheart on Twitter (@CityofNorcross) and Facebook ([facebook.com/City of Norcross - Events Marketing Dept.](http://facebook.com/CityofNorcross)).

Be sure to include #IheartNorcross in your post! We would LOVE to see you there!



Mayor: Craig Newton • **Mayor Pro Tem:** Andrew Hixson
City Council: Josh Bare, 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



CUSTOMER SERVICE FEEDBACK

To properly monitor the continuing customer service efforts of the city and its employees, we are asking that residents notify us of areas where we are doing well and of those where we could improve.

If you see a city employee going above and beyond in their duties, please let us know! We would like to celebrate these efforts and shared successes as we hope to grow in our service to the community and to each other in 2018. Your communication will help us to do so. Employee Spotlights will be posted throughout the year celebrating our achieved successes in service.

If you come across potential improvements we could make in our customer service efforts, please let us know that, too! Your suggestions and reports of issues you may have experienced will help us to continually better our service to you, the residents of our beloved city.

To provide feedback of any nature, look for Customer Service Feedback under the Report section of the Help Center on the city's website. The city is very appreciative for the community effort in keeping the City of Norcross a place to imagine! We are determined to achieve even greater successes as we continue to grow and flourish.



HELPFUL TIP FROM THE NORCROSS TREE BOARD

Ever wondered what is wrong with or what to do about a problem tree in your yard? The Georgia Forestry Commission has a great website: gatrees.org/community-forests/ask-the-arborist that anyone can access to gain information or ask questions via email about your tree issues. We love our trees in Norcross and we hope you can use this helpful tip! From the Norcross Tree Preservation Board.



OUR VERY OWN MARY BETH HONORED AS A FRIEND OF TOURISM!

Each year, Explore Gwinnett honors 6 outstanding hospitality professionals in the Gwinnett County area as Friends of Tourism. This is the highest honor one can receive in Gwinnett's hospitality community. We are so proud to call our very own Mary Beth Bender, Assistant City Manager here in Norcross, a 2017 Friend of Tourism Award recipient! Congrats, Mary Beth!

ARBOR DAY 2018 WILL BE CELEBRATED ON FEBRUARY 16TH

Community partners, families and friends will be joined together as The City of Norcross along with the Tree Preservation Board wishes to celebrate Arbor Day with a Tree Planting in Johnson Dean Park at 2:00 p.m. on February 16th.

Some of the benefits of trees include cleaning the air we breathe, keeping our homes and offices cool, increasing our homes value, treating water pollution, reducing stormwater runoff and capturing air pollution.

NORCROSS SPOTLIGHT

NEW TO NORCROSS MEET TRACY RYE AND HANNAH KNAB

The City of Norcross is honored to welcome some new faces to the Department of Community Development!



TRACY RYE

New Director of Community Development

An Atlanta native, I graduated from Georgia Tech in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in management and again in 1995 with a master's degree in city planning, specializing in land development and economic development. Upon graduation, I held various positions in the Housing and Student Affairs divisions of Tech, ultimately becoming the chief financial officer for the Division of Student Affairs.

In 2003, I began my planning career as a staff level planner for Douglas County working on plan review, zoning and variance analysis, as well as annexation analysis. Ten years later, I ascended the ranks and became the county's Planning Director, responsible for planning and zoning, code enforcement and occupational tax.

Recently, along with my two Dachshunds Milo and Munro, I have moved to Suwanee to facilitate this new position with the City of Norcross. In my leisure time I enjoy traveling, movies, going to baseball and football games and entertaining Milo and Munro!



HANNAH KNAB

Community Development Specialist and Sustainability Coordinator

I graduated from Kennesaw State University in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in geography and a certificate in geographic information systems (GIS). In January 2017, I was accepted as an intern for the City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Sustainability, where I was able to work on a program called "Choice Neighborhood" and also on building Atlanta's first Food Forest near Aaron's Lakewood Amphitheatre.

Recently, I was honored by being appointed as the Sustainability Coordinator and Community Development Specialist for the City of Norcross while Brett Conn is away on military leave.

In my spare time I love watching movies with my orange tabby cat Oliver, spending time with my family, going to concerts and traveling whenever possible.

NORCROSS CELEBRATES NEW MAYOR AND COUNCIL

On Tuesday, January 2, 2018 Norcross held the Swearing-In Ceremony for its new Mayor, Craig Newton along with newly elected City Councilmen, Chuck Paul and Dan Watch.

The ceremony took place in the Norcross Community and Cultural Arts Center and was attended by nearly 200 elected officials from across the county, state officials, community leaders, family and friends.

The evening opened with Norwood Davis of 12Stone Church giving the Invocation, followed by the Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance by Norcross First Methodist Church Scout Troup 247 and Hopewell Baptist Church Scout Troup 251. The Honorable Justice Robert Benham performed the duties of the Swearing-In of Mayor Newton, Councilman Paul and Councilman Watch. The Honorable Justice Benham was presented with the Key to the City in appreciation for his participation in the ceremony. Mayor Newton and Councilmen Paul and Watch join the current serving of Council of Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Hixson, David McLeroy and Josh Bare.

After serving many terms on the Norcross City Council, Mayor Newton ran unopposed as the city's new Mayor when Mayor Bucky Johnson chose not to seek re-election. His election is also historic as he is the first African American to ever be elected Mayor in Gwinnett County.

Although historic, Mayor Newton said, "Relative to being the first African American Mayor, you can focus on being first or focus on being the best. My focus is on being the best Mayor in Gwinnett for the citizens of Norcross."

It is worth noting that after qualifying and well before beginning his official duties, Mayor Newton spent time meeting with citizens to hear what makes Norcross a great city and what could be done to become an even greater city. "Protecting our downtown and maintaining its small town charm received a lot of attention," says Newton. "I heard thoughts on everything from concerts, infrastructure, economic development, parking and more."

Before the evening's conclusion, resolutions were presented to outgoing Mayor Johnson and Councilman Pierre Levy to thank them for their service to the city. After the officiating of the new Mayor and Council, attendees enjoyed a reception to celebrate the occasion as they mixed and mingled to the music of a local jazz band. Thank you to all of those that participated in the ceremony and attended this exciting evening.



*Norcross Mayor Pro Tem and
CID Board of Directors
Andrew Hixson*

GWINNETT VILLAGE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT POSITIONS ITSELF FOR THE FUTURE AS GATEWAY85 GWINNETT

After more than 10 years operating as the Gwinnett Village Community Improvement District (CID), the organization announced that it has rebranded to place the focus on the community, its businesses and opportunities that create quality growth.

"Successfully completed projects in the district paved the way for this bright future so we rebranded to reflect this new reality," says Executive Director Marsha Anderson Bomar. The organization's new identity and look were launched at a ribbon cutting event in late 2017.

"We are a culturally robust area with a range of significant real estate opportunities and incentives for development." She added that the CID is strategically positioned for mobility by all modes of transportation.

Norcross City Councilman and CID Board of Directors member Andrew Hixson agreed, saying, "The CID is a tremendous asset and partner to Norcross. Besides funding security in the area and working on transportation projects, they help fund and execute long term planning efforts within our city, Peachtree Corners and the County. I'm honored to have served on the Board for two years." Hixson also currently serves as the CID Treasurer. "Our new name and brand reflect the direction of the CID and how we are positioned for prosperity."

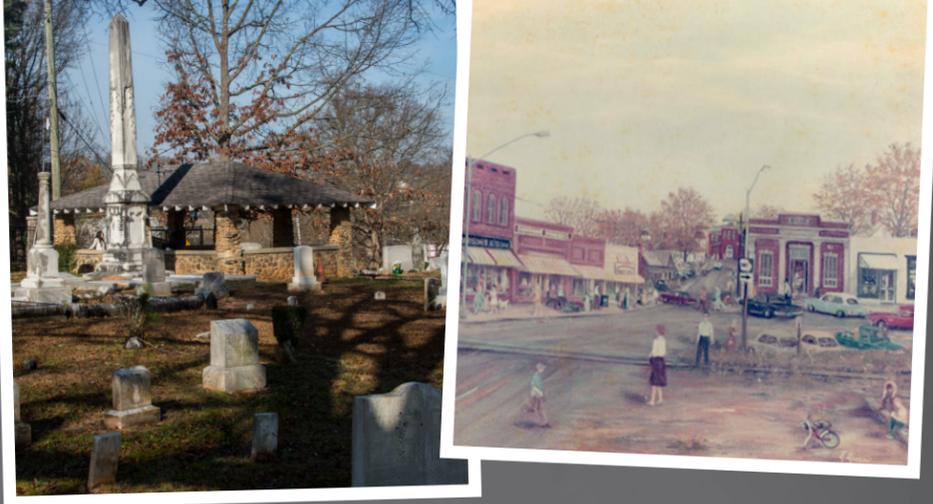
"We're very excited to take this big step into the future, leading the growth of the District with a fresh look and attitude," said Bomar. We're looking forward to welcoming businesses, investors, developers and visitors to our vibrant community."



GATEWAY85
GWINNETT



NORCROSS IN THE KNOW



ENJOY A DAY OF NORCROSS HISTORY ON FEBRUARY 24

Dedication Ceremony, Noon, Norcross Welcome Center

Join us for a Dedication Ceremony celebrating the extended loan of Florence Warbington Green's original painting of Historic Downtown Norcross.

**Cemetery Tour, 1 p.m. at the cemetery entrance -
110 South Cemetery Street**



2018 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES TABLE SALE REMINDER

The Summer Concert Series table sale will begin on March 5, 2018 (Monday) at 9 a.m. The rule is the same as last year, Norcross residents who purchase all eight concerts will have the first shot between 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. After 11 a.m., it will be open to the general public.

Visit www.aplacetoimagine.com for the concert line-up.



Sustainable Norcross Bike/Ped Committee

NORCROSS BIKE/PED COMMISSION

LOVE YOURSELF? WELL YOU WILL LOVE THIS...

Sustainable Norcross and 50+ Walking Group loves to walk. So much so that they are pleased to announce their 18-month anniversary. Please join the group Saturdays & Sundays at 9 a.m. meeting at Thrasher Park Pavilion. Questions? Contact Jolyn at susnorbp@gmail.com or text at 770.851.0571. Let's get walking!

WHEELS IN THE WIND

Sustainable Norcross Bike/Ped and Gwinnett Co. Transit are pleased to announce the first of numerous 2018 events featuring biking and walking.

Please join us Saturday, March 17 in Thrasher Park at 10 a.m. to start a very short recreational bike ride to Best Friend Park. For more info and to reserve a place, please visit: <https://wheelsinthewind.eventbrite.com>. Let's get riding!

THE RECTORY WELCOMES NEW ART EXHIBIT

Atlanta artists Lisa Moore and Clara Blalock are bringing their work to Norcross for the exhibition of 'Stories, Stories, Stories', a new showcase hosted by The Rectory.

Come out for Opening Night on Friday, February 9th – there'll be music, light refreshments and, of course, art...plus it's free! 6 - 8 p.m. Call 678.421.2048/2049/2025 for entry. Exhibition goes through March 16th.

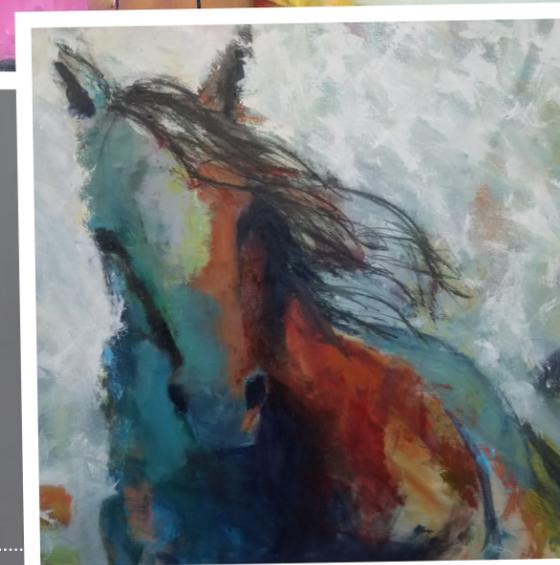
GET TO KNOW LISA AND CLARA BEFORE YOU VISIT!

Lisa Upchurch Moore

Award winning artist Lisa Upchurch Moore was born and raised in Northwest Georgia. Influenced by the emotions of everyday life, Lisa creates paintings that evoke a sense of the familiar. Her soulful renditions of everyday subjects help the viewer transcend to another place and time. Often described as romantic, sensuous and poetic, Lisa's work is instinctive and brings to life the underlying theme of the beauty that exists in our lives.

Clara Blalock

Painting is a passion that began when Clara was a very young child. Her artistry is best described in her own words: "I produce the best work when I let it come from a place inside that I don't know or understand, I call it the 'zone.' It is a letting go of my control. When I put the first mark on the canvas, the painting and I will work together in dialog, my dance partner so to speak. I know the elements needed to make art that works and at the same time I know that I have to trust the process and be open to surprises that happen along the way, serendipitous gifts that could not have been planned."



FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT

FEBRUARY 2, 2018 | THE DAPPLED GRAYS
7-9 p.m. with doors opening at 6 p.m.
Norcross Community Center

Its members are powerhouse musicians who combine straight-ahead bluegrass, progressive jazz, blues sensibilities, pristine vocals and top-flight songwriting into a startlingly fresh and original sound.

Call 678.421.2048 to make your reservation. Tables will be held until 7:15 p.m.

Save the Date

**GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC
LIBRARY PRESENTS A
BICENTENNIAL SERIES PROGRAM**

MEET THE AUTHORS

*Edith Holbrook Riehm • Gene Ramsay
Cate Kitchen*

Sunday, March 11 at 3 p.m.
Norcross Community Center
10 College Street, Norcross, GA 30071

Join GCPL for a panel discussion and presentation featuring local authors on the history of Norcross.

Free and open to the public. Books will be available for purchase and signing.



MEET & MINGLE WITH NORCROSS MAYOR— FIESTA STYLE!

The City of Norcross will host a Town Hall Fiesta at the Norcross Cultural Arts and Community Center, 10 College St NW, Norcross, GA 30071 on Saturday, February 10 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. This event will include time to mix and mingle with Mayor Craig Newton, City Council members, other city officials, as well as presentations by local organizations. It will conclude with greetings and comments from Mayor Newton.

"We invite all of our citizens to embrace this opportunity to get to know those who represent us in local government," said Mayor Newton. "We ourselves look forward to getting to know you in return."

CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY

Please visit the Norcross Police Department page on www.norcrossga.net and take the Citizen Satisfaction Survey.

Your input will help us to better serve you and keep the City of Norcross safe.



Spectacular EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2

First Friday Concert featuring **The Dappled Grays**
Norcross Community Center
7-9 p.m.

FEBRUARY 9

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

FEBRUARY 12

Movie Monday:
Manchester by the Sea
Norcross Community Center
1:30 & 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 14

Norcross Night to Remember,
Valentine's Day Celebration
5:30 - 8 p.m.

FEBRUARY 15

ALSO PLAYING
16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25
Lionheart: Valentine Play
Crossing Delancey,
by Susan Sandler

FEBRUARY 16

Arbor Day
Johnson Dean Park
2 p.m.

FEBRUARY 24

A Dedication Ceremony
Welcome Center,
Noon

FEBRUARY 24

A Dedication Ceremony
Welcome Center, Noon

FEBRUARY 24

Cemetery Tour
Norcross Cemetery, 1p.m.

FEBRUARY 26

Movie Monday:
Dunkirk
Norcross Community Center
1:30 & 6:30 p.m.

WEEKEND WALKS

Thrasher Park Pavilion, 9 a.m.



For more event information: www.aplacetoimagine.com