



A PLACE TO IMAGINE

JULY 2018

GOOD SCHOOLS ARE GREAT FOR BUSINESS!

By Mayor Craig Newton

One of the most important tasks of a region is to provide its citizens with a comprehensive public school system. Good schools know how to build upon the gifts and talents of students in order to prepare them to be contributing members of a community. Good schools attract business and industry to a region assuring economic development. Good schools rely on insightful leadership by individuals who have a clear understanding of budget, facilities management, program development, complex personnel issues and a demonstrated compassion for a culture of learning. We are fortunate in Norcross to have a school system full of good schools that do just that.

Good Schools are Good Business

There is a link between good schools and local commerce. You see it when new homes are built, retail services come in and churches grow because the families attracted to good schools want all those things. All of us who are here already benefit from the economic boost generated from good schools. But strong schools are also important for our economic future. A vibrant community and strong schools play a significant role in bringing young adults back to the area and attracting business.

Good Schools have Good Teachers

A strong school system helps the community attract the best teachers and provides the best tools to educate our children. As a community, we have an obligation to provide the facilities and teachers to help our young people.

I believe the City of Norcross has the best principals in the Gwinnett County School System! Principals

like Dorothy Jarrett at Summerour Middle, Will Bishop at Norcross High School, Brenda Johnson at Baldwin Elementary, Karissa Sutton at Norcross Elementary, Rodriguez Johnson of North Metro School of Performing Arts and, opening this fall, Jonathan Wetherington of the new Paul Duke STEM school create the dream team of principals and schools, all within the incorporated Norcross city limits.

Good Schools grow more Good Schools

Norcross will now have the honor of being the only city in Gwinnett County with two great high schools. At a recent visit to the new Paul Duke STEM school, I met new students that were previously enrolled in local private schools. This new school will offer applied engineering concepts to challenges in robotics, sustainability, medicine and self-driving vehicles. It will also apply design thinking and technology in areas like graphic design, television, animation and game design. It will explore applications in areas of artificial intelligence, virtual and augmented reality and cybersecurity. Its innovative approach to learning makes it highly attractive to technology-driven students.

Good Schools have Great Reputations

Gwinnett County Public Schools is a premier school system. It is a two-time winner of the Broad Prize for Urban Education, designating GCPS as one of the nation's top urban school districts. In 2017, GCPS earned kudos as a "Great District for Great Teachers" and was also named College Board Advanced Placement District of the Year. What distinguishes this school system from others are a strong curriculum; the finest teachers in the profession; attractive, well-equipped and modern facilities; plus an enviable level of parental involvement and community support. Good schools are indeed great for business!

WHEN MARIMBA RHYTHMS START TO PLAY, DANCE WITH ME, MAKE ME SWAY!



We hope you're ready for some magic techniques from artists that certainly know how to sway you smooth—Jazz in the Alley is BACK! The City of Norcross plays host once again to its much beloved concert series on July 28, August 18 and September 1 at Betty Mauldin Park from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Experience jazz at its ultimate best as the sound of violins, bass guitars, trombones and of course the sax take over the alley. Local eateries will be jazzing things up with some incredible, portable chef specials that will help make Jazz in the Alley the perfect date night or girl's night out. During band breaks, make sure you check out the deals in Norcross' downtown shops. Concertgoers are encouraged to bring chairs and a cooler (no glass, please).

After a jazz-tastic kick-off with Jae Franklin & Shameia Crawford last month, we've got a hot line up of performances coming up:

JULY 28 – EMRAH KOTAN

A fusion of world music and jazz, Emrah Kotan is a classically trained percussionist who came Georgia from his native Turkey. His original compositions and arrangements are characterized by stylistically sophisticated vibes that transcend many genres and cultures.

AUGUST 18 – GREG ROBBINS & REMEY WILLIAMS

A life without music is not a life worth living according to Remy Williams, a rising producer, lyricist and vocalist. As the son of Jimmy Williams, bass player for the legendary R&B group the O'Jays, Remy has grown to develop an undying passion for performing soulful music that connects to audiences both young and old.

And this month you get not one but TWO musical wonders! Remy is pairing with Greg Robbins for the August 18 performance, an Atlanta jazz vocalist with a very resonant and classy sound often compared in style to Johnny Hartman, Harry Connick, Jr., Kurt Elling and Gregory Porter.

SEPTEMBER 1 – ERIC THOMAS

With an incomparable sound, Eric Thomas has captivated and electrified audiences all over. In every city Eric has played, he left the audience with only one question, "When is he coming back?" He engages listeners with an intimate delivery of his music—his distinctive tonal quality in addition to his soulful blends allow you to not only hear his story through his playing, but also feel the experiences and passion linked to his music.

Concertgoers are encouraged to bring chairs and a cooler (no glass, please) and come chill. For more information, please visit aplacetoimagine.com.



IMPORTANT NOTICE! WEEKLY CURBSIDE RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING COLLECTION

Advanced Disposal will provide curbside recycling collection on a weekly basis at residential households in the City of Norcross. The City encourages participation in the recycling program as it provides many benefits for our environment including:

1. Reduce the amount of material that is landfills
2. Conserves natural resources such as timber, water and minerals
3. Prevents pollution by reducing the need to collect new raw materials

In an effort to maximize the results of our recycling efforts, please read and follow the below guidelines:

Acceptable Curbside Recycling Items:

Cardboard, plastics-water bottles, soda bottles, detergent bottles, milk jugs, aluminum (soda) cans, packing paper (no wax), mixed paper (newspaper, magazine, shredded paper, printer & copy paper, loose-leaf paper, notebook paper)

Unacceptable Curbside Recycling Items:

Glass, juice boxes, batteries, medical waste, styrofoam, electrical wire, light bulbs, plastic strapping, electronics, toner/ink cartridges, food waste, napkins/paper towels, milk cartons, construction debris or waste

Glass: Do NOT put glass in recycling carts. Glass contaminates other acceptable recycling materials. Glass must either be taken separately to Public Works located at 345 Lively Ave, during open hours of M-F, 8am-4:30pm or be placed in your trash cart.

Recycling Guidelines:

- Place cart at curbside by 6:30am on scheduled collection day
- Place cart within 3 feet of the curb with the handle facing the residential unit and away from the street
- Place cart at least 3 feet away from other objects such as carts, mailboxes, other carts

SATURDAYS THIS SUMMER

Norcross Community Market is an open air, producer-only farmers market held every summer Saturday at Lillian Webb Park, 5 College St. from 9 am to 1 pm. The 2018 season is runs through August 25.

Let Sustainable Norcross Reuse · Repurpose · Recycle Your Goods!

Sustainable Norcross will continue to accept the following: worn out flags, clean fabric scraps, sewing notions, yarn, old blue jeans, used eyeglasses, hearing aids, arts and crafts supplies, books, clean blankets, towels, empty medicine bottles with lids and unopened pet food.

Saturday July 7 – Farm + Food = Friends and Living Smarter Series

Learn how to compost your food scraps and bring some to spin in our compost bin (no protein or items containing grease, please). Features include Ask a Master Gardener and Know Your Farmer. SNAP is accepted and doubled. Pam and Sara Brand of Biscuits and Burlap are at Cook's Corner stirring up something good. Visit WellCare for info and ask about the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

Saturday July 14 – It's the Dog Days of Summer!

Sustainable Norcross will collect pet supplies for rescue groups including clean used blankets, leftover pet food, etc. Use your EBT for half price purchases on qualifying items. Take your Pearson peaches to the Casey residence for the community cobbler making event. Listen to the sounds of Charles Absher and get water quality tips from Gwinnett Water Resources.

Saturday July 21 – Jolly Old Santa and Mrs. Claus are coming to town!

Celebrate Christmas in July with the Artisan and Gift Market and Art in the Park Series. SNAP buys \$2 of qualifying food for every \$1 swiped. Codey Bearden sings, maybe even a Christmas carol. Learn about Rotary International and South West Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce. UGA Gwinnett Extension is at Cook's Corner while Norcross Garden Club shares "Plants with Super Powers".

Saturday July 28 – Local Food, Healthy People, Living Smarter Series

Drop off books in good condition for distribution by Sustainable Norcross, or take home a book from the portable Little Free Library. Kaiser Permanente Educational Theatre group is back with fun for the young ones. Dichos de la Casa does community outreach while Emory St. Joseph Hospital System promotes healthy living.

Follow Norcross Community Market on Facebook for updates.



NEW HANDS-FREE GEORGIA LAW

The new Hands-Free Driving law goes into effect on July 1, 2018. The law requires drivers to use hands-free technology when using cell phones and other electronic devices. The following is a brief description of what the law states:

- A driver cannot have a phone in their hand or use any part of their body to support their phone. Drivers can only use their phones to make or receive phone calls by using earpieces, wireless headphones or a smartwatch. GPS navigation devices are allowed.
- Headsets and earpieces can only be worn for communication purposes and not for listening to music or other entertainment.
- A driver may not send or read any text-based communication unless using voice-based communication that automatically converts message to a written text or is being used for navigation or GPS
- A driver may not send or read any e-mails, social media or other internet content
- A driver may not watch a video unless it is for navigation.
- A driver may not record a video (continuously running dash cams are exempt)

Exceptions to the law are as follows:

1. Reporting a traffic crash, medical emergency, fire, criminal activity or hazardous road conditions.
2. An employee or contractor of an utility service provider acting within the scope of their employment while responding to an utility emergency.
3. A first responder (law enforcement, fire, EMS) during the performance of their official duties.
4. When in a lawfully parked vehicle—this DOES NOT include vehicles stopped for traffic signals and stop signs on the public roadway.
5. Although not required by law, the Norcross Police Department will be issuing warnings for 90 days beginning July 1st. On October 1st, they will begin issuing citations.

For additional information visit www.headsupgeorgia.com/handsfree-law/.

PROUD TO BE NORCROSSERS!

The qualifying period for the November 6, 2018 elections will run from Monday, August 20, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. through Friday, August 24, 2018, at 4:30 p.m. Three council seats will be on the ballot.

Please staytuned for more information or visit our website www.norcrossga.net.



ROOT, ROOT, ROOT FOR THE HOME TEAM! THEY'RE KNOCKING IT OUT OF THE PARK!

Norcross did really well this season with its youth baseball program, winning the Greater Gwinnett Baseball championship in the following age groups: 9U, 10U and 11U. 8U and 12U also deserve accolades as the County runner-ups. The Greater Gwinnett Baseball League consists of teams from 22 different associations within the county.



NORCROSS SPOTLIGHT

SUMMER'S HERE: TIME TO HEAD OUTDOORS AND PARK IT!

But where? Here's your go-to Norcross Parks guide to help you navigate the best places to park your family for a day of fun in the city.

Betty Mauldin Park:

Have your camera ready—home to the Champion American Elm, Betty Mauldin is the perfect backdrop for a shaded and manicured photo op! Just please try not to touch our beloved tree.

Park It Here For: Back-to-school photos the other school moms will go green over!

Discovery Garden Park:

Discovery Garden is one of our city's special spaces, a serene respite for visitors and gardeners alike. There is always something new to see, smell, and smile about in the Garden!

Park It Here For: A delight to the senses with an endless array of plants and flowers.

Heritage Park:

Tucked right between Norcross Community Center and City Hall, this park is both beautiful and peaceful, ensuring an ideal landscape for an intimate event or wedding.

Park It Here For: Contemplation and quiet relaxation under the shade.

Johnson Dean Park:

Enjoy bird watching and trail walking on the quarter-mile loop at Johnson Dean. The wildlife and great scenery will more than make up for the lack of restrooms! (But take note and go-go before you leave the house.)

Park It Here For: Good old-fashioned exercise the way Mother Nature intended—out on the trail!

Lillian Webb Park:

Look no further than Lillian Webb for a place to spend the day in leisurely recreation. The wide open green space and three-tiered fountain and splash pad together make the perfect family fun day (and also the perfect wedding venue!)

Park It Here For: Relief from the summer heat thanks to fan-favorite, the Splash Pad!

Rossie Brundage Park:

Round up your family and friends and head over to Rossie Brundage! This park offers all the ingredients for a good time including ball fields, basketball courts, playgrounds and pavilions.

Park It Here For: A family-wide ball game at your next big gathering!



Summerour Park:

Whether on the soccer fields or the playground, Summerour is the best place to play. Community-inspired as well as built, it is perfect for children of all ages!

Park It Here For: A weekend game of soccer.

Thrasher Park:

With both spaces to roam and spaces to play, Thrasher is a prime location for family-friendly activities and events. It's walking distance from our downtown merchants, making it a great spot to spend your days and nights.

Park It Here For: City events like Summer Concert Series

Veterans Park:

Your new favorite lunch or date spot is surely to be found at South Point. This quaint pocket park is ideal for relaxation and privacy.

Park It Here For: A summer picnic complete with a big juicy watermelon and ice cold lemonade.

And Opening Late October after redevelopment....

Pinnacle Park:

Escape the chaos of the work day at Pinnacle Business Park by exploring nature found along the Pinnacle walking trail. Surrounding a 3.44 acre pond, the trail is sure to provide the perfect refresher!

Park It Here For: A quiet morning or afternoon spent fishing with the kids.



NORCROSS IN THE KNOW



DONT MISS RED, WHITE & BOOM!

**JULY 3
DOWNTOWN NORCROSS
5 P.M.**

(fireworks around 9:40 p.m.
or a few minutes past dusk)

Location: All of downtown Norcross;
Kidzone will be on downtown streets,
musical acts will be performing in Lillian
Webb Park, artists/vendors will be stationed
downtown and food trucks can be
found at Lillian Webb Park.



MOVIE UNDER THE STARS

**DESPICABLE ME 3
LILLIAN WEBB PARK, 7 P.M.**



JULY MOVIE MONDAYS

JULY 9: Movie Monday: *Jumanji, Welcome to the Jungle*

JULY 23: Movie Monday: *Molly's Game*

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

DON'T MISS THE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES & JAZZ IN THE ALLEY!

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

JULY 6 - No Limit | JULY 20 - Liverpool Legends
Thrasher Park | 7:30-9:30 p.m.

JAZZ IN THE ALLEY:

JULY 28 - Emrah Kotan
Betty Mauldin Parking Lot | 7:30-9:30 p.m.

PLANTS WITH SUPERPOWERS

JULY 21 10 A.M. - NOON

Presented by Norcross Garden Club at The Norcross
Community Market in Lillian Webb Park!



NORCROSS
DISCOVERY GARDEN
PARK

ICE CREAM SOCIAL IN THE GARDEN

SATURDAY • JULY 14 • 3 - 5 P.M.

Join us to celebrate summer and our friends (that's you!) at Discovery
Garden's Ice Cream Social. Bring your family and cool
off with a sweet treat in the Garden. Kids are welcome to wear
swimsuits, we'll have the water hoses out.

Please RSVP to Deb at deb.ndgp@gmail.com
Free community fun (donations appreciated)

INK, PAINT & STEEL Champagne Finale

**SATURDAY, JULY 14 6-8 P.M.
THE RECTORY**



Join us for a grand celebratory send-off to "one of the best
Rectory exhibits to come through in many years," as one resident
put it. The works of Katherine Linn and Simone Wilson are unique
and edgy, putting various mediums to good use for a creative look
at "the simple things in life." Haven't seen it yet? Don't wait for the
end! Call us anytime for a viewing at 678-421-2048 -- then join us
for champagne with the artists and the last hurrah! on the 14th.



HIGH ON WALKING AND RIDING?

Sustainable Norcross Bike/Ped committee will,
once again, provide high top tables on Jones Street during
Jazz in the Alley.

Don't forget - weekend walking group meets at Thrasher Park Pavilion
for an hour long walk around historic Norcross on Saturdays and
Sundays. Starts promptly at 8 a.m.



THIS MONTH AT LIONHEART THEATRE

Awkward Selfies (Improv/Sketch Comedy Group)

July 7 | Two Shows: 5pm (Family Friendly);
7:30pm (18+) | All tickets: \$10

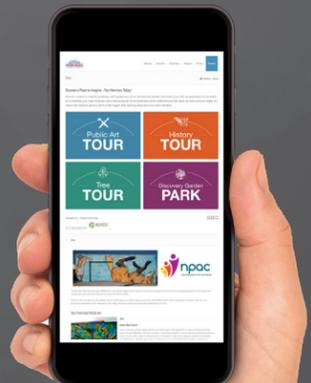
A Southern Exposure (a small-town southern comedy-drama)

By Kelley Kingston-Strayer;
Directed by Brandi Kilgore
July 19-29 | Thursdays-Saturdays at 7:30pm;
Sundays at 2pm
Tickets: \$15 adults and \$12 students/seniors/
military ID

For more information or to buy tickets, visit
www.lionhearttheatre.org/buy-tickets.

NORCROSS TOURS

Discover 'a place to imagine' by taking a
self-guided tour of our beloved city. Awaken the
artist in you with an exploration of our public art or
embrace your inner historian with a trek across all
of the landmarks which made Norcross the place
we know and love today. APlacetImagine.com
now offers 4 special walking tours, complete with
drop-pin maps, images and captions as well
as an audio commentary all in a 100% mobile-
friendly format for your touring convenience.
Simply head on over to the "Tours" tab and pick
your pleasure!



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIP

The most essential tip for Emergency Preparedness is preparation. Not just knowing how to react if and when a crisis occurs, but actually taking action before disaster strikes! So this month we are devoting our section to "The Go-Bag"-- that way you'll be ready in a pinch should zombies (or a hurricane) come knocking on your door!

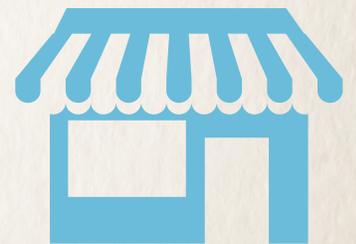
What's a go-bag? A waterproof, portable container filled with the essentials your family needs to survive for at least 3 days. Make sure to store it where you can easily grab it in a hurry! (You may want several--for home, work and car).

What goes in my go-bag?

Three days' worth of non-perishable food and water; flashlights; radio; extra batteries; first aid kit; trash bags; duct tape; basic tool kit (wrench, pliers, hammer, screwdriver); manual can opener for food; regional maps; cell phone with chargers; inverter; or solar charger; moist towelettes and any personal sanitation; walking shoes and a complete change of clothing; blanket(s) and matches; enough cash on hand for five days of basic needs; and important family documents.

Want more prep? Check out this article from Good Housekeeping bit.ly/2kU1sVm or dig around on ready.gov for a variety of resources and advice!

GIVE A WARM WELCOME TO YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS!



Carolee's: A long-time Norcross retail establishment, Details Boutique, is relocating from inside the Shops of Antique Traditions to 27 Holcomb Bridge Rd. The new location will be called Carolee's, and is an apparel and accessory boutique well known for its ability to monogram. Be on Look out for notice of their grand opening!!!

The O Gallery: A brand new art gallery has opened in Historic Downtown Norcross! Open evenings as well as day hours, you can check out the new spot after dinner on the town. The O Gallery is owned by Jack Petras and Rosa Obregon. Many of Rosa's works can be found as the space doubles as her working studio. Filled with beautiful art and beautiful energy, the gallery is located at 19 Jones Street.

2018 EVENT CALENDAR

JULY

7/3 Red, White & BOOM! July 4th Celebration, Downtown Norcross, 3-11 p.m.

7/6 Summer Concert Series- No Limit, Thrasher Park, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

7/7 Movie Under the Stars, *Despicable Me 3*, Lillian Webb Park, 7 p.m.

7/9 Movie Monday: *Jumanji, Welcome to the Jungle*, Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center, 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

7/14 Ice Cream Social in the Garden, Discovery Garden Park, 3 - 5 p.m.

7/20 Summer Concert Series - Liverpool Legends, Thrasher Park, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

7/23 Movie Monday: *Molly's Game*, Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center, 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

7/28 Jazz in the Alley, Emrah Kotan, Betty Mauldin Park Parking Lot, 7:30-9:30 p.m.



For more event information: www.aplacetoimagine.com