



A PLACE TO IMAGINE

DECEMBER 2018

SPARKLE!

— CELEBRATION —

City of Norcross to Make Downtown 'Sparkle' For Holiday Season

The City of Norcross will host its annual holiday celebration, 'Sparkle! A Celebration of Kids, Creativity and Magic', which includes carriage rides, photos with Santa, a Christmas tree lighting in the park, holiday entertainment and more starting on December 4.

"We invite all of our citizens and visitors to share in the spirit of the season through our holiday celebration," said City of Norcross Mayor Craig Newton. "We guarantee you'll experience all the wonder and delight of your every imagination here in Norcross."



Christmas Tree Lighting: Join us for the traditional lighting of the Christmas tree in Thrasher Park and enjoy music from Norcross United Methodist Church. The City of Norcross will once again be honored to have Norcross resident Steven Howington officially light the Christmas tree. For over 30 years, Howington, who has Down Syndrome, has lit the City of Norcross' Christmas tree. Santa will be busy checking his list in his workshop in the park and will be available for photos with all the good little boys and girls. Enjoy free hot cocoa and cookies (while supplies last) courtesy of the Norcross Masonic Lodge and the Norcross Lions Club, and s'mores courtesy of the City of Norcross. "Polar Express" will be playing on the big screen while you wait in line to meet Santa. A local group of Disney princess performers as well as the one, the only, The Grinch will also be on hand to add to the Christmas magic. They will be available for photos and to visit with families during the event. Join in on the awe and excitement on December 7 at 5:30 p.m. in Thrasher Park.

Holiday First Friday Concert with Joe Gransden:

Friday Concert Series brings you a special holiday performance by Joe Gransden on December 7. The concert is in the Ballroom of the Norcross Cultural Arts Center from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. The performance is free, but seating is limited. Make your reservation by calling 678.421.2048. Stop by one of the downtown restaurants and bring your own food and drinks to the show.

Photos with Santa and Carriage Rides:

We hope you have been nice this year because Santa himself will be visiting downtown Norcross! Carriage rides will be dashing through Norcross December 4 through December 21 every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in front of Taste of Britain. You can catch Santa at 45 South Cafe on South Peachtree Street (downtown Norcross) starting on December 4.

Marshmallow Roasting, Cocoa and Santa at Discovery Garden:

Join Santa in the Garden for marshmallow roasting and hot cocoa around the fire pit on December 16 from 12 – 2 p.m. In the spirit of giving, we will adorn a Wildlife Tree with raisin icicles and birdseed ornaments for our furry friends. Free family fun.

Mayors' Motorcade

The City of Norcross will be holding its annual giving campaign with the Mayors' Motorcade and is asking for your help to make the holiday season special for residents of the state's mental health hospitals. For 59 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. In 1958, the Georgia Municipal Association and Governor Ernest Vandiver created the Mayors' Christmas Motorcade to help these hospital patients celebrate Christmas by providing each with a gift. Without the Mayor's Christmas Motorcade, many patients would go without any type of gift or recognition during the holidays.

The City of Norcross has started its gift collection campaign and we are asking for your help. During this holiday season, please consider providing the gift of sharing and caring. Your donation will make holiday dreams come true! Join the giving campaign by asking your family, friends and co-workers to join us as well. Donations may be delivered to Norcross City Hall at 65 Lawrenceville Street, Downstairs Rotunda. Norcross residents or business owners may call for pick-up of donations no later than December 3rd (gifts will be delivered December 5th). For pick-up of your donation, please contact: Melissa Zeigler at melissa.zeigler@norcrossga.net. You may also call 678.421.2069.



Georgia Regional Hospital: Atlanta (GRHA) is a publicly owned facility of the State of Georgia and operated by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD). GRHA is located on 174 acres in DeKalb County. GRHA operates 306 licensed, accredited inpatient beds for three major program areas: 1) Adult Mental Health, 2) Adult Forensic Services, and 3) Developmental Disabilities/Skilled Nursing. GRHA serves a large number of indigent and homeless consumers. No one is refused admission to the hospital because of inability to pay for services.

Gift List Examples (Please remember most patients are adults)

Clothing: (M-4XL Women; M-3XL Men) Jeans/Pants, T-shirts, Sweaters, Shorts, Long Sleeve Polo Shirts, Gloves, Winter Hats, Baseball Caps (No Metal), Socks/Underwear/Bras (No Underwire) Sport Bras, Pajamas (Men & Women), Slippers / Shower Shoes
Please note: We are in particular need of men's pants, any size

Personal Care Items: Shampoo/Conditioner, Body Wash, Deodorant (No Aerosol or Spray Cans) Toothpaste, Body Lotion, Shaving Cream, Elastic Hairbands (No Metal Pieces)

Miscellaneous Gifts: Drawing pads/Composition Books (No Wire Bound), Stationary, Radios (No antennas, no hanging straps), Playing Cards, Calling Cards, Puzzles, Word Search/Crossword books, Watches (No Metal) Wallets (Men & Women – no metal zippers)

Unit/Programming Items: Movies (DVD; G, PG only), Compact Discs (No Parental Advisory), Paperback books (No Romance Themes, Multicultural books welcome), Board games (No travel games, no games with dice), Crayons/Markers (Thick markers only, No colored pencils), Wii Games (No violence or Parental Advisory), Manicure items – nail polish, nail art pens, polish remover (No acetone)

Giftwrapping Items: Gift Bags, Gift tissue paper, Christmas Cards, Christmas Bows, Christmas Ribbon (No wrapping paper)

The Mayor's Angel Giving Tree

At Norcross City Hall, there is an Angel Giving Tree with gift tags containing three (3) gift suggestions for a boy or girl 12 years of age and under. By choosing a tag and purchasing a toy or toys, you are helping a local child whose parents are struggling to make ends meet – a child who might otherwise go without this Christmas.

Please bring your new, unwrapped gift back to this location on or before December 14. Gift tags should be taped to the gift.



Congrats to Norcross on becoming a Bee City USA®

Bee City USA is an initiative of The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, a national nonprofit organization based in Portland, Oregon, with regional offices in thirteen states. Bee City USA's mission is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free to nearly free of pesticides. Imperiled pollinators like honey bees, bumble bees, butterflies, moths, bats, hummingbirds and others are responsible for the reproduction of ninety percent of the world's wild plant species and one in every three bites of food we consume.

Bee City USA founder, Phyllis Stiles, said, "The program aspires to make people more PC ('pollinator conscious,' that is). If lots of individuals and communities begin planting native, pesticide-free flowering trees, shrubs and perennials, it will create large-scale change for thousands of species of pollinators at risk. How each city or county celebrates pollinators is up to them, but we especially encourage educational programs for children, like school gardens. When a child falls in love with pollinators, they are friends for life."

For more information about the Bee City USA organization, visit www.beecityusa.org or email beecityusa@xerces.org.

STRAWLESS

NORCROSS

Straws-Upon-Request Program Launches in Downtown Norcross

The next time you're dining in the historic downtown, you might notice a small change that's making a big positive impact.

Several restaurants, including Iron Horse Tavern, The Crossing, Mojitos, Dominick's and Chase's Grille and Wingery, recently signed on to a Sustainable Norcross initiative called StrawLess Norcross. Just like the name suggests, StrawLess Norcross gives restaurant patrons the option to use plastic straws less, asking for a straw if you want one instead of receiving one automatically with every drink.

Plastic straws do more harm than their small size might suggest. After being used a single time, they are hard to recycle, slow to degrade in a landfill, and one of the top ten most common types of ocean litter. StrawLess Norcross is projected to reduce the number of plastic drinking straws disposed of in our community by more than 50,000 within the first year of implementation.

Thanks for supporting the City of Norcross' Platinum Green-certified commitment to sustainability and helping decrease waste!

A Thank You to Meryl Wilkerson

As we cozy into the season of giving and thankfulness, the City would like to recognize someone who has been especially giving this year: Meryl Wilkerson, tirelessly working to help make Norcross 'A Place to Imagine.'



Have you noticed the colorful Mosaic Wall Mural on Mitchell Road? How about all of the beautiful landscaping in our parks and around our downtown? We know you've noticed this one -- all of the magnificent Christmas decorations on display throughout the city.

As Project Coordinator for the City of Norcross, Meryl has been influential in ALL of these projects. Not only that, she has been working to beautify our city for over 10 years! She also plays a key role in City of Norcross elections, and for these efforts and many more, we would just like to extend our warmest appreciation. Meryl, you brighten our days!

Thank you for all you do for the City of Norcross.



2018 City of Norcross Election Results

Congratulations to Andrew Hixson, Josh Bare and Elaine Puckett! The uncertified results are as follows:

Councilmember:
Andrew Hixson - 604
[Unopposed]

Josh Bare - 592
[Unopposed]

David McLeroy - 320

Elaine Puckett - 391

Yard Waste Reminder

It's that time of year again! While February through October yard waste like grass clippings, leaves and pine straw must be bagged, November through January we have a vacuum service that comes through once a week to clear up loose yard waste! This waste must be piled on the property, not the roadway.

All yard waste through the City's program is truly recycled into mulch and not landfilled.

Learn more on www.norcrossga.net under Public Works > Sanitation.



NORCROSS SPOTLIGHT

Pinnacle Park

Pinnacle Park to Provide Greater Access to Parks and Green Space



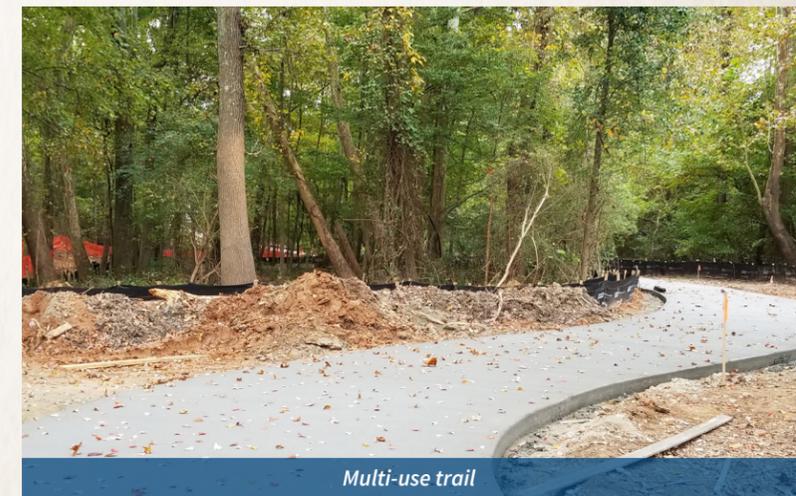
Concrete pouring southeast section of multi-use trail



Pinnacle Park Groundbreaking Ceremony



Seat wall at playground area



Multi-use trail

Project Scope

- The project will bring to life a long-held vision for the city to provide underserved areas of the community equal access to parks and green space
- The \$2 million recreational development will be funded by SPLOST and encompasses 12 acres with adjacent green space and connection with the Greenway
- It will be a significant feature of the overall development of the trail system



NORCROSS IN THE KNOW



NORCROSS DISCOVERY GARDEN PARK

Deck the Wreaths

December 2 • 5 – 6 p.m.
Norcross Community Center

Join us for a festive afternoon of wreath-making with your creative neighbors. Participants are invited to bring their own refreshments, including wine. You will be provided with Noble Fir wreaths, along with a variety of garden materials including holly berries, herbs, pine cones, magnolia pods, boxwood, other greens and bows. The class will be led by local Garden and Flower Designer, Mary Delia Poynter, owner of Container Gardening of Atlanta, LLC.

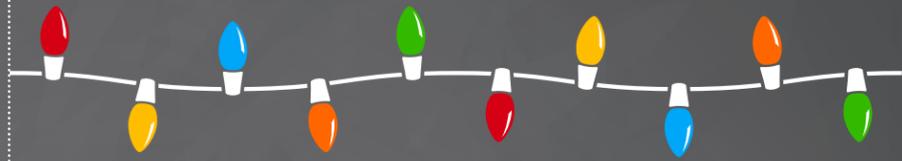
Fee: \$65 includes all materials
Location: Norcross Community Center
RSVP to Deb at deb.ndgp@gmail.com



Marshmallow Roasting, Cocoa and Santa at Discovery Garden

December 16 • 12 – 2 p.m.

Join Santa in the Garden for marshmallow roasting and hot cocoa around the fire pit on December 16 from 12 – 2 p.m. In the spirit of giving, we will adorn a Wildlife Tree with raisin icicles and birdseed ornaments for our furry friends. Free family fun.



3rd Annual Holiday Lights Walk

Saturday, December 8, 2018 • 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Please join us for our annual walk around Norcross to experience the sights and sounds of the holiday season. Hot drinks and a fire for toasting marshmallows will be part of your experience, too. Meet us at the Thrasher Park Pavilion at 6 p.m. We'll walk about town for about an hour and return to the pavilion for hot drinks and warm up by the fire.

Special note to homeowners around downtown Norcross: If you're interested in showing off your light display, contact Jolyn at susnorbp@gmail.com to arrange participation in walking route. The more the merrier. All ages welcome.



Lionheart finishes the year with the beloved Miracle on 34th Street

A girl's belief in Santa and the magic of the holiday is at stake when Santa himself is put on trial. Miracle on 34th Street is a hilarious, tender and charming show for the entire family--plus a Christmas classic! Dates are December 6-16, Thursdays-Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 adults and \$12 students/seniors/military ID. Group discounts available for 10 or more. For tickets, visit www.lionhearttheatre.org. For more information, contact 770.885.0425 or reservations@lionhearttheatre.org.

Lionheart Drama Camps named "Best in Gwinnett"

Low-cost holiday break camps December 21 and 26-29

Inside Gwinnett readers voted Lionheart Drama Camps "Best in Gwinnett!" Join the fun over Christmas breaks with short-term camps and workshops for ages 4 through tweens, teens, adults and seniors too! Log onto www.lionhearttheatre.org or email casey196@att.net. Hablamos español. Nancy Calymayor, 678.789.1528, nancyatlanta@gmail.com.



Susan Walker (Sarah Serena Thompson) shares a holiday secret with Kris Kringle (Lee Finocchio) Lionheart Theatre's Miracle on 34th Street. Photo Credit: Nancy Caldwell.



Movie Mondays for December

DECEMBER 10: GAME NIGHT

DECEMBER 26: BLACK PANTHER

**Please note the change in date from Monday to Wednesday to accommodate the holidays.*

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



NEW TIME for Weekend Walking Group

Beginning December 1st, the weekend walking group will head out at 8:30 a.m. This time change will be in effect year round. Please join us at Thrasher Park Pavilion each weekend for a one hour walk around Norcross. You will see and experience sights and sounds you just can't from a car. Get out, get walking, get healthy.

For questions, contact Jolyn at susnorbp@gmail.com.



Holcomb Bridge Road Railroad Crossing Improvement Project

Important Information for Norcross Residents

The Holcomb Bridge Road Railroad Crossing Improvement Project is set to begin on February 18 with a projected end date of May 19. As a City of Norcross resident, we want to help you prepare as much as possible for the roadway improvement project.

This project will involve road improvements at the intersection of Holcomb Bridge and Thrasher Street, in order to provide a safer vehicular crossing over the railroad tracks. Approximate construction limits will extend from 57 Holcomb Bridge Road to the railroad tracks, and from 71 Thrasher Street to 168 Thrasher Street. The Thrasher Street/Holcomb Bridge intersection will be raised about 5' to provide a more moderate grade transition over the railroad tracks while improving visibility for drivers. No work is proposed on the South Peachtree side of the tracks. This project is being led by Gwinnett County in coordination with the City.

Norcross residents and visitors may experience minor traffic inconveniences due to the construction and the subsequent detour. During the construction period, the intersection of Thrasher Street and Holcomb Bridge Road will be closed. After construction is completed, residents will benefit from improved vehicular travel over railroad tracks and improved driver sight at the intersection.

During the construction process, drivers are advised to be patient, cautious, informed and aware. All construction work and estimated timelines are weather permitting.

Please visit www.norcrossga.net for updates.

2018 EVENT CALENDAR

DECEMBER

12/1-12/31 Lionheart: Miracle on 34th Street,
by Valentine Davies adapted by Patricia
Di Benedetto Snyder

12/2 Discovery Garden Park Deck the Wreaths,
Norcross Community Center, 5 - 6 p.m.

12/7 Sparkle! Christmas Tree Lighting,
Thrasher Park, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

12/7 First Friday Concert: Joe Gransden,
Norcross Community Center, 7 - 9 p.m.

12/8 Norcross Bike/Ped Commission
Annual Holiday Lights Walk,
Downtown Norcross, 6 - 8 p.m.

12/10 Movie Monday: Game Night,
Norcross Community Center, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m.

12/16 Marshmallow Roasting, Cocoa and
Santa, Discovery Garden Park, 12 - 2 p.m.

12/26 Movie Monday: Black Panther,
Norcross Community Center, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m.

Weekend Walking Group
Thrasher Park Pavilion, 8:30 a.m.



For more event information: www.aplacetoimagine.com