



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS!

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

October 2020

Letter from Mayor Newton;

A lot of life has been lived inside the borders of Norcross over the last 150 years. We have experienced highs and lows, good times and tough times, but we have done it all together. I am honored to be your mayor every day and especially during such a momentous time in our history.

Since the establishment of the city in 1870, we have seen great change. From building the first high school in 1872 and electing our first female city councilmember, Lillian Webb, in 1968, to the construction of the brand new city hall in 2008, this city continues to grow—and evolve for the benefit of our citizens and we've only just begun.

I am so proud of how far we have come and I can't wait to see what's around the corner for our great city. Happy birthday, Norcross!



Mayor: Craig Newton • **Mayor Pro Tem:** Josh Bare
City Council: Andrew Hixson, Elaine Puckett, Bruce Gaynor, Matt Myers
City Manager: Rudolph Smith • **Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Works, Utilities & Parks:** Mary Beth Bender • **City Clerk:** Monique Lang

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Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
770.448.2122 | Fax: 770.242.0824
www.norcrossga.net

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

1818 ● Gwinnett County established

1861-1865 ● *Civil War (reaches Norcross c. 1864)*

1865 ● Establishment of Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church

1869 ● John Thrasher buys 250 acres of land in rural Gwinnett, intending to form a town at the end of the 20-mile section of Piedmont Airline Railroad he had been contracted to build

1870 ● John Thrasher builds the Brunswick Hotel and obtains a charter for the town of Norcross

1870 ● Goods like cotton begin shipping out of Norcross via rail to Atlanta

1872 ● First high school is built and local newspaper is established

1885 ● Johnson and Martin establish a retail store on Jones Street, which was in business for over 100 years

1903 ● Town opens another high school, known by locals as the "Castle on the Hill"

1907 ● First library in Gwinnett County established by Norcross Womans Club

1907 ● Norcross Concert Band travels to Virginia to perform at the Jamestown Tercentennial Exposition

1908 ● Norcross train depot burns to the ground; the new depot building (now The Crossing Steakhouse) completed the following year

c. 1909 ● Automobiles come to Norcross; one of the earliest purchases recorded in Norcross was that of Amos Martin

c. 1910 ● City begins electric service

1914-1918 ● *WWI (US enters in 1917)*

1917 ● US Army establishes a rifle range on North Norcross-Tucker Road to train WWI soldiers

1918 ● *H1N1 Spanish Flu worldwide pandemic*

1920 ● *19th Amendment to US Constitution (women's right to vote)*

c. 1925 ● City purchases land for a school for black children, located at the site of today's Rossie Brundage Park

1927 ● City drills a well on Barton Street, the start of the city water system

1929-1939 ● *Great Depression*

1937 ● Buford Highway becomes the first paved road connecting Norcross to the outside world

1939-1945 ● *WWII (US enters in 1941)*

1945 ● City acquires first firetruck, 1942 Ford model, for the volunteer fire department from a US Army supply depot's post-WWII surplus.

1950s ● First city hall is built on South Peachtree Street, including a storage bay for the firetruck

1950s ● *Rise of Television*

1951 ● City phone system switches from a manual exchange to automated exchange

1954 ● *Brown v. Board of Education*

1957 ● New county high school, West Gwinnett, opens on Price Place at Beaver Run

1962 ● Name of the local high school changes to Norcross High School

1963 ● Norcross High School baseball team wins the state championship behind the strong pitching performance of Jabbo Johnson

1962 ● *Cuban Missile Crisis*

1964 ● *US Civil Rights Act*

1968 ● Local telephone exchange on Carlyle Street burns, and is later repurposed as a larger town library, baseball museum and art gallery

1968 ● Lillian Webb is elected as the first female city council-member and goes on to serve as the first female mayor and the first female county commission chairman

1969 ● *Man lands on the moon*

1989 ● *Fall of the Berlin Wall*

1990s ● *Rise of the Internet*

1999 ● The American elm tree in Betty Mauldin Park is judged by the Georgia Forestry Commission to be Georgia's "champion" American elm (largest known of its species)

2004 ● Norcross first becomes accredited by Tree City USA (16 years and counting!)

2007-2009 ● *Financial Crisis of 2008 "The Great Recession"*

c. 2008 ● Current city hall is established on Lawrenceville St.

2009 ● A new park, Lillian Webb Park, is established in downtown Norcross where the baseball field once was. Thrasher Park (land originally gifted to the city by John Thrasher in 1872) is redeveloped.

2016 ● City establishes Summerour Park

2016 ● Discovery Garden Park is established.

2017 ● Norcross is designated as Platinum Green Community by ARC

2018 ● Craig Newton is elected to serve as mayor of Norcross, becoming the first black mayor in Gwinnett County

2018 ● City establishes Downtown Restaurant District allowing locals to 'sip-and-stroll' alcoholic beverages from restaurants within downtown boundary

2019 ● Two more parks are added to the city: Pinnacle Park and Veterans Park

2020 ● *COVID-19 worldwide pandemic*

2020 ● First brewery (Social Fox Brewing) is established in Norcross

THEN & NOW



1903 • College Street



Present Day • College Street



1900s • Jones Street



Present Day • Jones Street



Early 1900s • 45 S. Peachtree St.



Present Day • 45 S. Peachtree St.



1942 • The First Firetruck



Present Day • The First Firetruck



1907 • Buchanan House



Present Day • Buchanan House

For more Norcross history go to...

NorcrossGA.net/History

NORCROSS

— in the —

21ST CENTURY

**RANKED 14
OF 100 “MOST
GENIUS PLACES”**
- Time Magazine



**16,854
RESIDENTS**



13 PARKS

**GWINNETT'S
BEST DOWNTOWN**
- Gwinnett Magazine

**PLATINUM
LEVEL GREEN
COMMUNITY**



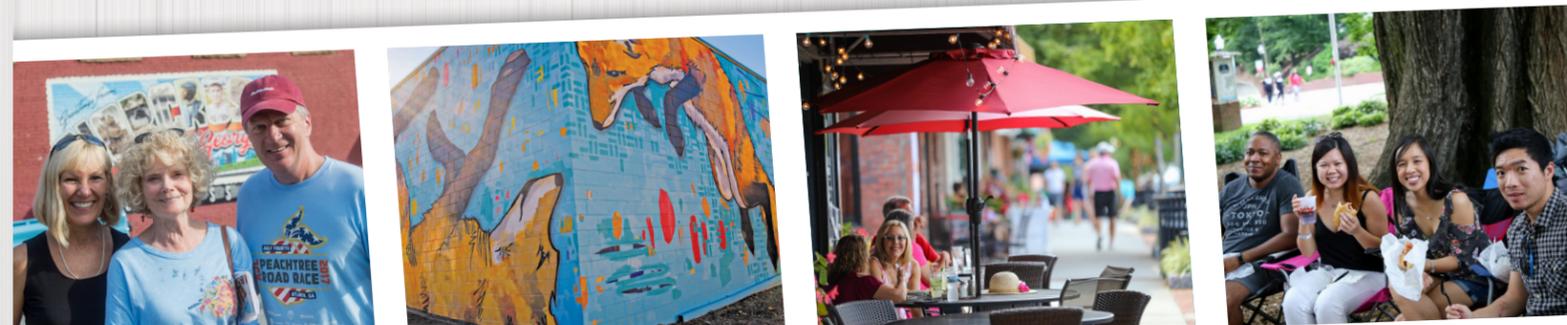
- Atlanta Regional Commission

**MEMBER OF
TREE & BEE
CITY USA**

A FUN WAY TO CELEBRATE

HERE'S YOUR 150TH BUCKET LIST

- Spend the day in one of our 13 parks.
- Celebrate with dinner in one of our local restaurants.
- Take in the sight of Georgia's oldest American elm tree standing proudly in Betty Mauldin Park.
- Explore Norcross with one of our mobile-friendly walking tours.
- Take a selfie in front of one of our many murals.
- Visit the Welcome Center Museum to learn about Norcross' rich history.
- Take a shopping spree in Downtown Norcross and pick up some 150th memorabilia.
- Share your celebration with us on social using #NorcrossTurns150!



Post and tag us in your celebrations!



@cityofnorcrossga



@cityofnorcross



TRIVIA

1. North Peachtree Street was once known as _____.

- A. Summerour Road
- B. Pitch Tree Road
- C. Depot Street
- D. Belle Avenue

2. What famous geographical landmark goes through Norcross?

- A. The Prime Meridian
- B. The Appalachian Trail
- C. The Chattahoochee River
- D. The Eastern Continental Divide

3. Who lived in the “Rock House” at Thrasher Park?

- A. David Wall
- B. John Thrasher
- C. Edward Buchanan
- D. Martha Tedder

4. Who founded the City of Norcross?

- A. John Thrasher
- B. Jonathan Norcross
- C. Edward Buchanan
- D. Homer Summerour

5. When was the City of Norcross founded?

- A. January 21, 1870
- B. March 13, 1870
- C. October 26, 1870
- D. December 8, 1870

6. The last surviving citizen who lived in Norcross since its founding was _____.

- A. Givens W. Arnold
- B. Will McElroy
- C. Homer Summerour
- D. Martha Tedder

Answers: 1.B • 2.D • 3.D • 4.A • 5.C • 6.B

EXTENDED SEASON FOR THE ONLINE NORCROSS COMMUNITY MARKET

The Norcross Community Market season typically ends with August, but due to demand, they are extending their online shopping and contactless, drive-through pickup experience! The market will become biweekly in October, with pickups scheduled for October 10th and 24th. Expect the same quality of Georgia Grown and locally produced items, but with a fall selection of produce and items suitable for gifting.

Order anytime Sunday at 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. on Thursday for the week prior to your desired pickup, either the 10th or the 24th of this month. The pickup location is the parking lot of Norcross City Hall between 9 and 11 a.m. on the designated Saturdays.

To pay with SNAP or P-EBT, call 404-580-2556.

Stay in the know by subscribing to the market newsletter and follow on social media! Visit norcrosscommunitymarket.com.

NEW ADVANCED DISPOSAL CALL CENTER

As of September 1, 2020, all requests for missed pickups, to schedule large bulk item pickups or cart replacements, should be made directly to Advanced Disposal at 678-495-0058. All requests for new businesses, to cancel a service, service increases or decreases, to start a new residential service, or to cancel a residential service should be made to gga@norcrossga.net or norcrossga.net/requesttracker.aspx.

TREE TALK

Did you know the city has its own digital tree walk? Our tree walk begins at Tree No. 1, an American elm that is standing proudly in Betty Mauldin Park next to our City Hall. This tree has been judged by the Georgia Forestry Commission to be the number one champion American elm tree for the State of Georgia. As of August 16, 2016, this tree stands 80’ tall with a circumference of 233 inches (nearly 19 ½ feet around) and has a crown spread of 125 feet.

Native to North America, the American elm was an abundant tree in North American forests. When L’Enfant and George Washington laid out the City of Washington, they envisioned it with tree-lined streets and the American elm was the chosen tree because of its tall upright form. This was once a popular and common tree found along city streets all over the US reaching heights over 100 feet. Tragically, the American elm has been devastated in many parts of its natural range by Dutch elm disease, which was introduced into the US on a shipment of logs from Europe in the 1930s.

While the American elm is the State Tree of Massachusetts and North Dakota, this tree is one of Norcross’ proudest landmarks and has been welcoming visitors for over a century!

[Learn more at norcrossga.com/trees](http://norcrossga.com/trees).

VIRTUAL
State of the City
SESQUICENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION •
OCTOBER 26 @ NOON

TAX ALERT

Please note the tax digest was not received until late September, so tax notices will be delayed. Look for them in your mail around mid-October, with a due date in mid-December.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Looking for updates on our latest construction projects? Sign up for alerts from our Construction Updates Webpage! Regular updates on N. Peachtree Sidewalk, the new library and more. www.norcrossga.net/949/Construction-Updates

SUSTAINABILITY TIP OF THE MONTH

COMPOSTING

Composting is the recycling of food scraps and yard debris. When we compost, we are diverting these materials from the landfill and preventing the release of methane, a very potent greenhouse gas. Composting requires three basic ingredients: browns (dead leaves and branches), greens (food scraps and grass clippings) and water. Your compost pile should have an equal amount of browns to greens. The brown materials provide carbon for your compost, the green materials provide nitrogen and the water provides moisture to help break down the organic matter. You can use this compost to enrich your soil at home and reduce the need for fertilizers.

ELECTION UPDATES

Absentee Ballot Request

The City of Norcross encourages all voters, mostly those particularly vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus, to vote via absentee by mail. Georgia law allows for absentee by mail ballots to be requested up to 180 days before an election. To request an absentee ballot, please call the City Clerk's Office at 678.421.2035 to request that an application be mailed or faxed to you, or visit our website at norcrossga.net/277/Absentee-Voting to download an application. No excuse is required to vote before Election Day. Absentee ballot applications can be returned by email, fax, in-person or mail to:

City of Norcross

Attn: Elections Division
65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071
Fax: 678.802.6295
absentee@norcrossga.net

Absentee Voting In-Person

Georgia law provides three weeks of in-person early voting in regularly scheduled primaries and elections.

COMING SOON!

Be on the lookout for an all new FAQ Section created to answer the most frequently asked questions relevant to elections in the City of Norcross.

DON'T FORGET YOUR 150TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORABILIA!

Commemorative items are available for purchase in the Welcome Center and various downtown merchants celebrating Norcross' 150th Anniversary. Quantities are limited, so get yours today!

