



A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2021



Carriage Rides

Your chariot awaits! Free carriage rides return to Downtown Norcross from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 13th in honor of Valentine's Day. Climb aboard in front of Taste of Britain!

Valentine's Night Out

Calling all lovebirds! Valentine's weekend, our downtown merchants are pulling out all the stops to help make it a special night (or day) out for you and your sweetie. Check out some of the featured specials and promotions below!

Carolee's

Free Valentine's Day Chocolate Bar Card Holder with every \$75 gift card purchased or receive another sweet treat with every \$75 Valentine's gift purchase. Gift wrapping included.

45 South Café

Free taste of pink sparkling wine with any purchase; 2 Valentine lattes and a brownie dessert for \$12

Antique Traditions

Holiday Hours: Sat 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.; Free Champagne and chocolates; Valentine's discount and free gift with purchase over \$25

Taste of Britain

Red dot sale up to 50% off on selected items

NORCROSS CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY

The third week of February celebrates Arbor Day in Georgia, and in honor of the occasion the city will be planting a new black gum, wildfire tupelo tree on S. Barton Street to replace the lovely old water oak that was recently removed due to a root fungus. We will also be dedicating Johnson Dean Forest as a member of the national Old-Growth Forest Network, which is a national nonprofit that recognizes urban forests with a Community Forest designation as a treasured community asset. See www.oldgrowthforest.net for more information. We are particularly proud of this achievement, and we encourage you all to visit Johnson Dean Park yourselves to take in not only the wonder of the forest but also to check out the cool sewer manhole artwork along the trail painted by Angelika Domschke with themes of forest wildlife.

MAYOR NEWTON HONORED AS “NOTABLE GEORGIAN”

Congratulations are in order! Our very own Mayor Craig Newton has been honored as one of *Georgia Trend* magazine’s 2021 Notable Georgians! See the full list in the January 2021 issue of *Georgia Trend* at georgiatrend.com.



SUSTAINABILITY TIP OF THE MONTH

RAIN BARRELS

Install a rain barrel at your residence! Rain barrels are used to catch rainwater from the downspouts of your roof and are perfect for watering your gardens because the water does not have any chlorine, lime or calcium. Most barrels come with a hose or spigot for easy access to water your plants and can save 1,300 gallons of water during the summer. Not only will you be saving money on utility bills, but you will also be helping prevent any flooding or erosion from excess stormwater runoff!

DON'T RECYCLE PLASTIC BAGS

When you take a trip to your recycling cart/bin, be sure that all your recyclable materials are not wrapped in plastic grocery bags or trash bags. When these stretchy plastics are put into the recycling, they get tangled in the sorting machine and cause expensive shutdowns to allow for the plastics to get cut out. Please leave your recyclables loose within our bin or cart! If you are concerned about any paper flying away, ask for paper bags when grocery shopping and use those bags to store your recycled paper in. Stretchy plastics also include bubble wrap, produce bags, bread bags, and case wrapping. (P.S. Be on the lookout for an exciting community-wide recycling program! More information coming soon!)

WELCOME TO THE TEAM



MAURICE SHEPHERD CLERK OF COURT

Maurice isn't exactly new to the city, having previously held the position of Assistant Clerk of Court. Recently promoted to Clerk of Court and head of the Norcross Courts Department, Maurice is looking forward to his next chapter with the city.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I am from Brooklyn NY and I am the youngest of 6 siblings. My family is of West Indian descent. While living in New York, I obtained my Bachelors and Masters in Criminal Justice with concentrations in Corrections and Psychology.

I moved to Georgia about 5 years ago to explore new court opportunities in the South. I have worked in every level of court starting with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Federal) and Fulton County Magistrate, State and Superior court (Criminal and Civil division). My previous employment taught me a lot and helped me grow as a better man.

What are you most excited about coming to Norcross/this position?

Over the years what has interested me about the court field is my desire to assist the public effectively and efficiently. No question is too small and no problem is too big for me to take on. What excited me about coming to Norcross was my desire to learn how the Municipal Court operates and what I can implement to make it better.

Any special projects/goals on the horizon?

A special project on the horizon is to make Norcross Municipal Court completely paperless.



MATTHEW ZAKI CITY ENGINEER

Matthew was recently brought onto the Norcross team in the role of City Engineer, part of the Community Development Department. Matthew is looking forward to being a part of the growth and advancement of the city.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I moved to the states 20 years ago after graduating engineering school in Cairo, Egypt. My background is stormwater, floodplain management and erosion control, all very important fields impacting our natural resources such as streams, floodplains and wetlands that require protection for water quality.

What are you most excited about coming to Norcross/this position?

Not a day goes by without me learning more about Norcross and the historical background of this great city.

Any special projects/goals on the horizon?

I am so excited to be involved in the Norcross freeway project that improves mobility for the residents and the businesses by the construction of approximately 3.3 miles of shared-use path connecting residential neighborhoods, schools and parks between Buford Highway on the western side and Beaver Ruin Road shared-use path.

TREE OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY

The ownership and responsibility of a tree is not always clear. Ownership of the tree is determined by the property on which the trunk of the tree is located. Generally, if the tree trunk stands entirely on one property, the tree is that property owner's responsibility—but a tree trunk may be located on the property line, resulting in joint ownership.

For existing trees that are on or overhang property lines, communicate with neighbors to reduce the potential for disputes. A neighbor may trim branches of a tree that cross onto his or her property, but it is always wise to talk with the tree owner before taking action. Clearly identify the issues and develop a written agreement regarding possible solutions. Be a good citizen and support neighborhood harmony. Hiring an Arborist is recommended to guide you through the process.

Who is liable for the tree?

In Georgia, the owner of a tree is liable for damages and injuries from a falling tree only if he or she has preexisting knowledge that a tree may be dangerous. If the owner has no reason to suspect a problem—the tree has leaves and its appearance is normal—then, in general, the owner is not at fault. It is best to check with an attorney for current law regarding tree issues.

*Excerpted from "Tree Ownership and Responsibility" Circular C-1099 UGA Extension, October 2016
Kim Toal, Lynwood Blackmon, Mary Carol Sheffield, and Ellen Bauske*



HAVE A MISSED PICKUP?

Back in September, Advanced Disposal (the city's sanitation vendor), established a call center for common service requests. All requests for missed pickups or 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 still be made to the city via gga@norcrossga.net or norcrossga.net/requesttracker.aspx.

STORMWATER RUNOFF

Leaf Vacuuming ends on January 31st, 2021. As we prepare for the spring, please do not blow your leaves and yard trimmings down the storm drains. Storm drains (found on the street curbs) DO NOT go to wastewater treatment plants! Leaves and sediment (disturbed soil) are the number one stormwater pollutants in the country. Other pollutants include fertilizers, antifreeze and oil from cars, and pet waste. Protect our waterways by not dumping into the storm drains!



As of December, all calls for Norcross Power should be directed to our new 24-hour number, 678-421-2069. After 5:00 p.m., calls will automatically transfer to Interactive Utility Communications (IUC) who are equipped to manage these calls (outages, cut-offs, interruptions of service). At 8:00 a.m., the calls will transfer back to the Public Works, Utilities & Parks Department. For power outages or other issues, please do NOT call Norcross Police, as has been the custom in the past—instead, please call the 678-421-2069 number.