



# A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER 2021

## 'TIS THE Season

### SPARKLE! CELEBRATION

#### Christmas Tree Lighting

**Dec. 3 at 5:30 p.m. | Thrasher Park**

Join us for the traditional lighting of the Christmas tree in Thrasher Park! Let there be light! 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 our tree.

#### ENTERTAINMENT

The Norcross First United Methodist Church choir will once again delight audiences from the Thrasher Park stage.

#### SANTA'S ARRIVAL

Santa Claus is coming to Norcross in his big red... firetruck? Be there to greet his arrival, then follow him

to his workshop in the park where he will be busy checking his list and taking photos with all the good little boys and girls.

#### HOT COCOA, S'MORES AND MORE!

Enjoy free hot cocoa (while supplies last) courtesy of the Norcross Lions Club, and s'mores courtesy of the City of Norcross. "Jingle All the Way" will be playing on the big screen while you wait in line to meet Santa, and 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.

#### Photos with Santa

**Dec. 3 | 6 - 8 p.m. | Thrasher Park**

**Dec. 8 - 22 (Wed/Fri) | 6 - 8 p.m. | South Peachtree St.**

We hope you've been nice this year because Santa himself will be visiting Downtown Norcross! Come take a free photo and whisper your special Christmas wish. Santa will also be in town on Tuesdays, but a photographer will not be present.

#### Carriage Rides

**Dec. 3 - 22 (Tues/Wed/Fri) | 6:30-8:30 p.m. | South Peachtree St.**

Carriage rides will be dashing through Norcross throughout the month of December, boarding in front of Taste of Britain. Joe Watkins has provided carriage rides to the city for more than 20 years—come be a part of a Norcross Christmas Tradition!



# HISTORIC NORCROSS HOLIDAY GALA & SEASONS OF STYLE EXHIBITION

Thursday, December 2  
The Rectory

The City of Norcross is well-known for mixing plenty of merry and bright into its holiday events, and this year is no exception. The downtown district, along with its beloved Rectory, will be dressed to impress when the Historic Norcross Business Association (HNBA) rolls out the red carpet for its Holiday Gala at The Rectory on December 2nd. Gala guests will be the first to experience The Rectory's newest installation, ***Seasons of Style at The Rectory...Joy is Always in Fashion.***

Seasons of Style treats visitors to a cheerful array of vintage holiday dresses, each paired perfectly with a colorfully coordinated Christmas tree and delightful holiday décor. The gala's silent auction is sure to bring even more joy to the evening by offering guests the opportunity to bid on the six elegantly decorated one-of-a-kind trees.

Tickets are limited for this black-tie optional event and are available for \$50 each at many downtown Norcross shops and at [theheartofnorcross.com](http://theheartofnorcross.com). Gala proceeds benefit the Norcross Preservation Alliance and HNBA.

The Seasons of Style exhibition will be open to the public from December 3 through 18. Hours are Saturdays from 1 - 7 p.m., Sundays from 1 - 5 p.m. and weekdays by reservation only. Admission is free.

# HOLIDAY MERCHANT OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, November 13  
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

'Tis the season for shopping and Norcross is ready to help you check everyone off your gift list with the annual Merchant Open House on Saturday, November 13. At this special one-day event, the downtown shops of Norcross will be decked and ready with door prizes, special surprises, sales, new merchandise and refreshments.

And after all that shopping, you will surely have worked up an appetite for a bite to eat and something to quench your thirst. Luckily, downtown Norcross is home to an array of delectable dining options that are also joining in the festivities!

## 2021 Specials

### 45 South Café

10% Off 2 or More Bottles of Wine  
10% Off 1 Pastry w/ Purchase of Any Beverage

### Antique Traditions

\$10 Off Purchase of \$50 or More  
Cider and Mulled Wine  
Register for Holiday Giveaways (To Be Announced on Social/Email)

### Carolee's

15% Off Purchases Up to \$75  
20% Off Purchases Over \$75  
Enter to Win Giveaway

### Cultivation Brewery

On Special—Chancellor, a Kolsch Beer

### Glitter G

Buy 2 Get 1 Free on All Jewelry  
2 for \$20 Mix and Match Hats, Scarfs, Wallets and Glasses  
2 Ponchos for \$40

### The Rose and Hemp

10% Off Storewide  
Complimentary CBD Coffee and Tea

### Studio 87 Yoga

New Student Special—4 Classes for Just \$39  
(Expires 2/27)

### Taste of Britain

Pie Society's Award-Winning Turkey Pie Samples  
Hot Tea and English Biscuits.

### VSOP Taproom

Thanksgiving Wine Samples



# HISTORIC NORCROSS HOLIDAY VILLAGE MARKET

Friday, December 3 - Sunday, December 5  
Downtown Norcross

Jingle all the way to this year's Historic Norcross Holiday Village hosted by the Historic Norcross Business Association, December 3 – 5.

Plan to bring the family downtown on Saturday, December 4, and enjoy old-fashioned fun for everyone from noon - 9 p.m. The downtown streets will be a merry sight, with costumed characters, street vendors, face-painters, a live animal petting zoo and holiday specials at your favorite local businesses. Be on the lookout for Santa cruising along in the city's electric trolley!

The Chi-Town Transit Authority will join Saturday's festivities, performing a medley of holiday songs and favorite Chicago hits under the stars at 6 p.m.

The Norcross Holiday Village is free and open to the public.



## SUSTAINABILITY



### TIP OF THE MONTH

## REFUSE, REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Here are ways you can do all four this November in Norcross!

**REFUSE** Plastic Bags. Bring your reusable bags and totes for your next shopping trip to Downtown Norcross or your local retail or grocery store.

**REDUCE** your waste by dropping off your Pumpkin at the Enchanted Forest Event at Johnson Dean Park Nov. 7th from 2pm - 4pm to be collected for composting.



**REUSE** by visiting the Reclamation Station at the Recycling and Clean Up Day event Nov. 13th 8am - 3pm and by purchasing reusable alternatives to single use items at the Holiday Merchants Open House Nov. 13th 11am - 6pm.

**RECYCLE** on the Recycling and Clean Up Day, Nov. 13th 8am - 3pm, and all year long in your curbside bins (Remember NO plastic bags)

**BONUS:**

Celebrate America Recycles Day (Nov. 15th) in Norcross. Check the City of Norcross Facebook for more fun and informational activities the weekend of Nov. 13 – 14!

# 2021 CITY OF NORCROSS MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The upcoming general election will take place Tuesday, November 2, 2021, to elect the mayor and two councilmembers. The polls for the General Election will open on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at the Norcross City Hall, 65 Lawrenceville Street, 2nd Floor Community Room, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., in accordance with the State's laws of Georgia. Computation of votes cast in the November 2 election will be conducted at the time the poll closes. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, a run-off election will be held on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., between the candidates receiving the two highest numbers of votes.

The advance voting poll for the run-off election will be held daily from Monday, November 22 through November 24, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# HISTORIC CEMETERY: CALL FOR PLOT INFORMATION

In 1871, Gwinnett County experienced a fire that destroyed all burial and plot records for our Historic Cemetery. In an attempt to properly document ownership of unused plots, the City of Norcross is requesting that anyone with a deed or certificate of ownership present such information to the city by calling Melissa Zeigler at 678-421-2069 or emailing her at [melissa.zeigler@norcrossga.net](mailto:melissa.zeigler@norcrossga.net).

The city is currently preparing to open up unused cemetery lots. The legal process is extensive but we are aiming to have units available in 2023. We appreciate your cooperation and patience during the process.

# TREE TALK: TOP INVASIVE PLANTS THAT HARM OUR URBAN FOREST

*Adapted Courtesy of Trees Atlanta (treesatlanta.org)*

English ivy is often planted as a ground cover in yards. Aggressive, it often spreads into neighboring properties and climbs trees. Tempted to bring some ivy into your life? Plant it in a pot indoors.

Although Japanese honeysuckle flowers smell good, this vine can mean big trouble for our forests. It is the 5th most commonly observed invasive plant in the country.

Japanese stilt grass is an annual grass that often covers the ground near stream corridors. Unlike most grasses, it thrives in the shade.

Kudzu was purposefully planted all over the south in the early 20th century to reduce erosion from poor farming practices. Though no longer planted, we are still stuck with it. During peak growing season, it can grow up to a foot a day! Well-established kudzu roots can weigh up to 400 pounds!

Monkey or Mondo grass is planted for its evergreen appeal and purple flowers. Because this plant grows so well in the shade, it takes over the forest floor, creating thick mats suffocating our native ground layers.

Believe it or not, privet takes up more space in our forests than kudzu and can be just as harmful. These evergreens can reach more than 30 feet tall full-grown, shading out anything trying to grow beneath them.

Invasive wisterias (Chinese/Japanese) are commonly planted for their enchanting and fragrant flowers. This vine, which often escapes into our forests, grows aggressively. It covers the forest floor and wraps tightly around trees, starving them of nutrients needed to grow.

## FEET ON THE STREET

Well, that's a wrap! Feet on the Street, the 4-week recycling quality improvement program, completed its final route on Friday, October 8. Thank you to Waste Management, The Recycling Partnership, the Sustainable Norcross Commission, and the City of Norcross for making the program possible. A big THANK YOU to all the residents of Norcross who corrected the contents of their cart and continue to help Norcross recycle right! Your continued efforts to reduce contamination in our single-stream recycling system ensure a safer work environment for employees, protect the integrity of recyclable items, and support the long-term viability of the recycling system. Thank you!

Even though FOTS is over, we still need to recycle right! Please remember **only Plastic Bottles and Jugs (Marked with a #1 or #2 Inside the Recycling Symbol); Paper, Cardboard, and Cartons; and Aluminum and Steel Cans**, are acceptable in curbside recycling. Most importantly, please remember that **No Plastic Bags, Plastic Wrap, or Bagged Recyclables are acceptable in our single-stream recycling system**. Please put all your recyclables into your cart loose and return plastic bags to your local retailer. It's up to all of us to learn and work together to create a healthier and happier environment and community in Norcross!

If you have any more questions about the program, or about recycling in Norcross, please email [communitydevelopment@norcrossga.net](mailto:communitydevelopment@norcrossga.net), call 678-421-2027, or visit <https://www.norcrossga.net/feetonthestreet>. If you are curious to see how recycling quality has improved in our community, keep an eye out for upcoming newsletters. Staff are currently analyzing the data compiled throughout this program and are excited to share it with you as soon as it is available!

## THE CITY PROPERTY TAX AND STORMWATER BILLS

The City Property Tax and Stormwater bills are due November 22nd (postmark date does not apply—they must be received at City Hall by this date). If you don't receive a bill, you are still responsible for payment. If you have any questions, please email the Administrative Services Department Office at [taxes@norcrossga.net](mailto:taxes@norcrossga.net).

## ONE MAN'S TRASH IS ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE!

To encourage sustainable reuse and reclamation, Norcross introduces our very own **Reclamation Station** at the semi-annual Recycling and Cleanup Day! The Reclamation Station will be open from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 13 at Norcross Public Works (345 Lively Avenue). Here's how it works: instead of throwing out old but salvageable items in the dumpster, give them a chance at new life and bring them to the Reclamation Station! Other residents can browse the items to reuse, repair or DIY. While you're there, you can shop, too! Everything is FREE and all creativity is welcome! If you have questions about what items you can bring, how you can shop or if you have ideas to share, contact [communitydevelopment@norcrossga.net](mailto:communitydevelopment@norcrossga.net) or call 678-421-2027.

In addition to the Reclamation Station, Norcross offers a full day of **Hard-to-Recycle Material Collection, Single-Stream Recycling, Electronic Recycling, Paper Shredding and Recycling and Bulk Material Disposal**. For more information about the Recycling and Cleanup Day services, dropoff sites and accepted materials, visit the green events detail page on [aplacetoimagine.com](http://aplacetoimagine.com)!

## BOARD VACANCIES

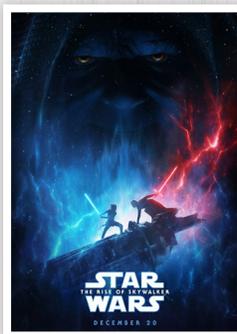
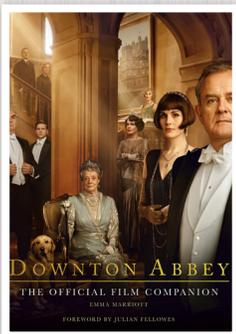
The city is now accepting applications to serve on several city boards and commissions. These include: Historic Preservation Commission, Tree Preservation Board, Sustainable Norcross Commission, Architectural Review Board and Norcross Public Arts Commission.

If you are interested in having an active role in the City of Norcross, please contact City Clerk, Monique Lang ([monique.lang@norcrossga.net](mailto:monique.lang@norcrossga.net)) to submit your application to serve. You can learn more, including meeting days, mission and list of other citizens serving on each board and commission on the city website under City Government tab.



# IN THE KNOW

# MOVIE MONDAYS



**Norcross Community Center**  
1:30 & 6:30 p.m.

October 11  
Downton Abbey

October 25  
Star Wars Rise of  
Skywalker

Enjoy a free movie and light refreshments at Norcross Movie Mondays held at the Cultural Arts & Community Center every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month! Movies start times are at 1:30 & 6:30 p.m.



## FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT @ THRASHER PARK!

Friday, November 5 | 7 - 9 p.m.  
The Rainmen

First Friday Concerts run from October to April and are always a popular night out. This month, we're taking the fun outside to the Thrasher Park Concert Pavilion! Come 'get down' with the sounds of jazz, rock, Motown and more with Legacy Music on the 'First Friday' of the month!



## NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP AND RECYCLING DAY

November 13 | 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Downtown Norcross

Visit [norcrossga.net/926/Green-Events](http://norcrossga.net/926/Green-Events) for more information.



## LIONHEART THEATRE PRESENTS

### “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike”: November 5-21

Lionheart’s November comedy, “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike,” runs November 5-21. Evening performances are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for seniors/students/military. Visit [lionhearttheatre.org](http://lionhearttheatre.org) for tickets.

### “The Homecoming”: December 9-19

Lionheart is pleased to present “The Homecoming,” a holiday stage play that inspired the TV series, “The Waltons.” Evening performances are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for seniors/students/military. Visit [lionhearttheatre.org](http://lionhearttheatre.org) for tickets.



## UPCOMING CEMETERY TOUR

February 6th at 2 p.m.



## DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

Saturday, November 6 | 2 - 8 p.m.  
Thrasher Park

Come celebrate Dia de los Muertos in Downtown Norcross on Saturday, November 6, 2021 as we observe the holiday that spans across the first two weeks of November! We invite you to join us to celebrate our ancestors and history in a night of remembrance, dance and live authentic entertainment to be followed with a parade around Thrasher Park. This festival will be a total cultural experience where you can immerse yourself in celebration through authentic Mexican meals and beverages.

Be sure to drink the night away with us as there will be exciting flavors of margaritas to drink throughout the festival (to be purchased separately). There will be face painters on-site to help you complete your festive look with candy skull painting. At dusk, we will wrap the festival up with a lantern parade around Thrasher Park. We will be selling lantern kits from anywhere between \$5—\$25 that you can purchase on November 5th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Welcome Center or on-site the night of.

We look forward to celebrating culture, history and the community with you this November 6th!

# TREES, STORMS & POWER OUTAGES

If you're wondering why the recent power outages, when the ground becomes too wet, the structural integrity of a tree's root system can be compromised. Think of it as tree roots trying to hold up the entire tree in a bowl of soupy mud. There just might not be enough structural support to keep the tree upright. Additionally, tree roots can suffocate, as the air pockets have vanished & are now holding water. Throw in strong winds and your huge tree can topple over right from the base. When falling trees land on the power lines, an outage occurs.

This explanation has been provided by the city's Land Development Inspector/Arborist, Daniel Tew.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### November 5

First Friday Concert: The Rainmen, 7 - 9 p.m., Thrasher Park

### November 6

Dia De Los Muertos Festival, 2 - 8 p.m., Thrasher Park

### November 8

Movie Monday: Downton Abbey, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center

### November 13

Neighborhood Recycling Day & Cleanup, Various Times & Locations

Merchants Holiday Open House, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Downtown Norcross

### November 22

Movie Monday: Star Wars Rise of Skywalker, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center

### December 2

Historic Norcross Holiday Gala, The Rectory

### December 2 - 18

Seasons of Style Exhibition, The Rectory

### December 3

Sparkle! Celebration: Christmas Tree Lighting, 5:30 p.m., Thrasher Park

### December 3-5

Historic Norcross Holiday Village Market, Downtown Norcross

### December 3 - 22 (Tues/Wed/Fri)

Carriage Rides, 6:30-8:30 p.m., South Peachtree St.

### December 8-22 (Wed/Fri)

Photos with Santa, 6 - 8 p.m., South Peachtree St., *Note: Photos with Santa will also take place in Thrasher Park during the Dec. 3rd Tree Lighting.*



Scan to get the Spanish Newsletter!

¡Escanee para recibir le boletín en español!