



# A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NEWSLETTER • DECEMBER 2021



## SPARKLE

CELEBRATION



### Historic Norcross Holiday Gala

December 2 • The Rectory

### Historic Norcross Holiday Village Market

December 3 - 5 • Downtown Norcross

### Tree Lighting

December 3 • 5:30 p.m. • Thrasher Park

### Carriage Rides (Tues/Wed/Fri)

December 1 - 22 • 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. • South Peachtree St.

### Photos with Santa (Wed/Fri)

December 8 - 22 • 6 - 8 p.m. • 45 South Café

*Note: Santa will also be in town on Tuesdays but a photographer will not be present*



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

**City Hall:** 65 Lawrenceville Street, Norcross, GA 30071  
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# HISTORIC DOWNTOWN NORCROSS CHRISTMAS VILLAGE MARKET

Friday, December 3 - Sunday, December 5  
Downtown Norcross

Jingle all the way to this year's Historic Downtown Norcross Christmas Village hosted by the Historic Norcross Business Association, December 3 – 5. Step back in time and get ready to enjoy some good old-fashioned fun for everyone all weekend long!

First, on **Friday** you won't want to miss the annual Sparkle! Celebration & Tree Lighting which kicks off at 5:30 p.m. in Thrasher Park. Downtown merchants will have plenty of specials and activities going on as well, so don't miss popping over to South Peachtree Street during the night's festivities for dinner and some early holiday shopping.

Then, on **Saturday** plan to bring the family downtown for fun galore from noon - 8 p.m. The downtown streets will be a merry sight, with costumed characters, live music, street vendors, food trucks, face-painters, bell ringers, carolers, 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 Atlanta Youth Symphony will perform at 3 p.m.
- A live petting zoo will be set up at the corner of Jones and Skin Alley from noon until 4 p.m.

- The Norcross Community Market will be on Skin Alley from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. with your favorite local- grown and prepared food vendors and a special Artists Market with plenty of high-quality local art available that will make for fun, unique presents to put under the tree!
- From 3:15-4 p.m., kids can take a \$5 Kids Christmas Yoga class at Studio 87, and are encouraged to wear reindeer noses and antlers, Santa beards, etc.
- The Chi-Town Transit Authority will take the stage for an outdoor concert at 6 p.m., performing a medley of holiday songs and favorite Chicago hits under the stars in The Crossing Parking Lot (be sure to bring your blanket and chair!).
- Carriage rides will begin trotting down South Peachtree Street at 6 p.m. Board in front of Taste of Britain; carriage rides, like most all other activities this weekend, are free!

On **Sunday**, the fun continues with local merchant specials, street vendors, food trucks, costumed characters and of course, Jolly Ole' St. Nick! Sunday's \$5 children's activity takes place from noon to 4 p.m. at Studio 87 Yoga, and includes cocoa, cookies and crafts like Christmas ornaments, bird feeders and more, while supplies last.

The Historic Downtown Norcross Christmas Village is free all weekend and open to the public.

For more information, follow @heartofnorcross (the HNBA) on social!

## WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

Missed the Mayor's speeches at the new library ribbon cutting and 150th-anniversary event? Don't worry! Read his remarks now at [norcrossga.net/wordsfromthemayor](http://norcrossga.net/wordsfromthemayor). Mayor Newton profoundly commemorates these two momentous occasions with grace and consequence.



Scan to read





## **HISTORIC NORCROSS HOLIDAY GALA & SEASONS OF STYLE EXHIBITION**

**Gala: December 2 (Ticketed Event)**  
**Exhibition: December 3-12**  
**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 \$75 per person at Carolee's, Taste of Britain, Antique Traditions and Anna Balkans Jewelry. Gala proceeds benefit the Norcross Preservation Alliance and HNBA. The Seasons of Style exhibition will be open for free to the public from December 3 through 12. Hours are Saturdays from 1 - 6 p.m., Sundays from 1 - 4 p.m. and weekdays by reservation only.

# **SUSTAINABILITY**



## **TIP OF THE MONTH**

### **STAY SUSTAINABLE DURING THE HOLIDAYS**

Here are ways to make this holiday season the most sustainable one yet!

#### **SHOP LOCAL**

Supporting small businesses helps the local economy and often reduces your carbon footprint.

#### **BRING ON THE LEFTOVERS**

Help reduce food waste by bringing reusable containers to make to-go plates for holiday dinners.

#### **WRAP YOUR GIFTS WITH KRAFT PAPER**

Kraft paper can be recycled curbside in Norcross (if traveling for the holidays, be sure to check your location's website for more information on recycling opportunities).

#### **DONATE**

Donate food cans, coats and socks at Public Works at 345 Lively Avenue.

#### **GIVE A GIFT THAT'S ECO-FRIENDLY**

A reusable water bottle, reusable snack container or reusable shopping bag are just a few of the great gifts that can be used throughout the year and reduce waste.

#### **SKIP PLASTIC BAGS**

Bring your reusable shopping bag for in-store shopping!

#### **RECYCLE YOUR TREE**

Participate with Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful in the Georgia-wide "Bring One for the Chipper" Christmas Tree Recycling Program. Look for more information on their website, [gwinnettcg.org](http://gwinnettcg.org).

#### **RECYCLE YOUR CANDY WRAPPERS**

Candy Wrappers are not normally recyclable, but with the help of Rubicon's #TrickorTrash candy wrapper recycling bins, they can be collected at a few locations in Downtown Norcross!



## FEET ON THE STREET RECYCLING CAMPAIGN RESULTS ARE IN!

That's a wrap! Feet on the Street, the city's first-ever campaign to improve recycling habits by providing personalized feedback, concluded on October 8. For four consecutive weeks, the FOTS team visited each recycling container set out curbside in the City of Norcross to check for some of the most common recycling mistakes. More than 1,500 feedback tags later, we've all become better recyclers. Our city's recycling contamination rate has improved **31%**, and we reduced our #1 mistake, plastic bags, by **78%**!

Recycling right by sticking to the EXACT list of accepted curbside recyclables—**paper, cartons, and flattened cardboard; empty plastic bottles and jugs; and empty metal cans**—is very important to keep the recycling program running smoothly. Putting the wrong things in the bin can increase costs, ruin good recyclables, tangle sorting machinery, injure workers, and even start fires. Anything that is not on the accepted list ends up in the landfill if we try to recycle it curbside, but not before causing problems.

Consider bringing other items to dropoffs instead. For example, plastic bags and other kinds of stretchy plastic film are recyclable at grocery stores. Glass bottles and jars can be recycled at Norcross Public Works, located at 345 Lively Avenue. Ecycle Atlanta and Best Buy take old electronics, and scrap metal yards pay for your unwanted equipment, housewares and appliances.

Thank you to residents, staff, Waste Management, The Recycling Partnership and the Sustainable Norcross Commission (SNC) for making Feet on the Street a success!

## NORCROSS COMMUNITY MARKET

The Norcross Community Market Online Store is re-open! Shop 20+ vendors with lots of fall/winter produce and more! Place online orders by Tuesday at 3 p.m. for pickup on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. in the Thrasher Park parking lot. SNAP/EBT are accepted, email us to use your card. Go to [NCMOnlineStore.com](http://NCMOnlineStore.com) to place an order.

But that's not all this month! We'll be setting up at the Historic Norcross Christmas Village on Saturday, December 4th from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Skin Alley. Not only will we have a trove of farm-fresh produce and locally grown products for you to shop, but we'll also have an Artist Market with beautiful local art for purchase that will make wonderful, unique holiday gifts for your loved ones!

Feel free to email [Manager@NorcrossCommunityMarket.com](mailto:Manager@NorcrossCommunityMarket.com) with any questions.

## TREE TALK: FIREWOOD & INVASIVE PESTS

*Source: [DontMoveFirewood.org](http://DontMoveFirewood.org) (Campaign Site for The Nature Conservancy)*

As you get ready for a warm, toasty fire this winter, be aware of the hidden risks that come along with firewood. Moving firewood long distances can spread invasive forest pests hidden in or on the wood. Your firewood choices matter, and you can help slow the spread of these tree-killing pests with a few simple precautions. In short, don't move firewood—instead, make one of these better choices:

- Buy firewood where you'll burn it.
- Buy certified heat-treated firewood.
- Gather firewood on-site when permitted.

Want to learn more? Visit [bit.ly/firewoodfaq](http://bit.ly/firewoodfaq) for a great list of firewood questions and answers.

# THE MAYOR'S ANGEL GIVING TREE

Celebrate the spirit of giving this season with the Mayor's Angel Giving Tree! In the City Hall lobby, you will find a tree with gift tags hanging on it. Each gift tag represents a boy or girl 17 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 City Hall on or before Wednesday, December 15th.** Gift tags should be taped to the gift. Gifts will be delivered to the Norcross Boys and Girls Club on Friday, December 17th.

AND, if you share a picture with us of yourself returning with a gift, YOU COULD WIN a special holiday gift yourself! Any Giving Tree photos we are tagged in or receive through Facebook Messenger will be entered to win a gift bag of city swag. One entry per person please; please note, by sharing a photo with us you are agreeing to let us share that photo on our account as well. The winning name and photo will be announced on our Facebook page on Monday, December 20th.



## THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF!

We are so thankful to our city employees for their hard work day in and day out, all year long. They go above and beyond and we got to celebrate them last month at our annual Employee Thanksgiving Luncheon! Special shoutout to the Employee Customer Service Committee for putting this whole event on for us!



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BRUNSWICK!

Congratulations to our own, The Brunswick, not only on their first anniversary but also on their big win at the Metro Atlanta Redevelopment Summit (MARS)! They were selected as the recipient of the 2021 MARS Medium Redevelopment of the Year Award. Woot, woot!



# 2021

## CITY OF NORCROSS

## MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Craig Newton,  
Bruce Gaynor and Matt Myers!

The certified results are as follows:

**MAYOR**  
**(CRAIG NEWTON'S SEAT)**  
Newton - 712

**COUNCIL**  
**(BRUCE GAYNOR'S SEAT)**  
Gaynor - 725

**COUNCIL**  
**(MATT MYERS' SEAT)**  
Gibson - 247  
Myers - 606

## A NEW WEBSITE IS COMING!!

The city is launching a brand-new website come January! This will include enhanced navigation, a vibrant new look, as well as an all-new notification system meant to simplify how you get your information. The new site design is based on a year of research and development, including analytics from the past 3 years of NorcrossGa.net site data, a community-wide survey, one-on-one meetings between a consultant and our city departments, as well as the best practices and expertise of our contracted web vendor, the government-specific web company CivicPlus. We are so excited to share it with you! In the meantime, here's what you need to know:

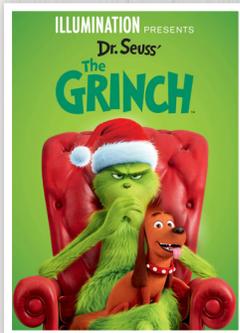
1. The site will be organized by you, our audience. The main tabs will become Residents, Business, Government, Experience Norcross and Resources. Information, forms, services and more pertinent to each audience type or topic can easily be found under these tabs.
2. But that's not all! Our homepage will have an all-new "Quick Access" section at the top with links to the most commonly visited and requested content from our old site.

3. If you are currently signed up to receive alerts from the city website (Notify Me/News Flash), your subscriptions will be transferred to the new notification platform (CivicReady), and you won't need to do anything else to receive alerts! However, we do have a few new categories that will allow you to customize specific alerts you are interested in receiving, so if you would like to modify your subscription simply visit [norcrossga.net/signup](http://norcrossga.net/signup).
4. If you are currently signed up for Police Nixle alerts, we are unfortunately unable to transfer subscriber data to the new platform. Please visit [norcrossga.net/signup](http://norcrossga.net/signup) and subscribe to the Traffic and/or Emergency categories of our new platform, CivicReady!
5. We will still be using Constant Contact, so subscribers who receive emails about weekly events, the monthly digital newsletter and Economic Development updates will not be affected by this transition.
6. We are getting an app!! CivicReady has a resident app where you can view notifications, and sign up to receive push notifications for alerts to your mobile device (note: this is not the same as an SMS alert). More information about the app will be rolling out in January with our launch, and will be found at [norcrossga.net/signup](http://norcrossga.net/signup).



# IN THE KNOW

# MOVIE MONDAYS



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

December 13  
Last Christmas

December 27  
The Grinch

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.



## Save the Date! UPCOMING CEMETERY TOUR

February 6th at 2 p.m.



## LIONHEART THEATRE PRESENTS

“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.

# NORCROSS POWER

Norcross Power will soon be sending out a mailer detailing tips and processes for dealing with power outages. Power customers should be on the lookout for this handy info card hitting mailboxes in the weeks to come. In the meantime, you can visit [norcrossga.net/power](http://norcrossga.net/power) for information about power service in Norcross.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### December 2

Historic Norcross Holiday Gala, The Rectory

### December 3 - 12

Seasons of Style Exhibition, The Rectory

### December 3

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

### December 3-5

Historic Downtown Norcross Christmas Village, Downtown Norcross

### December 1 - 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., 45 South Café  
*Note: Santa will also be in town on Tuesdays but a photographer will not be present*

### December 13

Movie Monday: Last Christmas, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center

### December 27

Movie Monday: The Grinch, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center



Scan to get the Spanish Newsletter!

¡Escanee para recibir le boletín en español!