



A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2022

VALENTINE'S FATHER/ DAUGHTER DANCE

Friday, February 11th
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Norcross Community Center

Fathers and father figures can treat the little lady in their lives to an evening of dancing, food and drinks. Make memories that will last a lifetime as you dance the night away to music provided by a DJ who will be playing songs for everyone to enjoy! The event is intended for young ladies between the ages of 5-12 years old. Open to the public, but RSVP is required. The event will cost \$5. ****Indoor events are subject to cancellation due to COVID-19 restrictions****

Link to RSVP: bit.ly/3eQqxwG

VALENTINE'S NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Saturday, February 12th
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Downtown Norcross

This Valentine's Day, the city is pulling out all the stops for the love that fills the air. Cozy up in a carriage ride, renew your vows or take a romantic photo, all free of charge. And if that doesn't meet your idea of a night out with your loved one, Downtown Norcross restaurants will be offering Valentine's specials for those who would like to wine and dine!



Mayor: Craig Newton • **Mayor Pro Tem:** Matt Myers
City Council: Andrew Hixson, Arlene Beckles, Bruce Gaynor, Josh Bare
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
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
770.448.2122 | Fax: 770.242.0824
www.norcrossga.net



ARBOR DAY IN GEORGIA

What is Arbor Day? “Arbor” is the Latin word for “tree”—hence a day to celebrate trees. The U.S. National Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April, however, Georgia celebrates Arbor Day on the third Friday in February. This earlier date is more suitable for new tree plantings in Georgia because new tree roots survive and thrive better in cooler soils. Arbor Day is celebrated all over the world at different dates because climatic conditions strongly vary from country to country. All agree, though, that this is a celebration about trees and reforesting our planet.

The U.S. Arbor Day was created by Julius Sterling Morton and was first celebrated in 1872. Famously stated by J. Sterling Morton, “Other holidays repose upon the past; Arbor Day proposes for the future.” J. Sterling Morton was among the pioneers moving into the Nebraska Territory in 1854. Perhaps he missed the trees from his birth state of Michigan. As he gained prominence and became secretary of the Nebraska Territory, he proposed a tree planting holiday. It is estimated more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on that first Arbor Day. The event caught on, and within 20 years Arbor Day was celebrated in every U.S. State.

The Norcross Tree Preservation Board is all about promoting the preservation of our city’s tree canopy and the planting of new trees across the community. Arbor Day is our day to spotlight our city’s urban forest and remind everyone of all of the benefits trees bring to our city and to our homes. Here are ten of the many wonderful ways trees enhance our lives:

1. **Trees give us useful products**– We depend on trees every day.
2. **Human health**– We feel happier and healthier around trees.
3. **Stronger communities**– We get along better in tree-filled spaces.
4. **Economic impact**– Trees increase the value of the things around them.
5. **Carbon dioxide removal**– Trees trap greenhouse gases so the planet stays cooler.
6. **Air quality**– We breathe cleaner air.
7. **Energy use**– Trees reduce demand on coal-fired and nuclear power plants.
8. **Stormwater reduction**– Trees reduce water runoff.
9. **Heat island effect**– Trees alleviate hot spots so people can breathe easier.
10. **Wildlife Habitat**– We enjoy all the natural beauty trees support.

As the founder of Arbor Day, J. Sterling Morton expresses, “Each generation takes the earth as trustees.” **Come and join the Norcross Tree Preservation Board in celebrating Georgia Arbor Day on February 18, 2022. We will gather at 10 a.m. at Heritage Park across the street from City Hall next to the Rectory.** Watch Mayor Newton wield a shovel in planting a lovely Georgia overstory tree, enjoy some of our special tree cookies, and hear our guest speaker Rick Barnes with Sav-A-Tree. We will be handing out Northern Red Oak seedlings while supplies last, so come early!

A special thanks to The Morton Arboretum as a source for this article.



PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS WORKSHOP!

Despite this winter's rollercoaster temperatures, the soils are still too cool for planting. But for itchy gardeners, now's the time to start sowing indoors! On Saturday, February 26, from 11 a.m. to noon at Norcross City Hall, learn how to start a pollinator-friendly garden from seeds. Gwinnett Master Gardener Jackie Morgan and Phoenix Gardens farmer Gwendolyn Washington will share tips for successfully seeding wildflowers, ornamentals and vegetables. This free workshop is open to all gardening abilities and ages. Seeds and planting materials included—though participants are welcome to bring additional seeds and supplies to share! Pre-register by emailing communitydevelopment@norcrossga.net by February 19, 2022.



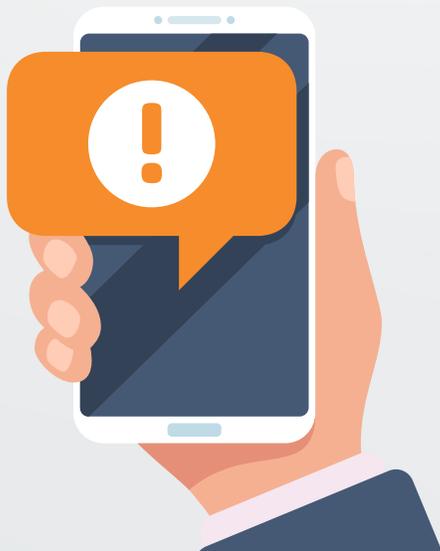
SUSTAINABILITY



TIP OF THE MONTH

SPREADING LOVE

Share love this month and all year long to your community and the environment by giving to others, donating to local nonprofits and canned food drop-offs, planting for pollinators, shopping locally and, of course, recycling right!



DON'T FORGET!

The Police Department is moving away from Nixle. If you would like to continue getting emergency alerts (and other city news) from the City of Norcross, visit norcrossga.net/signup to subscribe and modify your alert categories.

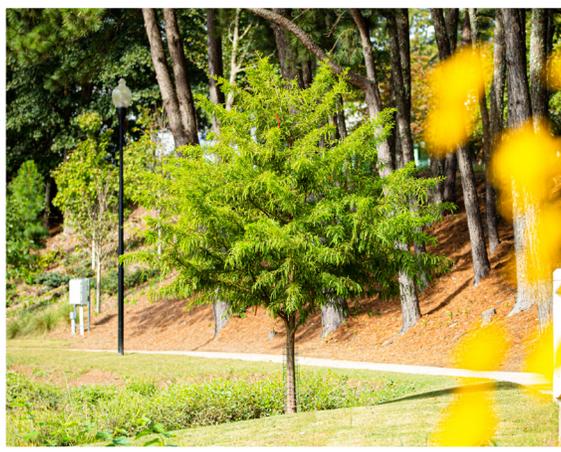
TREE TALK

Helping the Trees Help Us!

Everyone in Tree City Norcross today is surrounded by trees, and we love it! But like good marriages and good government, it takes attention and care by all to maintain a full tree canopy. You may not be aware that our tree canopy has been decreasing due to continued development, and particularly because our old hardwood trees are steadily dying. We'd like to alert you to what the Tree Preservation Board (TPB) is actively doing with city staff to maintain and hopefully increase Norcross' tree canopy again:

- Discouraging unnecessary removal of healthy specimen trees by working with property owners' removal requests to save as many trees as we can. When the canopy is reduced by tree removal, encourage replacing it with recommended trees that will grow to maturity.
- Updating the city's tree ordinances to include strict requirements for tree removal, to recommend replacement trees, to provide for Tree Bank funding and to clarify treatment of different types of trees.
- Providing information to property owners about the selection, planting, care and maintenance of their trees. Citizens can request information regarding tree concerns from the TPB at treeboard@norcrossga.net or to the city arborist, Daniel Tew at daniel.tew@norcrossga.net.
- As stewards of Johnson Dean Forest Preserve, we are continuing our care, management and public amenity development of this forest. In addition, we are focusing future endeavors to save and develop other remaining forest clusters, particularly near planned walking trails.

We keep in contact with Atlanta and national organizations for ideas on increasing the tree canopy. If you'd like to help with this effort, please contact any TPB member!



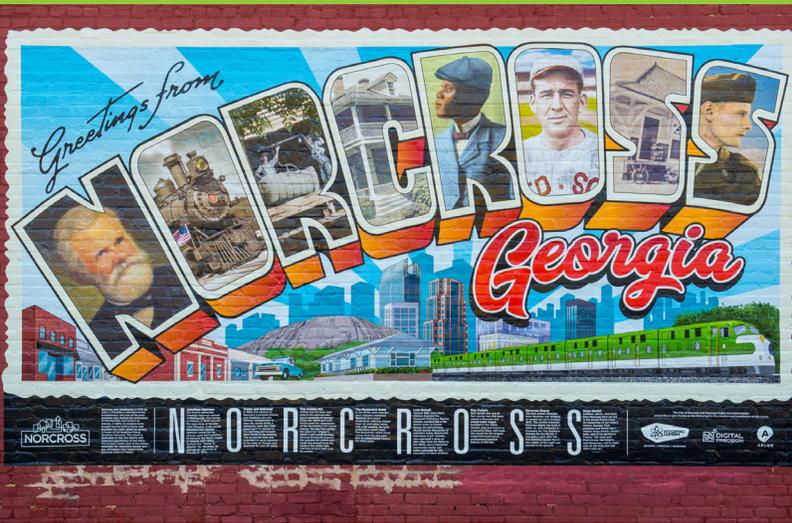
TRANSPLANTING SEEDLINGS WORKSHOP

On Saturday, March 26th, this workshop is part of a Gardening for Pollinator series. Learn more at www.norcrossga.com/BeeCity including the buzz about the city's upcoming pollinator garden!



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

NORCROSS PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION



NORCROSS PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION

The Norcross Public Arts Commission (NPAC) was established in 2014 by the Mayor and City Council to encourage and aid in the appreciation and awareness of the arts among the citizens of Norcross. NPAC is a volunteer group of civic leaders, artists and community members who believe that public art enriches the places and spaces where we live, work and play.

Norcross has a great deal to offer in the way of art, history and culture. It is fast gaining recognition as a hub for creative expression. The historic downtown district is home to the award-winning Lionheart Theatre, music is performed in our outdoor venues and public art can be seen in our parks and throughout the downtown corridor (i.e. Eastern Continental Divide sculpture in Thrasher Park, the “Greetings from Norcross” mural on Paizanos wall, art from recycled materials, the mural that adorns the building housing Social Fox Brewery, etc.). The highly acclaimed Norcross Art Splash event attracts more than 45,000 visitors each year and the Norcross Welcome Center hosts a year-round calendar of exhibits with artists featuring diverse mediums. Downtown galleries showcase artists at the Norcross Gallery & Studios that features many original works for viewing and also available for purchase.

Looking forward, NPAC is undergoing a complete transformation of its board that will result in exciting new developments for Norcross. NPAC is preparing to create its first formal Master Arts Plan. This roadmap will solicit input from a wide array of stakeholders, including residents, artists and business owners. This process will help us better understand the needs, wants and desires as we look to create a robust offering of art and cultural projects that help transform our public spaces. Public art creates inviting places for people to gather and connect to each other and our community. It is also freely accessible and an interactive experience for everyone in the community. We encourage you to reach out and share your ideas with any of the NPAC board members—who knows, it may be YOUR idea that generates the next great project!

The current board consists of the following members, with one opening yet to fill. If interested, please contact Ms. Shayla Royal, the Deputy City Clerk, at (678) 421-2027 or send an email to npac@norcrossga.net.

Bob Grossman - Interim Chair
Sonia Lopez
Yamily Mijes-O'Reilly
Vince Nicoletti

Arlene Beckles - City Councilmember (Interim Appointee)
Janell Martin
Cathy Muth

IN THE KNOW

MOVIE MONDAYS



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

February 14
Rocketman

February 28
Cruella

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.



TABLE SALES FOR THE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Table sales for the Summer Concert Series will be live on Monday, March 7th at 9 a.m.



FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT SOUTH BAY PROJECT

Join us on February 4th between 7 - 9 p.m. at the Norcross Community Center to give a warm welcome to the South Bay Project! South Bay Project is a cover band specializing in all genres of music including old school R&B, pop, soft rock, reggae, contemporary jazz, blues and contemporary gospel.

Seating is limited; first come, first served. Doors open at 6 p.m. No Meet Up Groups. Indoor events are subject to cancellation due to COVID-19 restrictions.



CEMETERY TOUR

February 6th • 2 p.m.
Norcross City Cemetery

Join local historian Gene Ramsay for a tour of the Norcross City Cemetery, located just across Buford Highway from Downtown Norcross at 211 S Cemetery Street at the intersection of South Cemetery Street and Fairmount Drive.

Learn about the history of the town and the lives of Norcross' founders and builders. Where do the names Buchanan Street, Jones Street, Lively Street, Adams Vineyard, Ollie Avenue and many others originate from? Have you heard of the 1915 tale about a former mayor who died on Christmas Day due to a local butcher and his new shotgun? The fires downtown in 1904 and 1908? The visitor in town who shot up the local hardware store in 1894? The prominent local lady who drove to Yellowstone and back in 1923?

We will revisit these stories and many more!



A NOTE FROM THE NORCROSS COMMUNITY MARKET

Due to circumstances out of our control, we will no longer be hosting an online market this spring as you may have read about in recent city newsletters and other communications from the city. However, we will be back and better than ever for our in-person market this summer, opening May 4th! You can find more details on Norcross Community Market and subscribe to market alerts at www.norcrosscommunitymarket.com.

THE LIONHEART THEATRE COMPANY

Upcoming Auditions: "A Bad Year for Tomatoes"

Lionheart will be holding open auditions for adult actors ages 30+ for its May production of "A Bad Year for Tomatoes." Audition dates are February 6th at 5 p.m. and February 7th at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit lionhearttheatre.org.

Tickets on Sale: "A Streetcar Named Desire"

The Lionheart Theatre Company will kick off its 2022 season with the Tennessee Williams classic, "A Streetcar Named Desire." This production runs from March 4-20. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for seniors/students. Dessert is included as part of your ticket. Visit lionhearttheatre.org for reservations.

NOW ANNOUNCING OUR 2022 EVENTS CALENDAR!

Visit aplacetoimagine.com for the full lineup.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Indoor events are subject to cancellation due to COVID-19 restrictions.

February 4

First Friday Concert: South Bay Project, 7 - 9 p.m., Norcross Community Center

February 6

Cemetery Tour, 2 p.m., Norcross City Cemetery

February 11

Valentine's Father/Daughter Dance, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center

February 12

Valentine's Night to Remember, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Downtown Norcross

February 14

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

February 18

Arbor Day, 10 a.m., The Rectory

February 26

Pollinators Workshop, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Norcross City Hall

February 28

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



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the Spanish
Newsletter!

¡Escanee para
recibir le boletín
en español!