



# A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NEWSLETTER • AUGUST 2022



## HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION

**Saturday, September 17**  
**Time & Location: TBA**

*Watch for more details at [norcrossga.net](http://norcrossga.net)*

Hispanic Heritage Month is a time in the U.S. from September 15th to October 15th that recognizes the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the country's history, heritage and culture. It also celebrates the independence days of several Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua on September 15th, Mexico on September 16th, Chile on September 18th and Belize on the 21st. This year, the City of Norcross is excited to join in the celebration with a first-time event—the Hispanic Heritage Celebration!

Join us on Saturday, September 17th in Norcross for festivities galore. Become immersed in the music, dances, foods, traditions and more from a variety of Hispanic countries—if you enjoyed May's Viva Mexico event and last year's Dia de los Muertos Festival, then you won't want to miss this epic convergence of cultures!

**Mayor:** Craig Newton • **Mayor Pro Tem:** Matt Myers  
**City Council:** Andrew Hixson, Arlene Beckles, Bruce Gaynor, Josh Bare  
**City Manager:** Eric Johnson • **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  
[norcrossga.net](http://norcrossga.net)

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## EDUCATION IN NORCROSS: PAUL DUKE STEM HIGH SCHOOL



If you are looking for personalized options, innovative opportunities, a supportive school culture and relevant learning experiences, you can find it all in one place at Paul Duke STEM High School.

Paul Duke STEM High School opened in 2018 in the Norcross Cluster as the first cluster-based theme high school in Gwinnett County Public Schools. Over the last four years, the school has grown from 650 students to nearly 1,250 students this fall. During this time, their programs, course offerings and student experiences have expanded as well, which has led to recognition from across the state. In April 2022, Paul Duke STEM was recognized with whole-school STEM certification from the Georgia Department of Education, which makes it the largest STEM-certified high school in Georgia and only Title I STEM-certified high school in Georgia.

### **Innovative Opportunities**

One of the best things about Paul Duke STEM are the countless opportunities that students have. Currently, Paul Duke STEM offers 24 AP courses; a comprehensive fine arts experience including band, orchestra, theatre and dance; and three dynamic STEM programs (Engineering & Robotics; Communication, Art & Design; and Digital & Innovative Technology). Students at Paul Duke STEM do not have to choose between rigorous college level experiences in our AP program and relevant, applied experiences. All our students participate in project-based learning experiences and integrated experiences in their classes, which helps students understand not only the what but the why behind their learning. In addition, students are constantly connecting with and consistently engaged with a variety of industry professionals and experts, which helps students make connections between courses and prepare for their future studies and career options. Finally, during their senior year, all students are expected to complete a Senior Experience, such as an internship or consultancy experience. In the graduating class of 2022, the school had nearly 250 graduates with 75% of our graduates earning college credit through AP coursework or dual enrollment and 90% completing a fine arts or technology pathway.

### **Relevant Learning Experiences**

So, what does learning at Paul Duke STEM look like? Their comprehensive experience allows students to break free from traditional learning experiences and prepare for college and careers through a challenging and engaging STEM experience. STEM is much more than an acronym for the four subject areas of science, technology, engineering and math. STEM at Paul Duke STEM is truly focused on a transformative approach to learning that fosters creativity and innovative thinking in all students. This is done through project-based learning, design thinking to teach problem solving, and STEM pathway courses. Paul Duke students feel that their STEM experience makes school more engaging and meaningful. Ultimately, the integrated STEM experience at Paul Duke STEM builds the knowledge and skills required for college, career and their students' futures. Paul Duke STEM is blazing new trails and preparing.

# ELM TREE PROPAGATION

Just when we thought we might be fooling Mother Nature, we find that she has turned the tables on us! For a second consecutive season, the City of Norcross has supported the propagation of the State Champion American Elm tree in Betty Mauldin Park to sustain the legacy of this historic tree. Three rounds of cuttings were taken in 2021, and two additional rounds have been completed to date this year.

Bill Reynierson, owner of Green Reyno Nursery here in Norcross, is the master propagator and finds no shortage of challenges in trying to perpetuate this living artifact. He reports that cuttings have been taken at different times, from different parts of the tree, and treated with different concentrations of rooting hormone and mist (watering) regimes. Bill shares, "We are trying to trick these cuttings into thinking that they are still on the tree and growing and try to coax them into putting on roots to replace the water transport that would be happening if they were still on the tree." He is finding that the timing of the cuttings, the size of those cuttings, and even the part of the tree where the cuttings are taken can all influence the success of the propagation effort.

Bill is no stranger to American Elm propagation, but he typically takes cuttings from much younger trees that are growing vigorously. The percentage of viable rooted cuttings has been relatively low to date, but the team at Green Reyno, SavATree and city staff remain excited and upbeat about growing this living heirloom of Norcross history and learning new ways to try to fool Mother Nature! Stay tuned for more to come...

Rick Barnes, Certified Arborist  
SavATree Consulting Group



## NORCROSS WANTS TO HELP! \$10,000-\$15,000 GRANTS AVAILABLE!

To mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the Norcross community, the City of Norcross is investing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in an ARPA Small Business Grant Program to provide funding to qualified small businesses impacted by COVID-19.

Businesses that received PPP or EIDL funds are ineligible to apply. A Grant Workshop will be held in August.

**Application period is now through August 21, 2022 at 11:59 p.m.**

For questions visit [norcrossga.net/arpa](https://norcrossga.net/arpa) or contact [arpasmallbizgrant@norcrossga.net](mailto:arpasmallbizgrant@norcrossga.net).

# IN THE KNOW

## MOVIE MONDAYS



**August 8**

Run



**August 22**

Finding You

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

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



## ATLANTA BRITISH CAR FAYRE

**September 10 • 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m**

With polished leather, gleaming paint and spot-free chrome, the Atlanta British Car Fayre will be rolling into Downtown Norcross once again this September! Held annually in downtown Historic Norcross, the Atlanta British Car Fayre can boast that it is the largest British car show in the Southeast, with nearly 400 cars and motorcycles! Included in the show are some very rare and historic examples of British car legends, which transitioned into some of the most exotic sports and sedan cars available today.

## JAZZ IN THE ALLEY

**Cleveland P. Jones and Michael Cruse**

**August 13 • 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

**Betty Mauldin Park**

Jazz in the Alley is a live outdoor music concert series that features some of the most talented jazz artists from Atlanta and surrounding cities. The concert was created as a platform for up-and-coming artists. It generates exposure and keeps the art of jazz alive by sharing music with cities around Georgia. The annual summer series has gained local notoriety from artists and jazz enthusiasts of all ages!

Attendees are encouraged to bring their picnic baskets, lawn chairs, savory snacks and beverages. Also, local eateries and food trucks/vendors will be jazzing things up with some to-go chef specials that will help make Jazz in the Alley the perfect date night, family night or girls' night out!



**August 5 • The Breakfast Club**  
**August 19 • Liverpool Legends**

**7:30- 9:30 p.m.**  
**Thrasher Park**

Enjoy the “sweet sounds of summer” in downtown Norcross and get ready for some serious fun at the Summer Concert Series, which runs May through September in Thrasher Park from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. The concerts are free and local restaurants are happy to create the perfect picnic for concertgoers. So grab a chair, a cooler



(no glass, please) and a few friends and come enjoy Downtown Norcross and the sweet sounds of summer!

Don't forget! Each event in the Summer Concert Series will serve as a collection site for the CAN Do food drive, a county-wide effort to fill the shelves of local food pantries. Donations of canned food and non-perishable items can be dropped off in bins during each concert.

## **THE LIONHEART THEATRE COMPANY**

**Upcoming Auditions: “Lawless Spirits”  
August 21 - 22**

Lionheart will be holding open auditions for actors ages 13 and up for their “Lawless Spirits” Walking Ghost Tour, sponsored by the City of Norcross and the Gwinnett Creativity Grant. They are looking for actors to participate in the vignettes on the tour featuring ghost stories, bank robberies and other mayhem. “Lawless Spirits” runs October 13 to 16 with two performances each evening. For more information, please visit [lionhearttheatre.org](http://lionhearttheatre.org).

**Upcoming Performances: “On Golden Pond”  
September 9 - 25**

Lionheart is pleased to present the classic play “On Golden Pond” by Ernest Thompson this



September. Evening performances are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2:00 p.m.. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for seniors/ students/military. Dessert is included and served at intermission. Reserve tickets online at [lionhearttheatre.org](http://lionhearttheatre.org).

# THE GREAT GEORGIA POLLINATOR CENSUS

## BEE the Change: You Can Count!

The Great Georgia Pollinator Census is a statewide citizen science project created by the University of Georgia. This project is designed for everyone to help with pollinator conservation! On Saturday, August 20th, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Discovery Garden Park, the Norcross Garden Club (NGC) is helping kids and adults of all ages and abilities join the free fun. Participants will choose a favorite plant in the garden, then spend 15 minutes counting all the insects that land on that plant. (Maybe we'll see Monarch butterflies and ladybugs as well as bees!) Later, NGC will tally the results and upload

the data so UGA scientists can see a snapshot of which pollinators are at work across the state. No need to be an expert on insects – just be able to count and have fun! For more information, contact [sustainabilityintern@norcrossga.net](mailto:sustainabilityintern@norcrossga.net) and [ggapc.org](http://ggapc.org).



## ROBERT WEST'S ART EXHIBITION

On Thursday, August 25th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., the City of Norcross in partnership with Norcross Public Arts Commission will be hosting an art exhibit at The Rectory featuring the work of talented artist Robert West.

For over 27 years, Robert West has been traveling across the United States painting the various trains and railroads along his journey. He is a self-taught artist who jokingly refers to himself as a “train-nut with a paintbrush.” West’s art graces the walls and halls of numerous homes, corporations and museums across the country.

The City of Norcross sought out West 11 years ago to paint our very own train depot, which is a beloved restaurant known as The Crossing. The artwork is displayed for viewing at the Norcross Welcome Center, making West’s work forever part of our city’s history.



# STAY UP TO DATE!

In order to make sure our citizens are safe and informed, the City of Norcross uses the CivicReady mass notification system for our citizens to receive emergency and routine notifications. Many households no longer utilize traditional land-based telephone lines, so by choosing to sign up for city alerts you ensure you can get the latest important updates on information you want to know, on the device you choose. You have the ability to customize your notification preferences; communication can be received through email, text and/or phone call according to your selections and based on address locations that you specify. When you sign up for these alerts, please provide your address and preferred method(s) of contact. Adding your full street address will allow information that is specific to your geographical area to be sent to you. Any and all details shared are confidential and will not be shared.



To sign up visit, [norcrossga.net/signup](http://norcrossga.net/signup)

## NORCROSS COMMUNITY MARKET

Join us every Wednesday through August for our final month of this season in Thrasher Park between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m for live music, children's activities and local shopping with our many farmers and producers. Peaches, tomatoes and corn are in season among many other summer crops. Grab dinner from our prepared food vendors and enjoy a picnic in the park!

Come discover something new each week. NCM's Power of Produce Children's Tent for elementary-aged children encourages kids to interact with our farmers and learn about produce. The POP Tent will be at every market from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Kids will receive \$2 Market Money to buy fruit & veggies.

NCM is a Wholesome Wave Georgia Fresh for Less partner market! That means that SNAP recipients can double their benefits at each visit to the market. This doubles their buying power on fresh fruits



and veggies, all while supporting local farmers. Swing by the info booth to use your SNAP/EBT card at the market.

Follow Norcross Community Market on Facebook and subscribe to their e-newsletter for updates and events.

[www.NorcrossCommunityMarket.com](http://www.NorcrossCommunityMarket.com)

# SUSTAINABILITY



## TIP OF THE MONTH

Reuse and recycle as much as you can! Disposable items are single-use items that cannot be recycled and are often found contaminating our roads and water. Investing in reusable sandwich bags, water bottles, grocery shopping bags and utensils are inexpensive ways to reduce tons of waste from the landfill and save you money.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

### August 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

Norcross Community Market, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m., Thrasher Park

### August 5

Summer Concert: The Breakfast Club, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Thrasher Park

### August 8

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

### August 13

Jazz in the Alley: Cleveland P. Jones & Michael Cruse, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Betty Mauldin Park

### August 19

Summer Concert: Liverpool Legends, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Thrasher Park

### August 20

The Great Pollinator Census, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Discovery Garden Park

### August 22

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

### August 25

Robert West's Art Exhibition, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., The Rectory, Presented by the Norcross Public Arts Commission



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