



# A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NEWSLETTER • JANUARY 2023



## First FRIDAY Concerts

First Friday Concerts are the best way to kick off the New Year! Each First Friday of the month will be an evening filled with musical entertainment from jazz to rock and every style in between. Join us at the Norcross Community Center from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. to dance the night away! Feel free to bring your own food and favorite beverages, or explore the taste of the town with dinner to go from one of your favorite local restaurants. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. No Meet Up Groups. RSVP is required, visit <https://bit.ly/3UyAlhe> to reserve your spot.

Don't forget, the CAN-Do Food Drive is making a special appearance at the First Friday Concert series this year! When you come out to enjoy this month's musical performance, please consider bringing a single-serve, individually packaged food item with you for our collection basket. See a list of suggested items at [aplacetoimagine.com](http://aplacetoimagine.com).

### JANUARY 6

#### Grains of Sand

Grains of Sand will entertain you with soul, R&B and beach music and make you want to find your dancing shoes!

### FEBRUARY 3

#### Myles Brown

Myles is an elite level electric guitarist and a composer of symphonic music, jazz, funk, jam, dance, pop and instrumental world music.

### MARCH 3

#### The Rainmen

The Rainmen is a group of Atlanta-based veterans who specialize in rock n roll hits from the 60s and 70s!

### APRIL 7

#### Xtreme Party Band

Xtreme Party Band, the name says it all because the party never stops! Catering to every music decade and genre, the band performs hit after hit to keep you on the dance floor.



**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:** Tracy Rye  
**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

## NORCROSS IS A TREE CITY USA

Have you ever wondered about those signs you see upon entering the city limits of Norcross that read Tree City USA? These signs announce that Norcross has been a member of this organization for going on nineteen years! What is Tree City USA and what does it mean?

Tree City USA is Arbor Day Foundation's nationwide movement that provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees. More than 3,400 communities have made the commitment to becoming a Tree City USA. Norcross has earned recognition by emphasizing to our citizens the benefits of trees, such as cooler temperature, cleaner air, higher property values and healthier residents. The very first Norcross Tree Preservation Board in 2003, adhering to Tree City USA requirements, developed and established community tree ordinances, as well as promoted a budget of at least \$2 per capita on our urban forest. In addition, the first TPB began to celebrate Arbor Day by setting aside a special day for our city to recognize all of the benefits trees bring us.

Speaking of Arbor Day...the TPB invites everyone to join us on February 24, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., in front of City Hall, to once again celebrate Arbor Day with the planting of a new sourwood tree in the place of the former magnolia. There will be an interesting speaker or two, activities for elementary school students, and a chance to enjoy our special tree cookies.

Over the years, the Norcross TPB has worked to update and revise our tree ordinances, sponsored the planting of countless trees, and promoted tree health and tree benefits all over our city. We have worked to educate our citizenry on the many aspects of keeping trees healthy and increasing their numbers. We have actually seen our tree canopy increase in the last five years despite more development.

Norcross is unique in that we have a forest preserve in the center of our city in which the TPB are stewards of. We are working to keep Johnson Dean Forest Preserve, this seven-acre forest, as



natural as possible and a refuge for native flora and fauna. Plans to enlarge the forest, increase trails and provide amenities are underway.

The TPB recognizes that our most important goal, one that we put above all others, is to emphasize to Norcross residents that one of our most important city assets is our trees and tree canopy. In addition to all the environmental reasons, trees bring so much beauty and ambiance. We want all of Norcross citizens to value, treasure and care for our trees. We want Norcross to truly be a Tree City USA!

# NORCROSSWORKS IS LAUNCHED

We have big news to share! The newly relaunched NorcrossWorks is here and ready to be a resource tool for local employers, jobseekers and educational institutions!

NorcrossWorks is a user-friendly website, whereby employers can post and advertise openings at no cost. All a business has to do is complete a simple form which will be reviewed and posted by the Economic Development Department. Likewise, job seekers may access job postings and apply.

This platform aims to address some of the city's labor, income and educational gaps, which have all been exacerbated by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the rapidly changing nature of the global economy. The goal is to serve both businesses (employers) and individuals in the labor market (job seekers) by connecting both parties together.



*“NorcrossWorks is designed to help bridge the divide between local employers, jobseekers and educational institutions. It is especially timely in today’s economy, where finding and retaining talent has become one of the greatest challenges for businesses, small and large, and a challenge for a variety of interconnected stakeholders.”*

*-Mayor Newton*

Check it out now, by visiting [norcrossworks.com](http://norcrossworks.com).



## ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the many city employees who were recognized at our Annual Holiday Appreciation Dinner last month on Saturday, December 3, 2022.

Spenser Gilmore, Taylor Johnson, Gwen Franklin, Tarajee White, Lily Park, Christy Scott, Daurielle Miller, Andy Chanpong, Loren Lancaster, John Davis, Samantha Khamphavongsa, Luke Braud

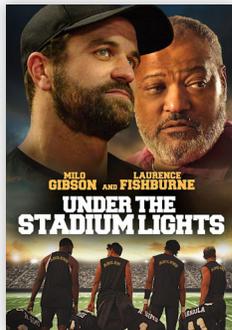


# IN THE KNOW

## MOVIE MONDAYS



**January 9**  
Top Gun Maverick



**January 23**  
Under the  
Stadium Lights

**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! Movie start times are 1:30 & 6:30 p.m.

## THE LIONHEART THEATRE COMPANY

### “10-Minute Community Theatre Play Festival” January 13-22

Lionheart’s 10-Minute Community Theatre Play Festival opens this month, featuring performances from Lionheart, Live Arts Theatre, Main Street Theatre, Merely Players Presents and OnStage Atlanta. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for seniors/students/military. Dessert is included and served at intermission. Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m. Get tickets: [lionhearttheatre.org](http://lionhearttheatre.org).

### “Family Fun: Storm Bugs” | February 4

Lionheart is excited to welcome author and educator Andrea Zoppo, fondly known as Ms. Ladybug, for a fun-filled time learning about our pollinator friends and what happens to them and other crawlies during a storm! With her new book Storm Bugs, Ms. Ladybug will guide you through the story with puppets, sound effects and interactive play. Come find out what happens during a storm, you might be quite surprised. Tickets are \$5 for all ages. Get tickets: [lionhearttheatre.org](http://lionhearttheatre.org).



## NORCROSS GALLERY & STUDIOS

Norcross Gallery & Studios offer so many learning opportunities this year! From painting workshops to critique sessions, there’s an array of selections to choose from whether you’re a beginner or expert. Come unleash your inner artist and join our creative community today!



Scan to  
view the full  
schedule of  
workshops.

# NORCROSS CITY CEMETERY

Sunday, February 5 | 2:00 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 South 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!

# FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT

## FEATURING THE GRAINS OF SAND

Friday, January 6 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
Norcross Community Center

First Friday Concerts run from October to April and are always a popular night out in the Cultural Arts & Community Center. Come 'get down' with the sounds of jazz, rock, motown and more on the 'First Friday' of every month October through April (except there will be no concert in December), from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. No meet up groups. RSVP is required; register via Eventeny link on First Friday Concert page of [aplacetoimagine.com](http://aplacetoimagine.com).

January's First Friday Concert features The Grains of Sand! This is a seven-member band consisting of a three-piece horn section followed by lead and backup vocalist. They will entertain you with soul, R&B and beach music and make you want to find your dancing shoes!

The CAN-Do Food Drive is making a special appearance at the city's First Friday Concert series this year! When you come out to enjoy this month's musical performance, please consider bringing a single-serve, individually packaged food item with you for our collection basket. A full list of suggested items is available at [aplacetoimagine.com](http://aplacetoimagine.com). All donations will be delivered to the new food pantry available inside the Norcross Library, thanks to a community partnership with the library.



# COMING IN 2023... CYBERSECURITY IN NORCROSS – SECURING YOU!

By Councilmember Dr. Arlene Beckles

As a Cybersecurity Champion for GMA and a State of Georgia Cybersecurity Planning Committee member, I am excited to collaborate with Dr. James Trent, IT Director of the City of Norcross, on this program. While organizations should implement solutions to secure their network, the community—employees, business partners, and residents—are a critical part of the cybersecurity defense. The past several years have seen an increase in cyberattacks; on any

given day before 9 a.m., over 250,000 attacks happen globally (source: fireeye.com).

In 2023, the City of Norcross will expand its Security Awareness Training for our employees and now include the community we serve. In today's environment, information security is everyone's business – not only the geek squad. The biggest challenge we face is educating and motivating everyone to understand that they are the first line of defense in securing information, whether it's organizational data or personal information.

Every month via our newsletter and social media, we will provide tips on fostering a culture of information and cybersecurity awareness. By setting this standard, the city will establish cybersecurity as a priority within City Hall and drive home the need for our businesses, residents, and the community to protect themselves from cyberattacks.

## HEALTHY TREES MAKE HEALTHY WATERSHEDS

Norcross, located on the Eastern Continental Divide, is a part of two different watershed systems: the Beaver Ruin Creek and Crooked Creek-Chattahoochee River watersheds.

Watersheds are precipitation collectors.

In a healthy watershed, water, soil and air are clean! Healthy trees play a vital role in maintaining a healthy watershed. Tree roots take up water from the soil, increasing soil water storage potential and lengthening the amount of time before rainfall becomes runoff.

A watershed system may be as small as the land area that drains into a small neighborhood or as encompassing as a large land area draining into a large river. Soil health, saturation, geography and other factors determine the course of precipitation once it enters a watershed system.



To find your watershed, go to [mywaterway.epa.gov](http://mywaterway.epa.gov) and enter your address. Your watershed will be identified and you will be able to see the water quality of the water bodies near your house.

Trees, especially native woody trees, play a vital role in maintaining the health of a watershed. Native trees are defined as the trees that existed in North America prior to the arrival of the first European settlers. Deep root systems increase the soil's capacity to store water, which in turn reduces flooding and stormwater runoff.

When selecting a new tree to plant please consider planting a tree from the provided tree list. Visit [norcrossga.net/Tree-Species-List](http://norcrossga.net/Tree-Species-List) to view the full list.

# SAFETY! TIPS

## FROM NORCROSS POLICE DEPARTMENT

If involved in an accident in the City of Norcross:

1. Check for injuries – if any, call 911 immediately for paramedics. Minor, non-injury, accidents: 770-448-2111.
2. Remain in your car or in a safe place until police arrive.
3. Officer will speak with all parties to obtain details, phone numbers, insurance, etc. for report.
4. Obtain a case card with report number from officer. Ask any questions.

Police reports can be downloaded within a few days at [buycrash.com](http://buycrash.com) for a small fee or in person at the Norcross Police Department.



## NORCROSS AWARDED DEVELOPMENT OF NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING

“The City of Norcross is so excited for the opportunity to provide additional affordable housing to our local community. We take pride in providing the support, resources and access so everyone has a place to call home.” - City of Norcross Mayor Craig Newton

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs announced that it will grant \$27,980,800 in 9% Housing Tax Credits to construct or preserve 28



affordable rental housing developments, including two locations right here in Norcross! Walton Communities and Blue Ridge Atlantic Development were both awarded \$1,150,000 and will accommodate low-cost living for families, seniors and individuals in need of supportive housing.

Walton Communities is the development partner that the Norcross Housing Authority chose to work with to redevelop their current property into a 90-unit apartment community. The development is located at Reeves Street, off Mitchell Road. Blue Ridge Atlantic Development plans to construct 70 apartment units intended for seniors and veterans. The development will be located behind the commercial storefronts at the corner of Beaver Ruin Road and Buford Highway.



## SUSTAINABILITY



### TIP OF THE MONTH

## SAVE WITH LED LIGHTS

Start the year off making the “switch” to energy-saving LED lights! LED lights can save money and energy for your business, home and/or school! Although LED lights are generally more expensive than traditional fluorescent, incandescent or CFL fixtures, you can earn your investment back in savings within a year!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### January 2

New Years Day Observance, City Hall Closed

### January 6

First Friday Concert: Grains of Sand, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Norcross Community Center

### January 9

Movie Monday: Top Gun Maverick, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center

### January 23

Movie Monday: Under the Stadium Lights, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center

### February 3

First Friday Concert: Myles Brown, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Norcross Community Center

### February 5

Cemetery Tour, 2:00 p.m., Norcross City Cemetery

### February 13

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

### February 27

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



Scan to get  
the Spanish  
Newsletter!

¡Escanee para  
recibir le boletín  
en español!