



A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2023

Spread the Love in Downtown Norcross

VALENTINE'S FATHER- DAUGHTER DANCE

Friday, February 10
6:30 - 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. 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 \$6.
Link to RSVP: bit.ly/3XaCeTw

VALENTINE'S NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Saturday, February 11
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. • Downtown Norcross

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!

VALENTINE'S BUSINESS SPECIALS

Social Fox Brewing

- Starting Friday, February 10th, Social Fox will be serving beer flights paired with specialty chocolates from local chocolatier Maggie Lyon. Flights with paired chocolate will be available. Offer is available while supplies last.



Anna Balkan Jewelry

- On Friday, February 10th, Saturday, February 11th and Tuesday, February 14th, Anna Balkan Jewelry will be offering free earrings with a \$25 purchase.

Antique Traditions & Reminisce

- On Saturday, February 11th and Tuesday, February 14th, Antique Traditions & Reminisce will be offering complimentary champagne, sweets, giveaways and door-prizes from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

45 South Cafe

- Starting Sunday, February 12th through Saturday, February 18th, 45 South Cafe will be serving \$5 mimosas and 15% off wine by the glass and bottles.

Studio 87 Yoga

- Starting Friday, February 10th through Tuesday, February 14th, Studio Yoga will be offering classes for \$30. Specials must be used through Friday, February 27th until Saturday, April 8th. Only new students are eligible.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

NORCROSS PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION



The Norcross Public Arts Commission, also known as 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.

NPAC had a successful year full of opportunities, growth and most importantly creativity! Check out some the work accomplished in 2022:

Free Little Art Galleries

Early in 2022, NPAC partnered with Paul Duke STEM students to create 'Free Little Art Galleries', also known as FLAGs. One FLAG will be placed by Norcross Gallery & Studios, and one will be placed near Pinnacle Park.

LUV NORX Campaign

Norcross got a whole lot sweeter! NPAC, in collaboration with Gwinnett County's #SpreadTheLove initiative, created giant candy hearts during last year's celebrations. The LUV NORX Campaign was the perfect way #SpreadTheLove for the arts!



Master Arts & Cultural Plan

NPAC released a Request for Proposal over the summer of 2022 in order to choose a vendor to complete a Master Arts & Cultural Plan for the City of Norcross. The board selected Purpose Possible as the vendor and held a kick off meeting in November along with a site visit of Downtown Norcross which completed the following week. A second site visit, which will extend beyond the boundaries of Downtown Norcross, is scheduled. In addition, a focus group will be held by Purpose Possible alongside local stakeholders.

Other Projects & Initiatives

- Mission & vision setting session
- Provided input for Artworks Gwinnett's Create Gwinnett initiative
- Sponsored Movie Monday: Girl With A Pearl Earring
- Robert West's railroad art reception
- Ongoing collaboration with PG&T for Heritage Park refresh
- Engagement with Tree Preservation Board on Georgia Arbor Day '23 activities
- Potential for artwork on the Georgia Mural Trail



MASTER PARKS, GREENSPACES & TRAILS PLAN

Since the Norcross Master Parks Plan was updated in 2011, local demographics have changed with a growing diversity of ages, abilities, backgrounds and ethnicities joining our community landscape. So how can Norcross' parks, green spaces and trails system best embrace these changes? Are there new ways to celebrate Norcross' rich history, while creating a sustainable greenprint for its future? Can we create more equitable access to places where more neighbors can relax, feel safe and play? Should we protect our remaining wild spaces, and more genuinely recognize nature as a valuable socioeconomic asset?

Norcross' Parks, Greenspaces & Trails Commission along with city staff are organizing a new Master Parks Plan, keeping relevant elements from the existing plan and focusing more robustly on remaining forested areas, trails systems, equitable access, and mitigating stormwater impacts. Re-titled "Master Parks, Greenspaces & Trails Plan" it begins with a bit of a paradigm shift – picture Norcross as one big forest within which our developed areas are nestled. You can use Google Earth to get an actual visual of this!



The Request For Proposals went out in late December; in addition to the ability to “think outside the box”, the selected consultant will have proven experience engaging communities in an inclusive manner that inspires productive conversation and collaboration. Nosotras hablamos español! All ages, abilities, backgrounds and voices are welcome.

To sign up for updates, invitations to Town Hall meetings and opportunities to volunteer, email pgtcommission@gmail.com. This is a community project, so ¡Hagámoslo!!

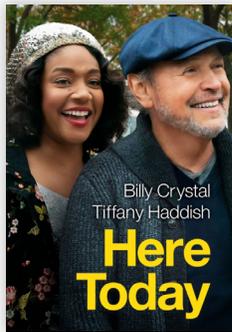
IN THE KNOW

MOVIE MONDAYS



February 13

Marry Me



February 27

Here Today

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

Family Fun: Storm Bugs Comes to Lionheart | 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.

Opening Next Month: "Deli" | March 3-19

Lionheart's March production of "Deli" by local Atlanta playwright Diane Dexter runs March 3-19. This is the world premiere of this play. 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.

BEE CITY USA VISITED NORCROSS

Bee City USA visited Norcross again recently in October 2022 and wrote about some of the Sustainable Norcross Commission's impactful work around the city. The City of Norcross is incredibly proud to be recognized for our continuous efforts with Pollinate Norcross and Bee City USA.

A special thanks to PG&T Chair Tixie Fowler, SNC Board Members, Jacquelyn Morgan and Susan Bell, for their creativity and dedication to engage residents and the business community in making Norcross a "pollinator friendly" city!

For more information on the Bee City USA's experience, visit beecityusa.org/bee-city-usa-visits-georgia-part

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 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. We will revisit these stories and many more!



GEORGIA ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

The Tree Preservation Board is hosting a Georgia Arbor Day Celebration at the Pollinator Garden in front of City Hall on Friday, February 24th at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome!

The program will include an informative speech about the importance of trees to the economy and environment along with the planting of a special tree in honor of Arbor Day. Complimentary snacks will be provided.

NORCROSS GALLERY & STUDIOS

'Abstract Painting in Acrylic' classes start this month at Norcross Gallery & Studios. Chitra Ramanathan's classes meet on Fridays from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. You can see more of her mystically joyous work at 45 South Cafe, where she is featured as the 'Artist of the Month'!

Micah Goguen reveals how to create 'Depth with Dimensional Grounds in Acrylic', a one-day workshop on Saturday, February 18th from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. All supplies are included.

To register and view the full list of classes, visit norcrossgalleryandstudios.org.



Scan to view the full schedule of workshops.

GET AFFORDABLE INTERNET FOR YOUR HOME

Staying connected is becoming easier with the new long-term benefit offering \$30 monthly subsidies to eligible households and up to \$75 per month for qualifying households on qualifying Tribal lands struggling to afford internet service. Only one member of a household must meet at least one of the following criteria to receive the benefit:

- Has income that is at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing

Assistance, SSI, WIC, Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits or Lifeline

- Is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing low-income program; or
- Participates in one of several Tribal specific programs

Visit AffordableConnectivity.gov or call 877.384.2575 to learn about eligibility and apply. Then, contact a participating broadband provider to start receiving your monthly discount.

WILD URBAN NATURAL AREAS NEED LOVE TOO

Back in May 2022, the city partnered with Trees Atlanta in support of the "One Million Trees Initiative." The initiative seeks to draw attention to the increasingly significant value of trees, and the urgency of their continued protection, care and planting.

The initiative's year two checklist for partner cities asks, "Does your city have a strategy to identify potential forested areas to conserve through acquisition?"

Protecting our rapidly diminishing forested parcels, especially when adjoining existing parklands, should be high on our list of rational, forward thinking next steps. But often overlooked for stewardship, are those many wooded acres already protected as parklands and streamside buffers. Streamside buffers are conserved by way of our municipal "stream buffer protection ordinance," requiring an undisturbed buffer of 50 feet on both banks of a stream.



It must be noted, however, that protected forested buffers of parks and stream sites can become healthy neighborhood assets or unhealthy backyard nuisances -- and need to be periodically managed for vegetation overgrowth, unsightly deadfalls and extravagant vine tangles.

If you have overgrown parkland or an unsightly, yet protected, streamside buffer in your backyard, please give our city arborist a call for suggestions on how to remedy it; if your parkland or streamside buffer seems healthy and amenable, please enjoy.

Whatever the case, the remnants of forests we choose to protect with conservation actions today, will only grow in value as essential, quality of life ingredients tomorrow.

SAFETY! TIPS

FROM NORCROSS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Pedestrian safety is very important to us in the City of Norcross! Here are some tips to remember:

1. Pedestrians and motorists must obey all traffic laws/signs equally.
2. Pedestrians may not suddenly step in front of an approaching vehicle and not give a driver adequate time to stop.
3. Motorists must stop and remain stopped for pedestrians who safely enter and are on a crosswalk.
4. Motorists are required to yield to pedestrians on sidewalks. Example: backing out of a driveway.

SIGN UP FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT ALERTS!

Interested in receiving updates in case Waste Management has a service alert that affects your neighborhood? Waste Management has a notification system for service updates that you can sign up for! Simply navigate to the website www.wm.com/ to sign up for a “My WM” account and you can set up your desired service alerts!

SUSTAINABILITY TIP OF THE MONTH

SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR THE TREES!

Arbor Day is an annual recognition of the importance and necessity of the conservation and preservation of trees. Annually, 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 because it is more suitable for new tree plantings since “new tree roots survive and thrive better in cooler soils in Georgia”.



Here are three ways you can help us celebrate trees on Georgia Arbor Day:

- Opt for notebooks or office paper that is made from recycled, post-consumer or FSC-Forest Stewardship Council certified materials.
- Volunteer with a local organization that plants and supports trees.
- Join the City of Norcross at City Hall for the Georgia Arbor Day Celebration on Friday, February 24th at 10:00 a.m.!

CYBERSECURITY TIPS

Internet and Email Use

Some employees may have already been exposed to data breaches, by using simple or repeat emails for multiple accounts. One study found that 59% of end-users use the same password for every account. This means that if one account is compromised, a hacker can use this password on work and social media accounts to gain access to all the user's information on these accounts.

Often websites offer free software infected with malware, and downloaded applications from trusted sources only are the best way to protect your computer from installing any malicious software. The Norcross IT Department is working diligently to educate employees on safe internet habits. While some may see this training as obvious, it is a key part of our local safety and security program.



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 10

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

February 11

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

February 13

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

February 24

Georgia Arbor Day Celebration, 10:00 a.m., Pollinator Garden at City Hall

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!