



# A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NEWSLETTER • AUGUST 2023

## HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION

**Saturday, September 16**  
**2:00 - 6:00 p.m.**  
**Summerour Middle School Parking Lot**

Get ready for a fiesta like no other! On Saturday, September 16, the City of Norcross is hosting a Hispanic Heritage Celebration at the Summerour Middle School Parking Lot from 2:00 - 6:00 pm.

This event is all about celebrating the rich cultures and traditions of Hispanic countries, and we have a jam-packed lineup of music, dances, foods and activities that will transport you to a whole new world.

From the lively rhythms of salsa and merengue to the colorful costumes of traditional folk dances, our talented performers will keep you entertained and moving to the beat all day long. And when it's time to refuel, you won't want to miss the delicious foods from a variety of Hispanic countries, including mouthwatering tacos, pupusas, empanadas and more.

But the fun doesn't stop there - we also have cultural exhibits and activities for all ages, so you can learn more about the history and traditions of different Hispanic countries. So grab your family and friends and come join us for a day full of music, dance, food and culture!



**Mayor:** Craig Newton  
**Mayor Pro Tem:** Bruce Gaynor  
**City Council:** Andrew Hixson, Arlene Beckles, Matt Myers, 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



## MAYOR CRAIG NEWTON HONORS PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

When we reflect on the life and legacy of Jimmy Carter, it's impossible not to be touched by the tremendous kindness, unwavering dedication, and deep humility he exhibited throughout his career. Born James Earl Carter Jr. on October 1, 1924, in Plains, Georgia, this peanut farmer rose to become the 39th President of the United States and an enduring symbol of moral leadership.

Carter's early life on his family's peanut farm instilled in him a work ethic that never waned, and an understanding of the land and people that would shape his political vision. As he once stated, "We must adjust to changing times and still hold to unchanging principles."

His presidency, from 1977 to 1981, was marked by significant achievements despite numerous challenges. Domestically, he created the Department of Energy and the Department of Education, championed civil rights and pushed for energy conservation. Internationally, his efforts led to the Camp David Accords, a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel that remains a high point in diplomatic history.

Despite these accomplishments, his presidency was tested by the Iran hostage crisis and the energy crisis, which led to a perception of ineffectiveness. Yet, Carter's post-presidential years would see him become one of the most admired ex-presidents in American history.

Carter's work after leaving office has been nothing short of remarkable. His tireless efforts in diplomacy, human rights advocacy and disease eradication through The Carter Center have been transformative, earning him the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002.

As a prolific author, he's used the power of the pen to educate and inspire, and his work as a Habitat for Humanity volunteer has showcased his commitment to service. His faith, which he often spoke of, guided his actions and gave him an enduring sense of purpose. I'm personally impacted as the first Habitat house built in Gwinnett County was built on a parcel of property where I grew up. It was owned by my family and donated for the purpose of giving the gift of home ownership to a deserving mother of 4 who never owned a home.

Jimmy Carter's life has been a testament to the power of resilience, the importance of service and the possibility of redemption. In an era of division and cynicism, his compassion, integrity and unwavering commitment to peace serve as a beacon for all. He is not just a former president, but a national treasure and a global ambassador of goodwill. As we pay tribute to Jimmy Carter, we celebrate a life dedicated to service, a spirit defined by kindness and a legacy that continues to inspire. Thank you, Mr. Carter, for showing us the very best of what leadership, in its most humble and human form, can be.

Thank you President Carter, for reminding us that true leadership is not about personal glory, but about lifting others up, standing up for justice and working tirelessly for a better world.

Check out the Mayor's latest speaking appearance at the Gateway85 CID Jimmy Carter Tribute back on May 23, 2023! Scan the qr code to check it out and watch the captivating video, where Mayor Craig Newton delivers an impactful speech at the 57-minute mark. **Get ready to be inspired and moved by his meaningful words and dynamic presence!**

Scan Here  
To View:





## PUBLIC WI-FI

By Dr. James Trent, IT Director

Some employees who need to work remotely, traveling on trains and working on the move may need extra training in understanding how to safely use public Wi-Fi services. Fake public Wi-Fi networks, often posing in coffee shops as free Wi-Fi, can leave end-users vulnerable to entering information into non-secure public servers.



Educating users on the safe use of public Wi-Fi and the common signs to spot a potential scam will increase the company's awareness and minimize risk. Below are five tips for safely using public Wi-Fi.

- Turn off auto-connect.
- Turn off file sharing.
- Use a VPN (Virtual Private Network) whenever possible.
- Use two-factor or multi-factor authentication.
- Use antivirus software.

# NORCROSS

## IMAGINE OUR FUTURE

The City of Norcross is carrying out two important plan updates: the city-wide Comprehensive Plan and the Town Center Livable Centers Initiative Plan. Because of their interrelated nature, the two plan updates are being conducted as a joint effort, branded as Imagine Our Future.

The Comprehensive Plan update will provide guidance for capital investment decisions, rezoning properties and day-to-day decisions for city staff and elected officials. It sets a policy framework to ensure the city is moving in a direction that fits with the community's vision.

The Town Center Livable Centers Initiative, LCI, Plan will build on the previous update, with new implementation strategies for enhancing pedestrian safety and incorporating electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the Town Center and along Buford Highway.

The plan update process formally began with a public hearing on March 6, 2023. During the spring and summer, the planning team conducted outreach through a variety of forums including an online Visioning Survey, steering committee meetings, pop-up events and community art activities. Summaries of these events are available on the project website, [ImagineOurFuture.org](https://ImagineOurFuture.org).

The planning team continues to seek community input to inform the plan updates. Visit our website or email [info@imagineourfuture.org](mailto:info@imagineourfuture.org) to learn how you can get involved. Also, mark your calendar for the Imagine Our Future Public Open House, scheduled for October 19, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Banquet Room at the Norcross Cultural Arts and Community Center.

To sign up for project updates, visit [ImagineOurFuture.org](https://ImagineOurFuture.org).

## SUSTAINABILITY



### TIP OF THE MONTH



To ensure effective recycling in Norcross, it's important to remember that only clean and empty plastic bottles and jugs are accepted in your recycling bin. Plastic tupperware, bags and plastic cups are not easily recyclable and can lead to contamination of the recycling stream.

# TREE TALK

## THE VALUE OF FOREST PATCHES

Ask most people to list what constitutes important public infrastructure in cities, and you may hear some familiar and important responses: roads, bridges, electric lines, water and sewer systems, and the like. But it so happens that there is a layer of critical national, and natural, infrastructure that undergirds this all; one that is only beginning to be fully recognized and understood: urban natural areas, which often take the form of “forest patches.”

Several researchers in the USDA Forest Service’s Urban Field Station Network are studying urban natural areas, which can take the form of forested or shrubby areas that range in size from many acres to as small as 10,000 square feet. Especially in the East, these natural areas are often forested. Forested natural areas or patches, are “forests in cities.” They are unique from more manicured parks and street and yard trees. Yet on another level, they are anything but unique; forest patches are far more prevalent and omnipresent than larger forests, more traditionally conceived and more rural forests.

Forest patches in cities, communities, and neighborhoods – whether visited or not – shape ecosystem health, quality of life and our experience of nature in critical ways that research is just beginning to unpack.



Many forest patches support a wide variety of plant and animal life. Forest patches also cool the surrounding air temperature, provide shade, control stormwater runoff, provide habitat and serve as stopover sites for migratory birds. For these reasons and many more, they are a critical but sometimes overlooked component of climate resilience, public health, social justice and community well-being.

**Condensed from the USDA’s “The Cross-Pollinator” publication – Summer 2020- Issue 1**



## WELCOME NORCROSS’ NEW HOMEOWNER RESOURCE CENTER!

Let’s honor the tremendous impact of the Norcross Downtown Development Authority on the new Gwinnett Housing Corporation’s Homeowner Resource Center! This vibrant collaboration brings hope to those seeking affordable housing, providing a vital resource to become and remain homeowners. With a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by esteemed officials and community leaders, the center at 128 Lawrenceville Street in Norcross stands ready to empower low-to-moderate-income Gwinnettians.

Thanks to the unwavering dedication of the Norcross DDA and valued partners, including HomeAid Atlanta and Lennar, dreams of homeownership will turn into reality for many. Let’s raise a cheer for this remarkable achievement that strengthens our community and inspires brighter futures!

# STAY CONNECTED

**SIGN UP  
FOR ALERTS**



**SIGN UP FOR DIGITAL  
NEWSLETTERS**



**SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY  
EVENTS EBLAST**



**STAY  
CONNECTED**

WITH THE CITY  
OF NORCROSS

**FOLLOW US  
ON SOCIAL!**

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And more!



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on the first of each  
month, in English  
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for the Week Ahead."  
Seasonal lineups and major  
events may also be sent out  
as standalone blasts.



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info about events,  
emergency alerts,  
event galleries  
and more!

# IN THE KNOW

## MOVIE MONDAYS



**August 14**

Ticket To Paradise



**August 28**

The Man From Toronto

**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.

## SUMMER CONCERT SERIES:



### THE NEW ROYALS

Friday, August 4 • 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.  
Thrasher Park



### THE RAY HOWARD BAND

Friday, August 18 • 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.  
Thrasher Park

Get ready for a summer filled with sensational vibes at not one, but two Summer Concert Series this month! The New Royals kick off the excitement on August 4, delivering electrifying performances from soul and R&B classics to chart-toppers that'll keep you dancing all night. And save the date for August 18 when The Ray Howard Band takes the stage, bringing unforgettable melodies that bridge generations.

And while you're soaking up the unforgettable tunes and infectious energy, don't forget to spread some kindness on your way out the door. The Summer Concert Series doubles as a collection site for the Can-Do Food Drive, so grab some canned goods and support your local community by making a difference for your neighbors in need. Together, let's create a summer of joy, music and giving back!

For more information and to see what's next in the concert lineup, visit [aplacetoimagine.com](http://aplacetoimagine.com)



## JAZZ IN THE ALLEY

Saturday, August 12 • 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.  
Betty Mauldin Park

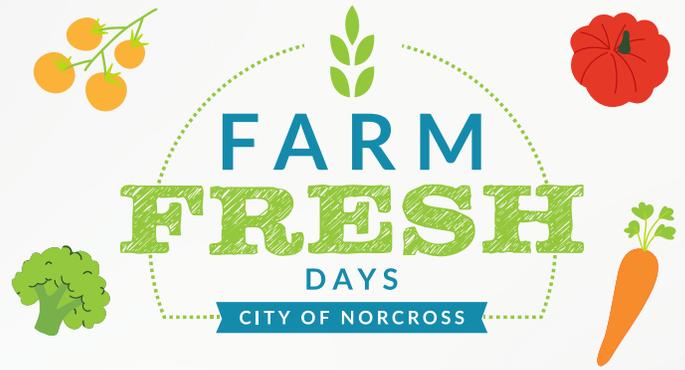
Get ready to swing to the sweet sounds of jazz at Betty Mauldin Park for Jazz in the Alley on Saturday, August 12, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. This exciting event features captivating performances by Teresa Kay Williams and Trumpeter Tiffany Goode. Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs and blankets for a cozy and relaxing evening. And for an even more delightful local experience, make sure to visit the downtown businesses to indulge in yummy treats, refreshing beverages and so much more!

For more information and to see what's next in the concert lineup, visit [thejazzinthealley.com](http://thejazzinthealley.com)

## NORCROSS LIFE THROUGH THE LENS PHOTO COMPETITION

A big shoutout to all the fantastic participants of the Norcross Life Through the Lens Photo Competition! Get ready to embark on a visual journey as these awe-inspiring photos will grace various locations throughout the city from September 14 to October 31. Keep your eyes peeled for the crème de la crème, as the top-chosen photos will take center stage at the Norcross Gallery & Studios. Let's celebrate the power of photography and the incredible talents that make Norcross shine!

For exhibit schedules and workshops, visit [norcrossgalleryandstudios.org](http://norcrossgalleryandstudios.org).



Every Wednesday • 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Thrasher Park

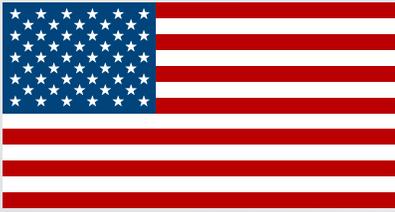
Discover fresh, locally sourced products and beautifully handcrafted items while enjoying a range of free activities like ladder toss, coloring sheets, and cornhole. By supporting local businesses, you contribute to community vitality, aid local farmers, and choose eco-friendly options, reducing our carbon footprint for a brighter future. Embrace the joy of unique treasures while making a positive impact on both local communities and the environment.

- **August 9** | Sign up for a Gwinnett County Library card and unleash your bookworm powers, plus join in a craft session.
- **August 16** | Dive into the wild world of pollinators with Nature Nerds Storytime.
- **August 23** | Gwinnett Department of Water Resources will quench your thirst for knowledge with a Water Conservation Workshop.
- **August 30** | Light up your creativity with a Candle Making Workshop. Be sure to hurry, limited spaces available!

Hop on over to [aplacetoimagine.com](http://aplacetoimagine.com) and plow through the Farm Fresh Days page for more details. Also, check the city's Facebook page each week for a completed vendor list!

NORCROSS  
gallery & studios





# LABOR DAY OBSERVANCE

City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day. Normal operations will resume on Tuesday, September 5.

Residential sanitation and recycling services will experience delays, with no service on Monday. Starting from Tuesday to Saturday collection for residential routes will be one day behind schedule. However, commercial and rolloff routes will continue their regular operations throughout the week.



**AUGUST 2 • AUGUST 9 • AUGUST 16  
AUGUST 23 • AUGUST 30**

Farm Fresh Days, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m., Thrasher Park

## AUGUST 4

Summer Concert Series: The New Royals, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Thrasher Park

## AUGUST 12

Jazz in the Alley: Teresa Kay Williams & Trumpeter Tiffany Goode., 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Betty Mauldin Park

## AUGUST 14

Movie Monday: Ticket To Paradise, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m., Cultural Arts & Community Center

# THE LIONHEART THEATRE COMPANY

## “Bananarama II” Co-Hosted With Project Chimps Runs August 11 & 12

Lionheart is thrilled to host “Bananarama II” on August 11 & 12 at 7:30 p.m. to support Project Chimps. Project Chimps' mission is to provide lifelong care to former research chimpanzees at its 230+ acre forested sanctuary in the Blue Ridge Mountains. This hilarious show will feature music, comedy and drag performers. Please note that this event is appropriate for ages 16+.

## “The Nerd” Opens September 8 - 24

Lionheart is pleased to present the hilarious comedy, “The Nerd” by Larry Shue in September. 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.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [lionhearttheatre.org](http://lionhearttheatre.org).



## AUGUST 18

Summer Concert Series: The Ray Howard Band, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Thrasher Park

## AUGUST 28

Movie Monday: The Man From Toronto, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m., Cultural Arts & Community Center



Scan to get the Spanish Newsletter!

¡Escanee para recibir le boletín en español!