



A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER 2023

HOLIDAYS

IN NORCROSS



HISTORIC NORCROSS HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, November 11

11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. • Downtown Norcross

'Tis the season to shop 'til you drop, and Historic Norcross is just the place! Get into the holiday spirit at Heart of Norcross Business Association's Historic Norcross Holiday Open House where our downtown shops are pulling out all the stops.

From festive decor to door prizes, sales to scrumptious refreshments, it's a shopping extravaganza you won't want to miss. And when your appetite calls, our charming downtown restaurants are here to satisfy your cravings. Scan the QR code below to discover all the participating businesses and to make this holiday season merry and delicious!

Scan The QR Code
For Participating
Businesses:



HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Friday, December 1

5:30 - 8:30 p.m. • Thrasher Park

Get ready to embrace the holiday spirit with our Holiday Celebration! This event has everything you love about classic holiday traditions, including choirs singing carols, the Grinch, and, of course, Santa Claus himself!

Be there as we flip the switch and light up all things holiday – it's a magical moment you won't want to miss. And that's not all – enjoy festive treats, hot cocoa, and other holiday surprises throughout the night. This is a family-friendly event that's sure to put you in the holiday spirit, so grab your loved ones and join us for a night of holiday cheer!

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

HISTORIC NORCROSS CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

Friday, December 1 - Sunday, December 3 • Downtown Norcross

Get ready for a jolly holiday extravaganza at the Heart of Norcross Business Association's Historic Norcross Christmas Village! On Saturday, December 2, from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., you'll find a sleighful of festive activities, including a Lozano Farms petting zoo, face painting, photos with Santa, Christmas carolers and even some special appearances by Disney Princesses. Then, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., hop on the free carriage rides for a magical journey through Downtown Norcross.

And remember, the holiday shopping experience is in full swing all weekend, from Friday, December 1, through Sunday, December 3, so there's plenty of time to indulge in the holiday spirit!

CARRIAGE RIDES

December 1 - December 22 • Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. • Downtown Norcross

Get ready to sleigh the holiday season in style at Downtown Norcross! Hop aboard our complimentary carriage rides, running every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., starting December 1 through December 22. Embark on a festive journey with magical lights, joyful jingles and all the merriment you can handle, departing from the enchanting 45 South Cafe.

PHOTOS WITH SANTA

December 6 - December 22 • Every Wednesday & Friday

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. • Downtown Norcross

Capture the enchantment of the season with a visit from the jolly old man himself, Santa Claus, at 45 South Cafe! Every Wednesday and Friday, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., starting December 6 through December 22, you can share your holiday wishes and snap a cheerful photo with Santa. Bring your festive spirit and create unforgettable holiday memories, but please note that no photographer will be available on December 15.

Scan the QR
Code For Full
Holiday Lineup:



Tuesday, November 14 - Monday, December 11
City Hall Lobby

'Tis the season of giving, and starting on Tuesday, November 14, a special tree adorned with gift tags will grace the City Hall Lobby. Each tag represents a young child in need. By selecting a tag and purchasing a toy or toys, you can bring holiday joy to a local child whose family is facing financial hardship.

Be a part of this heartwarming tradition by returning your new, unwrapped gifts, with the tags securely attached, to the City Hall Lobby by Monday, December 11 before 5:00 p.m. Let's come together to make sure no child goes without this Christmas – your generosity will truly brighten the season!





HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS FROM NORCROSS POLICE DEPARTMENT

As the holiday season approaches, the Norcross Police Department urges you to take extra precautions to protect your property and loved ones. Remember to lock your doors, both for your car and home, and keep your garage doors closed, even when you're at home enjoying the festivities. Avoid leaving valuables in your vehicles, have packages delivered when you're present or to a less visible area of your residence. These holiday safety measures will help ensure a joyful and worry-free season for you and your community.

LEAF VACUUMING SEASON

We are pleased to announce our annual curbside leaf collection program, running now through February. To ensure a smooth and efficient process, we kindly request that residents rake leaves along the curb line, avoiding placement on roadways to prevent traffic disruption and stormwater structures to maintain normal water flow.



Please separate leaves from sticks, twigs and larger yard debris to prevent maintenance issues with the leaf vacuum truck, which could cause service delays. Additionally, kindly refrain from parking vehicles that may obstruct the leaf vacuum trucks during their service. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated as we work to keep our city clean and beautiful.



ELECTRICITY BILLING FEES

We want to inform you about an upcoming change in our electricity billing fees. In an effort to streamline our payment process, starting in the next billing cycle, we will no longer charge a fee for online payments, making it more convenient for those who choose to pay electronically. However, a small convenience fee of 3.5%, with a minimum of \$3 to \$5, will be applied to in-person credit card payments. We aim to provide ample notice, with the change communicated over the course of two billing cycles to ensure a smooth transition. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we continue to enhance our services.



Celebrate America Recycles Day at Social Fox Brewing on November 12 and 15, testing your eco-smarts with trivia. Alternatively, join Storytime at Gwinnett County Library to learn all about recycling in a fun and educational way.

CITY OF NORCROSS MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

The City of Norcross Municipal Elections are scheduled for Tuesday, November 7, 2023, with polling hours from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The voting location is Norcross City Hall, situated at 65 Lawrenceville Street, 2nd Floor, Community Room, Norcross, GA 30071.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM DATA BREACH

By Dr. James Trent, IT Director

Protecting your personal information in the event of a data breach is crucial. Here are some key steps to safeguard your identity:

1. **Use Strong Passwords:** Employ complex and unique passwords for each online account. Consider using a Password Manager to manage them efficiently.
2. **Monitor Financial Accounts:** Regularly review your bank and financial accounts for any unfamiliar activity. Sign up for activity alerts via text or email if offered by your financial institutions.
3. **Check Your Credit Report:** Routinely check your credit report to detect any attempts to open new accounts in your name. You can obtain a free credit report from each major credit reporting agency annually.
4. **Act Swiftly on Suspicion:** If you notice suspicious activity, take immediate action. Contact the relevant financial institution and inform them of the breach if your data was compromised.
5. **Secure Your Phone:** Set a password on your phone, even though it may seem tedious. This step provides an extra layer of security in case your device is lost or stolen, preventing unauthorized access to sensitive information.
6. **Limit Social Media Sharing:** Avoid sharing sensitive information on social media and adjust your profile settings to make your accounts private. Additionally, refrain from posting vacation pictures while you are away to avoid signaling that your home is vacant and vulnerable to burglary.

Taking these precautions can help protect your personal information and minimize the potential fallout in the event of a data breach.



TREE TALK: JOHNSON DEAN FOREST PRESERVE

By Charlotte Osborn,
Tree Preservation Board Member

Norcross' Johnson Dean Forest Preserve has been getting some new upgrades recently with more to come later this fall. Located on Barton St., this seven-acre forest and wildlife preserve is a beautiful forest showcasing Georgia's natural beauty at its best. Come and take a quiet walk on the newly relined loop trail, cross the creek on our newly constructed U.S. Forestry Svc. designed trail footbridge, and marvel at the trees and plant diversity this site has to offer.

In addition, you might spot wildlife at the Preserve which is home to deer, foxes, rabbits, turtles, racoons, possums, hawks, owls and many other birds. Fall is here and the forest is putting on a spectacular display of colors. Be sure to bring the little ones to visit the fairy houses along the trail that come out only on the Sunday after Halloween. Also, we are anticipating work to begin on the planned front entrance improvements to the Preserve. Johnson Dean Forest Preserve is truly a unique treasure right here in the center of Norcross!

The Norcross Tree Preservation Board would like to give special thanks to our bridge builder Yellowstone Landscaping, wood chip donations by Arbor-Nomics Tree and Norcross Public Works for all their assistance and hard work.

GATEWAY85 CID UPDATE

What are Community Improvement Districts?

Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) are public-private partnerships funded by commercial property owners who advance needed infrastructure and transit projects as well as improve an area's appearance and safety to enhance property values and the community.

How does the Gateway85 CID benefit Norcross?

Through its partnership with the Gateway85 Community Improvement District (GW85 CID), the City of Norcross enjoys numerous benefits. This collaboration advances infrastructure, enhances safety and appearance, fosters economic growth, and creates job opportunities, making Norcross a significant employment center in metro Atlanta. Furthermore, GW85 CID provides substantial tax benefits through Opportunity Zones and actively contributes to reducing crime in the area, solidifying its role as a valuable partner for the city.



"As a member of the Gateway85 CID board, I represent the interests of Norcross business and property owners within the district. My goal is to ensure that the projects and studies undertaken by the CID will fully benefit Norcross constituents and help improve mobility and

accessibility. In addition, the CID helps to fund added security throughout the district to help reduce crime. The CID has been a great partner for the city", said Andrew Hixson, Norcross City Councilmember and Gateway85 CID Treasurer.

Active Projects:

- Replacement of Jimmy Carter Bridge

Completed Projects:

- Beaver Run Road Mid-block Crossing
- Jimmy Carter Boulevard Intersection Pedestrian Upgrades
- Bus Rapid Transit Study

For a complete list of projects and maps, visit gateway85.com/projects



GATEWAY85
GWINNETT

NEW PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

By Mayor Craig Newton

Law enforcement is constantly evolving to meet the needs of today's challenges in public safety. As the landscape of policing changes over time, many agencies need facilities that can incorporate or accommodate these changes.

However, before starting plans for a new facility, there are items to consider in ensuring that the new or updated facility will meet the current and future needs of the agency and community.

Community engagement has become a central focus in policing. The premise is to build relationships with community members and involve them in public safety efforts to strengthen the department's presence and relationship with the community it serves and to enhance the community's trust in the agency.

There are many ways to implement this philosophy, and facility design is one factor that can play a critical part in any law enforcement agency's community engagement efforts. Several considerations come into play when determining whether a public safety facility promotes an agency's community engagement initiatives.

The following questions can also help to identify changes that can be made to current or future facilities to transform them into community-friendly buildings:

- Is the location accessible to the public?
- Does the current facility provide spaces to house public events (which can also be used for departmental ceremonies and promotions)?
- Does the lobby create a welcoming and inviting environment, so community members feel safe to engage with the officers and the department?
- Does the building provide adequate space to conduct police and court services while providing public access?
- Does the building welcome the public, or does it have a "fortress" look and feel?
- What makes a facility a community building?
- And lastly, are there spaces within the structure for youth in the community to interact with the department staff in a positive environment, such as a recreation room?

Scan the QR
Code For Full
Article:



IN THE KNOW

MOVIE MONDAYS



November 13
Jerry and Marge Go Large



November 27
Black Adam

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.

FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT

Friday, November 3
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. • Cultural Arts & Community Center



Join us for November's First Friday Concert featuring the 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. Feel free to bring your own snacks and drinks, or savor the flavors of our town with takeout from your favorite local restaurants. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., but remember, no meet up groups are allowed, so RSVP is a must! Reserve your spot by scanning the QR code below.

Scan Here To RSVP:



CAN DO FOOD DRIVE

Also, don't forget admission to the event is free with a donation to the Can-Do Food Drive. Additionally, we encourage you to spread some kindness by bringing a single-serve, individually packaged food item for our Can-Do Food Drive collection basket as you enjoy this month's musical performance. Let's make it a night of great music and giving back!

NORCROSS VETERANS EXHIBIT



Friday, November 3
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. • The Rectory

Join us as we honor the men and women from Norcross and the surrounding area who have served in the U.S. armed forces since Norcross's founding in 1870. This special exhibit, made possible by the collaborative efforts of Gene Ramsay and Larry Hall with Norcross Gallery & Studios, showcases their service during times of conflict and peace, featuring authentic uniforms from different eras. Don't miss the open house with historian Gene Ramsay leading a guided tour.

For entry during November, please call 678-421-2025 during business hours.

NORCROSS GALLERY & STUDIOS

Dia de los Muertos Artwork on November 4

Visit the gallery and discover a unique display of Dia de los Muertos artwork, crafted by visitors from Annandale Village—a cherished place with exceptional programs that we take pride in supporting. It's a wonderful opportunity to appreciate the creativity and talent of those involved in this special initiative.

Norcross Squares Reception on November 5

Join us for the opening reception of Norcross Squares, our major fundraiser. Come bid in the silent auction on a wide variety of artworks—all square! The funds we raise go toward our annual exhibition of artwork by students from Norcross and Paul Duke STEM high schools, our citywide photography competition and other community outreach events.

Historic Norcross Holiday Open House on November 11

Indulge in complimentary peppermint treats and savor hot chocolate at the Historic Norcross Holiday Open House while you also have the chance to bid on artwork that warms your heart.

For exhibit schedules and workshops, visit norcrossgalleryandstudios.org.



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

Saturday, November 4

5:00 - 9:00 p.m. • Thrasher Park

Get ready to celebrate Dia de los Muertos in style! Join us for a night of remembrance, dance and live authentic entertainment, followed by a parade. Immerse yourself in the rich cultural experience with delicious, authentic Mexican food and beverages. It's the perfect opportunity to celebrate our ancestors and history while enjoying a night out with the community. Don't miss out on this unique celebration of life and death!

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Saturday, November 11

10:00 - 10:30 a.m. • Veterans Park



Join us at Veterans Park to honor our military veterans at the Veterans Day Ceremony. This event is a special opportunity to show our gratitude and support for those who have served our country. With heartfelt speeches, patriotic music and the raising of the American flag, we will pay tribute to the brave men and women who have sacrificed so much for our freedom. Let's come together as a community and show our appreciation for these heroes.



HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES

City Hall will be closed on Friday, November 10, in honor of Veterans Day, and on Thursday, November 24, and Friday, November 25, for Thanksgiving. While Veterans Day will not impact sanitation and recycling services, please note that Thanksgiving will cause delays in residential sanitation and recycling services. There will be no service on Thursday, November 23, and collection for residential routes will be one day behind schedule from Friday to Saturday. Commercial and rolloff routes will continue their regular operations throughout the week.



NOVEMBER 3

Norcross Veterans Exhibit Opening, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., The Rectory & Throughout November By Appointment Only

NOVEMBER 3

First Friday Concert: Xtreme Party Band, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Cultural Arts & Community Center

NOVEMBER 4

Dia de los Muertos, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m., Thrasher Park

NOVEMBER 10

Veterans Day Observance, City Hall Closed

NOVEMBER 11

Veterans Day Ceremony, 10:00 - 10:30 a.m., Veterans Park

THE LIONHEART THEATRE COMPANY

'Deathtrap' Runs on November 3 - 19

Lionheart's production of the comedic thriller "Deathtrap" promises a night filled with suspense and laughter. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for seniors, students and military. Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m.

'The Last Night of Ballyhoo' Opens on December 7 - 17

Lionheart is delighted to showcase "The Last Night of Ballyhoo," a play by renowned Atlanta playwright Alfred Uhry, known for his work on "Driving Miss Daisy." Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for seniors, students and military. Dessert is included and served at intermission. Thursday, 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.



NOVEMBER 11

Historic Norcross Holiday Open House, 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., Downtown Norcross

NOVEMBER 13

Movie Monday: Jerry and Marge Go Large, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m., Cultural Arts & Community Center

NOVEMBER 23 & 24

Thanksgiving Observance, City Hall Closed

NOVEMBER 27

Movie Monday: Black Adam, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m., Cultural Arts & Community Center



Scan to get the Spanish Newsletter!

¡Escanee para recibir le boletín en español!