



A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NEWSLETTER • DECEMBER 2023

HOLIDAYS

IN NORCROSS

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!

HISTORIC NORCROSS CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

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

Dive into the festive spirit at the Heart of Norcross Business Association's Historic Norcross Christmas Village, a weekend-long celebration from Friday, December 1, through Sunday, December 3! Our downtown is decked out in holiday splendor, with shops and restaurants brimming with seasonal cheer.

Saturday, December 2, promises an extra dose of merriment from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., featuring a Lozano Farms petting zoo, face painting, bounce houses, Christmas carolers, Disney Princesses, and even special appearances by Santa. Cap off the enchanting day with free carriage rides from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., whisking you away on a magical journey through Downtown Norcross. Don't miss this jolly holiday extravaganza!



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



CARRIAGE RIDES

December 1 - December 22
Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. • Skin Alley

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 Skin Alley, at the back of 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:



THE MAYOR'S Angel GIVING TREE

Now - Monday, December 11
City Hall Lobby

'Tis the season of giving, and last month, a special tree adorned with gift tags graced 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, securely tagged, to the City Hall Lobby no later than Monday, December 11, before 5:00 p.m. While gifts are encouraged to be returned earlier, your participation is vital in ensuring no child goes without this Christmas. Your generosity will undoubtedly brighten the season!

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING DEPARTMENT



Fall 2023 Neighborhood Cleanup & Recycling Day

HEY NORCROSS NEIGHBORS! Let's take a stroll through the dynamic landscape of our city's development, shining a spotlight on the unsung heroes of the Community Development and Planning Department, also referred to as CDP. These dedicated individuals are the architects of Norcross's future, weaving a tapestry that goes beyond just a place to live—it's a community we proudly call home.

Ever wonder who's keeping the gears turning in Norcross's development scene? That's our CDP, supporting key boards and commissions like Planning and Zoning, Zoning Board of Appeals, Architectural Review Board, Historic Preservation Commission, Sustainable Norcross Commission, and the Tree Preservation Board. It's like having a dream team dedicated to keeping Norcross thriving!

Now, let's talk sustainability - a buzzword we love to embody! CDP's Community Development Program is all about creating opportunities for everyone while keeping a keen eye on the impact of our growth. The department hosts fantastic community events, including the biannual Neighborhood Recycling & Clean Up Day, where you can dive into the spirit of community by lending a hand. Get your hands dirty and join us for the Planting for Pollinator Workshops, an opportunity to contribute to the flourishing local ecosystem. Fancy being a plastic-free superhero? Dive into the eco-friendly movement with 'Go Plastic Free Norcross.'

And here's the scoop on turning trash into treasure! Our community witnessed a recycling fiesta during our Household Hazardous Waste Event. Paint, pesticides, batteries - you name it, we recycled it! It was a celebration of sustainability, turning everyday waste into a positive impact for our city. Join us in these endeavors, where every action counts towards a greener and more vibrant Norcross.

Ever wondered how we keep the charm of Norcross intact? It's the Historic Preservation Board, working tirelessly to safeguard our cultural gems. As a Platinum Certified Green Community and certified Tree City, we're not just green in name but in action, thanks to the Tree Preservation Board and our trusty Arborist office. Your city, your roots, preserved!

But it's not just about planning; it's about listening. CDP is your go-to for the Comprehensive Plan and the Livable Centers Initiative, also referred to as LCI. We're cooking up ways to make our historic downtown even more charming. Picture this— improved pedestrian connectivity, clever parking solutions, a scenic railroad track interface and a bunch of exciting opportunities. Want to be part of the action? Check our city's website for volunteer opportunities coming your way!

**Let's shape Norcross together—
because our city's tomorrow starts with us!**

RANSOMWARE & ROGUEWARE

By Dr. James Trent, IT Director



Ransomware is a high-level threat, as it will hold the data on your computer hostage via file encryption, often demanding a fee to regain access to the data. It usually transmits itself via a Trojan virus, and once infected it encrypts the data on the hard drive. The attacker then demands payment for the user to receive the encryption key to unlock the data. Never pay the fee requested to unlock your data. Instead, do regular backups, and if infected, restore your computer from your most recent backup.

Also known as rogue security software, rogueware is malware that masquerades as Internet security software. It acts as an antivirus program and performs a false scan on your computer that will alert the user to a virus on what is probably a clean computer. The program then offers to remove the virus for a small fee, or will provide a link that will clean up the “infection.”

If a user clicks on that link it can then direct them to a compromised website, allowing for the injection of malware onto the computer. If you receive a message from a program you are not familiar with informing you that you have a virus, do an Internet search of the program’s name and the search results will usually notify you if it is rogueware.



POWER OUTAGES

The City of Norcross understands the inconvenience power outages can cause, and we want to assure you that our Staff is notified in real time as soon as an outage occurs. It's crucial to note that reaching out to staff, including the Police Department, will not expedite the repair or restoration process.

Common causes of power outages include severe weather, motor vehicle accidents near power lines, equipment failure, fallen trees, wildlife interference, high energy demand, power line damage from construction work and damage from the public.

Rest assured, our city is equipped with a modern visualization software platform that immediately pinpoints outage locations. This platform enables us to fully monitor and control the network, facilitating quick response and resolution. The platform includes outage management and reporting tools, allowing operators to map outages, narrow down affected areas, and troubleshoot issues using interactive tools.

Upon receiving an outage alert, our dedicated staff mobilizes to investigate the cause and extent of the fault. They proceed with the necessary repairs to restore power to affected areas promptly. Regardless of the outage's cause, we encourage residents to prepare before a storm, stay safe during the storm and take precautions afterward. Your safety and well-being are our top priorities!



Embrace sustainability this season by adopting the practice of 'Leaving the Leaves.' Bee City USA advocates for providing pollinators with essential winter cover, emphasizing the importance of leaving

fallen leaves and standing dead plant material in your yard. **Join the movement for a pollinator-friendly environment at beecityusa.org/leave-the-leaves.**





PROSPERA PARTNERSHIP

The recent Small Business Seminar hosted by Prospera in collaboration with the City of Norcross at the new Gwinnett County Public Library was a resounding success. Attended by 24 individuals, the seminar fostered active participation, with attendees already scheduling individual consulting sessions to enhance their businesses. This event exemplifies the fruitful partnership between Prospera and Norcross,

specifically designed to serve the growing and diverse Hispanic population in Norcross, Gwinnett County and Metro Atlanta.



The City of Norcross takes pride in its collaboration with Prospera, an organization committed to providing bilingual business consulting services for Hispanic entrepreneurs. Since its founding in 1991, Prospera has generated an impressive \$4.9 Billion in total economic output and positively impacted over 47,000 jobs. Prospera's innovative, comprehensive and progressive approach is applied in both group settings and one-on-one consulting, assisting entrepreneurs at every stage, from ideation to scaling operations. The organization's model includes support in obtaining capital, and the knowledge and tools acquired from working with Prospera empower individuals to accelerate and grow their impact on the local economy. The Small Business Seminar stands as a testament to the success of this partnership, facilitating the preparation, sustenance and growth of Hispanic-owned businesses through culturally sensitive coaching.

NORCROSS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

SCAN THE QR CODE FULL Q&A:



The Norcross Development Authority's interview with intern Alexis Alfonseca showcased the success of their internship program. Alexis, a 17-year-old senior at Paul Duke STEM High School, detailed his role at Siemens in Peachtree Corners, contributing to residential power distribution in the Research and Development Department. His mission was to develop ways to aid homeowners in the transition to renewable energies while also contributing to the sustainability goals of the company.

Navigating the Mechatronics pathway at school, Alexis aspires to study Mechanical Engineering at Georgia Tech, driven by a desire to make prosthetics more accessible. His Siemens internship provided hands-on experience that complemented his academic pursuits, bridging theory and practice. As Siemens' pioneering high school intern, Alexis navigated challenges and thrived in a collaborative work environment, a departure from the competitive nature of his school experience.

The Norcross Development Authority, inspired by Alexis's journey, extends an invitation for other Norcross companies to participate in this transformative internship program. They express a desire to have more Norcross companies involved in shaping the future of young talents. For those interested, please contact norcrossdevelopmentauthority@norcrossga.net. Alexis's narrative stands as a testament to the program's efficacy, cultivating young talents and contributing to the spirit of innovation within the Norcross community.

COMMUNITY POLICING MICROGRANT AWARD

The City of Norcross Police Department has been honored with the "Community Policing Microgrant Award." We're thrilled to share this achievement, which will empower us to enhance community safety and engagement. As part of this grant, we're excited to provide 1,000 Cable Gun Locks with Keys. These locks will be distributed to citizens as giveaways to help keep guns secure in homes, safeguarding children from potential harm.

If you're interested in receiving one of these local giveaways, please reach out to us at outreach@norcrosspd.com. Together, we can strengthen community safety and build a safer environment for everyone. Thank you for your ongoing support!

IN THE KNOW

MOVIE MONDAYS

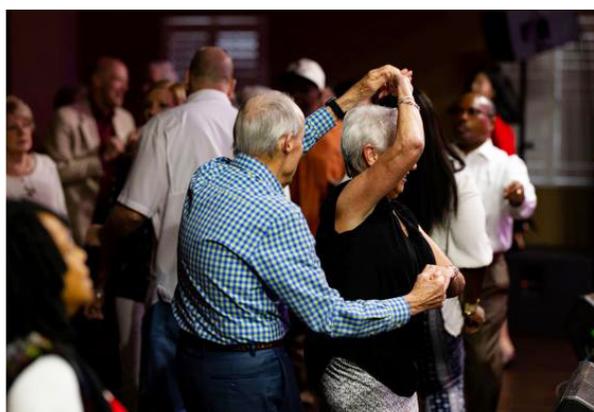


December 11

The Little Mermaid

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, January 5

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. • Cultural Arts & Community Center

Join us for January's First Friday Concert featuring the 7 Sharp 9. Hailing from Atlanta, this versatile ensemble spans pop, rock, jazz and blues, earning acclaim for their performances and original songs featured on VH-1 and MTV, making them a sought-after choice for entertainment. 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. 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!

**Scan
Here To
RSVP:**



THE LIONHEART THEATRE COMPANY

'The Last Night of Ballyhoo' Runs 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.

Holiday Camp Runs On December 18 - 22

Lionheart is thrilled to offer Holiday Camp for ages 6 - 16 during winter break, where students will delve into Shel Silverstein's poetry through memorization, character building, design, props, costuming and music. The cost is \$125 per student and friends and family are invited to the final performance on December 22. To register, visit lionhearttheatre.org.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit lionhearttheatre.org.

NORCROSS GALLERY & STUDIOS

Paint With Fabric Workshop On December 2 - 3

Embark on a creative journey in Gail Lenahan's 'Paint with Fabric Workshop', where participants blend traditional painting with textile artistry under Gail's expert guidance. Discover a unique fusion of colors and textures on fabric as your canvas.

Norcross Squares Final Bids on December 9

Join the Norcross Squares Annual Fundraiser and Silent Auction, a community-driven event supporting various local projects. Actively participate by placing your final bids before December 9 to contribute to the ongoing initiatives that enhance our community.

Holiday Packages Exhibit From December - January

Immerse yourself in the charm of the Holiday Packages Exhibit, a captivating showcase that celebrates artistry on a miniature scale. Featuring a diverse array of compact masterpieces, this exhibition invites viewers to appreciate the intricacies and creativity within the confines of a smaller canvas.

For exhibit schedules and workshops, visit norcrossgalleryandstudios.org.

TREE TALK - RAIN GARDENS



By Terry Sutton, Tree Preservation Board Member

Rain gardens, a nature-inspired stormwater management strategy, offer environmental benefits by reducing runoff impacts. These versatile depressions, featuring native vegetation, slow, spread and sink rainwater, enhancing environmental health and landscape aesthetics.

Essential in urban areas with excessive hardscape, rooftops and runoff overwhelming waterways, rain gardens find applications in yards, schools, commercial areas and parks. Their adaptability allows for discreet or eye-catching designs, with easy establishment and maintenance.

To achieve their purpose, rain gardens employ a three-step process:

1. **Slow:** The swale and vegetation reduce stormwater flow velocity, curbing erosion.
2. **Spread:** Channelized water disperses over a wider area, facilitating settling.
3. **Sink:** Settled water infiltrates, rehydrating groundwater and benefiting stream longevity and tree health.

Installation involves strategic planning:

- **Location:** Choose areas receiving runoff from impervious surfaces.
- **Size:** Tailor to handle runoff from typical storm events.
- **Preparation:** Loosen soil, create a swale, and remove unwanted vegetation.
- **Soil:** Ensure moderately well-drained soil suitable for native plants.
- **Grow:** Allow colonization or install native plants suited to moist conditions.
- **Mulch:** Enhance soil, retain moisture, and suppress weeds.
- **Maintenance:** Water during establishment, trim undesirable growth periodically.

Rain gardens, a fusion of functionality and beauty, embody sustainable stormwater management, contributing to the vitality of urban ecosystems.



HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES

During the holiday season, the City of Norcross observes the closure of City Hall on Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26, in celebration of Christmas Day. Additionally, City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 1, to commemorate New Year's Day. Please note that sanitation and recycling services for Christmas and New Year's will experience a one-day delay from Tuesday to Sunday, with no services on Monday, December 31, and Monday, January 1, respectively.



DECEMBER 1

Holiday Celebration, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., Thrasher Park

DECEMBER 1 - 3

Historic Norcross Christmas Village, Downtown Norcross

DECEMBER 1 - 22

Carriage Rides, Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Skin Alley

DECEMBER 6 - 22

Photos With Santa, Wednesday & Friday, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., 45 South Cafe

IS NORCROSS THE BEST PLACE TO BIKE, HIKE AND PLAY?

Be a part of a transformative journey with the Parks, Greenspaces and Trails Master Plan! This initiative by the Department of Public Works, Utilities & Parks is set to redefine the city's future by intertwining the well-being of residents with a robust economy and flourishing, biodiverse landscape. The goal? A visionary roadmap spanning 10+ years, strategically steering the evolution of parks, greenspaces and trails with a focus on green infrastructure, conservation, and park improvements.

We need your input! Scan the QR code or visit norcrossga.net/parksplan to complete a brief survey and share your parks and trails ideas on an interactive map.

Let's imagine the future of Norcross together!

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION



DECEMBER 11

Movie Monday: The Little Mermaid, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m., Cultural Arts & Community Center

DECEMBER 25 & 26

Christmas Observance, City Hall Closed

JANUARY 1

New Year's Observance, City Hall Closed

JANUARY 5

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



Scan to get the Spanish Newsletter!

¡Escanee para recibir le boletín en español!