



# A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NEWSLETTER • JANUARY 2024



## First FRIDAY Concerts

Get ready to groove into the New Year with our First Friday Concerts! From jazz to rock and everything in between, join us at the Cultural Arts & Community Center every First Friday of the month from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. for a musical extravaganza. Bring your dance moves, favorite snacks and beverages or grab some takeout from local restaurants. Doors swing open at 6:00 p.m., and don't forget to scan the QR code to secure your spot—no meet up groups, please! Tickets go on sale two weeks before each concert, so mark your calendar for the ultimate local concert experience!

And hey, at this year's First Friday Concert series, we're not just hitting the high notes; we're also striking the right chord with the CAN-Do Food Drive! Bring a single-serve, individually packaged food item to groove with us and make a difference. Check out the list of suggested items at [aplacetoimagine.com](http://aplacetoimagine.com), and let's turn the concert into a symphony of generosity!

Scan  
Here For  
More  
Info



### JANUARY 5

#### 7 Sharp 9

An Atlanta-based ensemble seamlessly blends pop, rock, jazz and blues, earning acclaim for original songs on VH1 and MTV, creating memorable musical experiences nationwide.

### FEBRUARY 2

#### The Rainmen

A dynamic tribute ensemble, specializing in electrifying performances of iconic 60s and early 70s songs, captures the essence of rock 'n' roll and creates a feel-good atmosphere for dancing and singing along.

### MARCH 1

#### Canelita Sabrosa

Offering a flavorful blend of Latin jazz, pop and R&B, this ensemble creates a unique and delicious musical experience that brings together diverse cultures and rhythms.

### APRIL 5

#### Weekend Getaway Band

Based in Georgia, this dynamic 7-piece group effortlessly blends R&B, jazz, funk, soul and motown, creating an infectious energy that transports listeners to carefree days with their classic sound.



**Mayor:** Craig Newton  
**City Council:** Bruce Gaynor, Andrew Hixson,  
Marshall Cheek, 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

## NORCROSS PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION



In the heart of Norcross, a vibrant transformation is underway, led by the Norcross Public Arts Commission also known as NPAC. This dynamic group is creating a lasting impact on our beloved city, weaving together a tapestry of creativity, community, and culture.

At the core of this movement is the Norcross Master Arts & Cultural Plan—a visionary document adopted by Mayor & Council. This plan, born from Purpose Possible's ingenuity and community input, serves as NPAC's guiding compass toward fostering a diverse and artistic community. Their mission? To nurture creativity through thoughtfully curated art programming and visually captivating displays.

One tangible expression of NPAC's commitment is the Heritage Park Stairs Project, a testament to bringing art to unexpected places. Collaborating with the Parks, Greenspaces & Trails Commission, NPAC transforms the stairs leading to Heritage Park into an

artistic canvas. This endeavor aims to draw attention to the hidden gem, creating a welcoming pathway for residents and visitors alike, with local artists providing the imaginative strokes.

Downtown Norcross is poised for a burst of color through the Fence Murals initiative. Two reconstructed fences eagerly await a makeover, with NPAC opening a canvas to local artists. Through a Request for Proposal, these artists are invited to infuse life and vibrancy into the Historic Downtown, creating urban expressions that resonate with the city's artistic spirit. Adding an interactive dimension, NPAC spearheads the Interactive Mural project in downtown Norcross. This mural is not just observed; it's an experience.

Local mural artists contribute designs that promise to make this spot a sought-after destination, and NPAC remains dedicated to keeping the community engaged with regular updates on the progress.

Reflecting NPAC's commitment to preserving historical landmarks, the Well House Project Proposal collaborates with the Norcross Tree Preservation Board. Breathing new life into the historic well house at Johnson Dean Park's entrance, this project not only revitalizes the building but also safeguards its heritage for generations to come.

In a delightful collaboration with senior students at the Paul Duke STEM School, NPAC introduces Free Little Art Galleries, also known as FLAG. Similar to little libraries, these tiny galleries encourage community engagement, inviting visitors to take home pocket-sized artworks and contribute their own creations. The debut of the first FLAG is imminent, marking another milestone in NPAC's mission to democratize art.

As NPAC continues to weave its artistic narrative, it transcends mere paint on walls or sculptures in parks. It's about fostering a community where creativity becomes a shared experience. NPAC emerges not just as an arts commission but as a catalyst for a more colorful, connected and culturally enriched Norcross.



## SUSTAINABILITY

### TIP OF THE MONTH



As January unfolds, here are four sustainable practices to maintain the eco-friendly momentum after the holidays.

- Participate in Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful's "Bring One for the Chipper!" initiative to recycle your live Christmas tree.
- Make a conscious effort to reuse or recycle wrapping paper and cardboard.
- Bring your own food containers for leftovers to reduce food waste.
- Embrace kindness by donating, sharing, volunteering or connecting with neighbors and loved ones.

Sustainability goes beyond the season—let's keep the Earth-friendly habits alive!



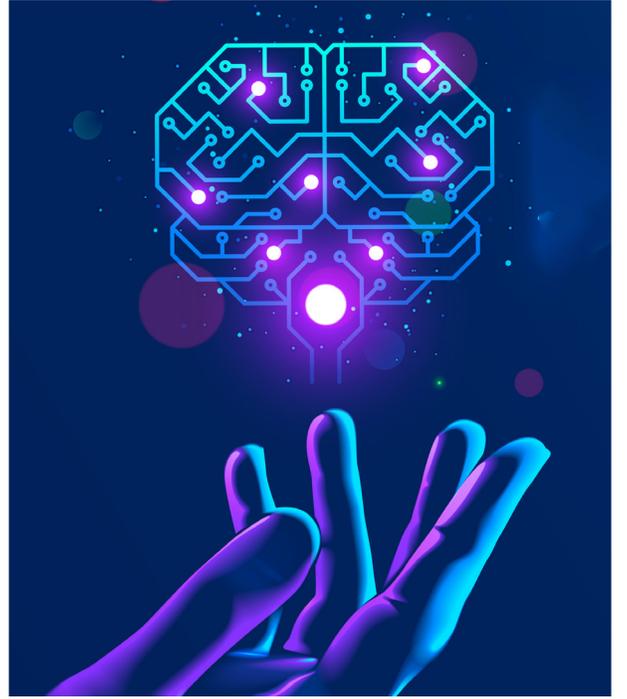
# TECH TIPS

By Dr. James Trent, IT Director

## WHAT IS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE?

Artificial intelligence, also known as AI, is a broad field in computer science dedicated to developing intelligent machines capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence. This scientific discipline encompasses various approaches, and advancements in machine learning and deep learning, in particular, are driving a transformative shift across the technology industry.

AI enables machines to mimic or even enhance human cognitive abilities, impacting diverse sectors, from the evolution of self-driving cars to the creation of generative AI tools like ChatGPT and Google's Bard. As AI continues to integrate into everyday life, it stands as a significant area of investment for companies across various industries.



## HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES

In observance of New Year's Day, City Hall in Norcross will be closed on Monday, January 1. Please be aware that sanitation and recycling services will experience a one-day delay from Tuesday to Sunday, with no services on Monday, January 1. Furthermore, City Hall will also be closed on Monday, January 15, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and this closure will not impact sanitation and recycling services.

## EASTER EGG HUNT

March 30

## EGGS-STRA SPECIAL NEEDS EGG HUNT

March 30



# STAY CONNECTED

## SIGN UP FOR ALERTS



In order to make sure citizens are safe and informed, the City of Norcross uses the CivicReady mass notification system for emergency and routine notifications. You have the ability to customize your notification preferences by category and medium; communication can be received through email, text and/or phone call.



## SIGN UP FOR DIGITAL NEWSLETTERS



Each month, the city produces a printed newsletter that mails out to utility customers (this publication you're reading right now!). We also offer an electronic subscription that emails subscribers on the first of each month, in English and Spanish.



## STAY CONNECTED

WITH THE CITY  
OF NORCROSS

[norcrossga.net/signup](http://norcrossga.net/signup)

## SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY EVENTS EBLAST

Our weekly eblast subscription goes out each Monday teasing the "Events for the Week Ahead." Seasonal lineups and major events may also be sent out as standalone blasts periodically.



## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL!

From alerts and notices to event promotions and behind-the-scenes photos, we post it all to our social platforms! Give us a follow to stay in the know and be a part of our online community.



 @cityofnorcrossga  
 @cityofnorcross  
 @cityofnorcross4434

# IN THE KNOW

## MOVIE MONDAYS



January 8

Book Club



January 22

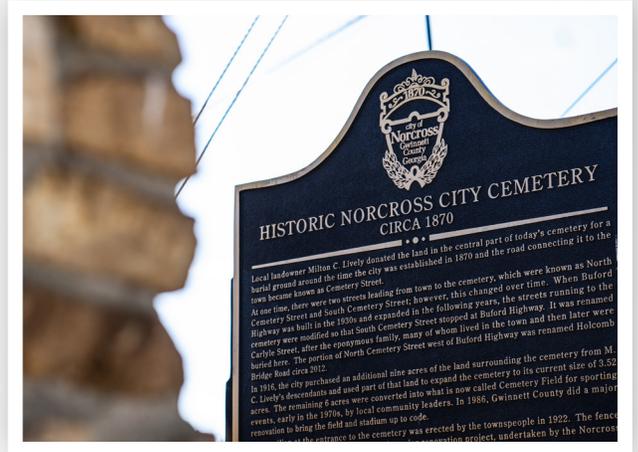
Book Club The Next Chapter

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.

## HISTORIC CEMETERY TOUR

February 4 • 2:00 p.m.  
Norcross City Cemetery



Get ready for a journey through Norcross's captivating past with the one and only Gene Ramsay, the local historian extraordinaire! Join us for a lively Historic Cemetery Tour on Sunday, February 4, at 2:00 p.m. Discover the fascinating tales behind the town's founders, uncover the mysteries of street names like Buchanan and Jones, and brace yourself for intriguing stories—from the 1915 Christmas Day tale to the wild adventures of a local lady who drove to Yellowstone and back in 1923.

Don't miss this chance to laugh, learn and connect with the rich history that makes Norcross truly special!



## VALENTINE'S FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

February 9 • 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Cultural Arts & Community Center

Celebrate the bond between fathers and daughters at the Valentine's Father-Daughter Dance on Friday, February 9, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Cultural Arts & Community Center. This enchanting evening promises dancing, delectable food and heartwarming moments, creating memories that will linger in your hearts forever. Let the music from our DJ set the perfect backdrop for a night filled with joy and cherished connections.



## VALENTINE'S NIGHT TO REMEMBER

February 10 • 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Downtown Norcross

Indulge in a night of romance at the Valentine's Night To Remember on Saturday, February 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Downtown Norcross. Feel the love in the air as you cozy up in a carriage ride, renew your vows and capture the romance with a complimentary photo. For a perfect evening, Downtown Norcross restaurants are also offering Valentine's specials, providing a delightful opportunity to wine and dine with your loved one.

## NORCROSS GALLERY & STUDIOS

**January 1 - January 6 • Holiday Packages Exhibit**  
Indulge in the allure of the 'Holiday Packages Exhibit', a delightful showcase celebrating artistry on a miniature scale. Explore a diverse array of compact masterpieces that reveal intricacies and creativity within smaller canvases. Plus, holiday packages will be available for sale at the Gallery through January 6, offering an opportunity to take home a piece of this enchanting exhibition.

**January 1 - January 31 • Member Exhibit**  
Get ready to kick off the New Year with a burst of creativity at Café 45 South! Throughout the month of January, a talented dozen from the Norcross Gallery Management Council will be showcasing

their original works. Mark your calendars for the opening reception on Wednesday, January 17— it's a date with artistry you won't want to miss!

**January 11 - February 17 • Warm Hearts Exhibit**  
Step into a magical world as the enchanting 'Warm Hearts Exhibit' unfolds its snowy wonders on Thursday, January 11. Let the beauty of winter come to life through an array of captivating artworks that capture the season's charm and frosty allure.

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





# THE LIONHEART THEATRE COMPANY

## January 13 • Open Mic Stand-Up Comedy

Lionheart is thrilled to host an evening of stand-up comedy from Yo That's Funny on Saturday, January 13 at 8:00 p.m. Performers can add their name to the performing list starting at 7:00 p.m. when the doors open. Tickets are \$10. This event is recommended for ages 16+.

## January 26 - February 4 • 'The Radio Play Disaster'

Lionheart is delighted to showcase "The Radio Play Disaster." Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for seniors, students and 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).



### 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

### JANUARY 8

Movie Monday: Book Club, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m., Cultural Arts & Community Center

### JANUARY 15

Martin Luther King Jr. Observance, City Hall Closed

### JANUARY 22

Movie Monday: Book Club The Next Chapter, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m., Cultural Arts & Community Center

### FEBRUARY 2

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

### FEBRUARY 4

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

### FEBRUARY 9

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

### FEBRUARY 10

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



Scan to get the Spanish Newsletter!

¡Escanee para recibir le boletín en español!