



A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2024

Spread the Love in Downtown Norcross



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.

SCAN HERE
TO RSVP:



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.

SCAN HERE
FOR SPECIALS:



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

TREE PRESERVATION BOARD



In Norcross, we don't just hug trees – we actively work to protect, honor and expand the city's invaluable tree canopy. The Tree Preservation Board, also known as TPB, collaborates closely with the Mayor & Council, staff, citizens and state forestry programs to address all aspects of trees and their myriad sustainable benefits, solidifying our status as a proud Tree City.

The board's commitment involves staying abreast of city ordinances related to trees, identifying potential issues like utility or traffic disruptions caused by trees, reviewing permit requests for tree removal, advocating for tree planting, designating groves for preservation and offering educational initiatives on optimal tree care. This demanding task is shouldered by dedicated members including Chairperson Charlotte Osborn and board members Terry Sutton, Michelle Osborne, Hayne Thompson and Charlie Riehm, supported by the City's Arborist, Shahin Khalili. The year 2023 witnessed significant accomplishments, with further ambitious plans for 2024, including:

1. REVAMPED TREE PRESERVATION ORDINANCES:

TPB undertook a major update to enhance tree protection, especially during site development. The proactive approach involves collaborating with homeowners to reduce storm damage risks from falling trees. Additionally, the board assessed tree removal permits, striving to save valuable trees and ensure replacements maintain or exceed their canopy size. An extensive citywide tree inventory was conducted, providing comprehensive data on all trees on city-owned properties and street rights-of-way.

2. STRATEGIC TREE PLANTINGS:

Noteworthy tree plantings occurred at Pinnacle Park and the city gateway at Holcomb Bridge and PIB. Future plans include planting more trees along PIB and at additional gateways. The board is exploring a front yard tree planting program that may link stormwater retention to tree plantings on private property.

3. ENHANCEMENTS TO JOHNSON DEAN FOREST PRESERVE:

TPB added a robust footbridge to the popular loop trail, realigned trails with wood chips, and designed a new front entrance, set to be completed this year. Plans for a two-acre preserve adjacent to Pinnacle Park are underway, along with efforts to preserve woods in the Fickling pond area. The board is also studying ways to purchase and preserve other small tree groves around the city.

4. GEORGIA ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION:

Our annual celebration on Friday, February 16 will showcase the newly developed Arboretum in Pinnacle Park, featuring 32 tree species along the lake promenade, complete with an audio walking tour.

5. EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES:

TPB is committed to educating the community through monthly newsletters, a planned tree information page on the city website, programs with city schools and engaging tree art projects for our preserves.

If you share a passion for preserving Norcross's green legacy, consider joining us at the monthly TPB meetings, held at 4:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at City Hall. Together, let's continue nurturing Norcross and fostering a deep appreciation for the vital role trees play in our city's well-being.



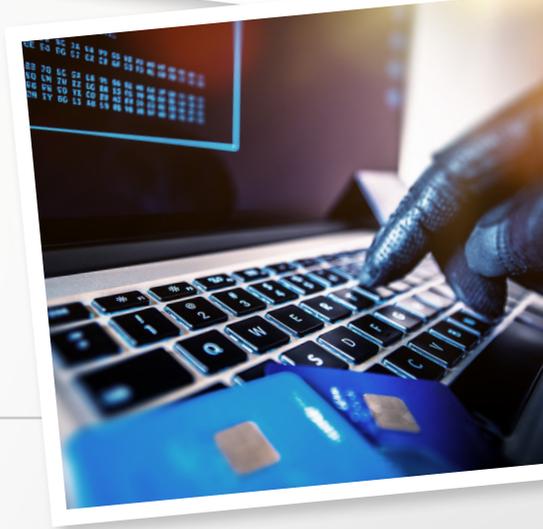
SAFETY TIPS

FRAUD CRIMES

The Norcross Police Department urges heightened awareness of common fraud schemes impacting the community. One prevalent scam involves rental fraud, where unauthorized individuals exploit platforms like Facebook Marketplace to advertise properties they don't own, luring unsuspecting victims into paying deposits and fees. Recognizing red flags such as suspiciously low rental prices, replicated listings, and unconventional payment requests is crucial for protection.

To prevent falling victim, thorough research, physical property visits, skepticism towards low prices and verification of landlord information are essential. Another scam involves fake police officer calls, falsely claiming legal issues and demanding immediate, unusual payments. It's vital to note that legitimate law enforcement does not make such demands, and caution is advised, especially regarding phone number origins.

Community awareness is key. Residents are encouraged to stay informed, vigilant and promptly report any suspicious activity to the Norcross Police Department. Through collective action and heightened awareness, the community can fortify defenses against deceptive practices, creating a safer living environment for all.



SUSTAINABILITY TIP OF THE MONTH



Sprinkle some eco-magic on your shopping spree by choosing recycled or sustainably sourced paper – it's like giving a high-five to the planet! Recycled paper not only saves energy and water but also keeps our leafy friendshappy.

Bonus tip! Double the fun by using both sides of your paper before sending it on its recycling adventure – a simple twist that multiplies your green superhero efforts!

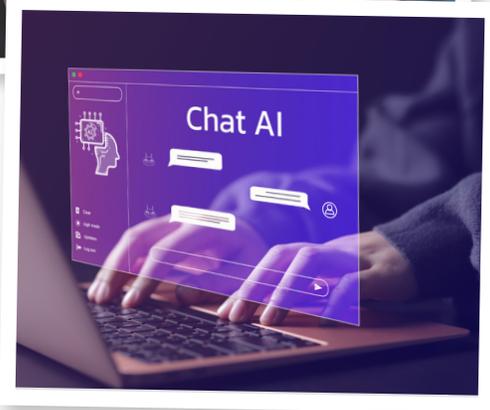
GEORGIA ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Friday, February 16 • 10:00 a.m. • Pinnacle Park

Embrace nature at Norcross's Georgia Arbor Day Celebration in Pinnacle Park on Friday, February 16 starting at 10:00 a.m. Join Mayor Craig Newton, a Georgia Forestry Commission Representative and Arborist Rick Barnes for a delightful program.

Plus, witness the planting of a Shumard Oak Tree by the Norcross Tree Board, and savor the sweetness of tree cookies. An event for all ages to enjoy!





PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS WORKSHOP

Tuesday, February 6 • 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
City Hall, 2nd Floor Community Room

Join us on Tuesday, February 6 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at Norcross City Hall for our inaugural Planting for Pollinators Workshop! Delve into the art of designing gardens with pollinators in mind, whether you have a balcony or a spacious yard.

This hands-on session, led by master gardeners, equips you with the skills to create your own pollinator-friendly haven. Don't miss this chance to cultivate a space that buzzes with life!

TECH TIPS

By Dr. James Trent, IT Director

WHAT IS CHAT GPT?

Chat GPT, or Chat Generative Pre-Trained Transformer, is an AI chatbot developed by OpenAI, specializing in processing natural human language and generating responses. In simple terms, you can pose a question to Chat GPT, and it will provide you with an answer.

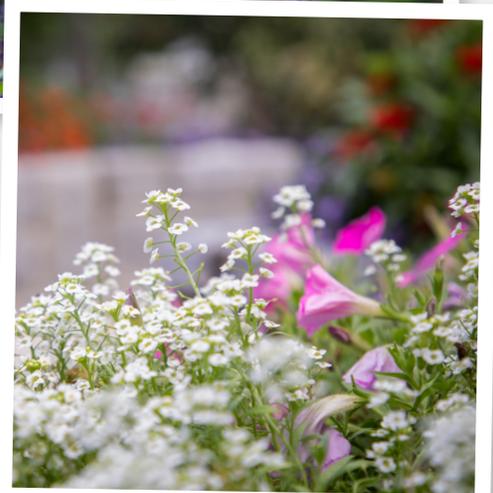
For instance, when we asked Chat GPT “What is assistive technology?” Chat GPT defined it as, “Assistive technology refers to any device, equipment, or software that is designed to assist people with disabilities in performing tasks that might otherwise be difficult or impossible to perform.”

However, Chat GPT goes beyond mere definitions. You can ask it to elaborate on complex subjects like quantum mechanics, seek assistance in planning a trip to New York City, write computer code, solve mathematical equations or even process images and create designs in its latest version, GPT-4.

Despite its capabilities, it's important to recognize some limitations. Chat GPT may occasionally produce incorrect information or generate harmful instructions or biased content.

Additionally, its knowledge is limited to events up to 2021, making it unable to provide accurate information on recent occurrences like weather updates or sports results. Users should approach Chat GPT with an awareness of its strengths and potential limitations.

SCAN HERE
TO RSVP:



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

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



February 12

Mission Impossible
Dead Reckoning Pt.1



February 26

The Woman
King

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, February 2 • 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Cultural Arts & Community Center

Get ready for a groovy night at the Cultural Arts & Community Center's First Friday Concert on February 2, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. The Rainmen, a dynamic tribute ensemble, will take the stage, bringing the electrifying vibes of iconic 60s and early 70s songs. Join us for a feel-good atmosphere, perfect for dancing and singing along to the classic tunes!



HISTORIC CEMETERY TOUR

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

Embark on a captivating journey through Norcross's history with local historian Gene Ramsay! Join the Historic Cemetery Tour on Sunday, February 4, at 2:00 p.m. Uncover fascinating tales of the town's founders, decode street names like Buchanan and Jones and dive into intriguing stories, from the 1915 Christmas Day tale to a 1923 Yellowstone adventure. Laugh, learn and connect with Norcross's rich history!

NORCROSS GALLERY & STUDIOS

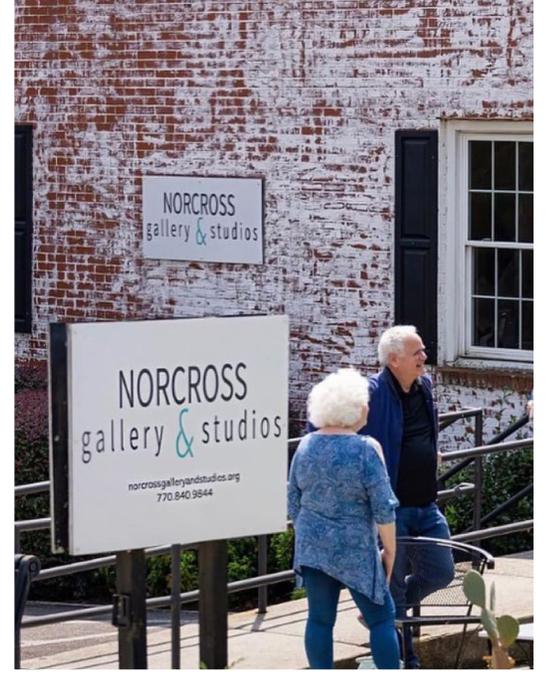
February 1 - February 17 • Warm Hearts Exhibit

Experience the 'Warm Hearts Exhibit,' showcasing heartfelt artworks by the talented Norcross Gallery & Studios Management Council. Immerse yourself in their passion, reflecting the love woven into both art and organization.

February 22 • Leap Into Art Exhibit

Dive into creativity at 'Leap Into Art Exhibit', a 6-week juried art exhibit opening on Thursday, February 22. Immerse yourself in a diverse showcase of artistic expressions and talent.

For exhibit schedules and workshops, visit norcrossgalleryandstudios.org.



THE RECTORY'S ARTIST EXHIBIT

February 10 - February 24 • Tersea Ackerly Exhibit

Explore the vibrant world of Teresa Ackerly's art at the Rectory's Artist Exhibit from February 10 to February 24. Join us for a whimsical opening reception on Saturday, February 10 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Teresa, a Bard College Fine Arts graduate, showcases her lifelong passion for creating, blending oil painting, acrylic mandalas and powerful landscapes. Don't miss the chance to immerse yourself in her colorful, captivating artistry!

THE LIONHEART THEATRE COMPANY

March 1 - March 17 • 'Love, Sex And The I.R.S.'

Embark on a laughter-filled journey with Lionheart's presentation of 'Love, Sex And The I.R.S.' by Billy Van Zandt and Jane Milmore. Tickets, priced at \$18 for adults and \$16 for seniors, students, and military, include a delightful dessert served during intermission. Enjoy the comedic farce on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Perfect for ages 16 and older, get ready for a hilarious evening!

March 23 • 'Chaos Theory's Improv Comedy'

Get ready for an uproarious night as Lionheart hosts Chaos Theory's Improv Comedy on Saturday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, priced at just \$12, promise an evening of spontaneous laughter. Geared towards ages 16 and older, this comedic extravaganza guarantees a fun-filled experience. Join us for an unforgettable night of laughter and entertainment!

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





CELEBRATE

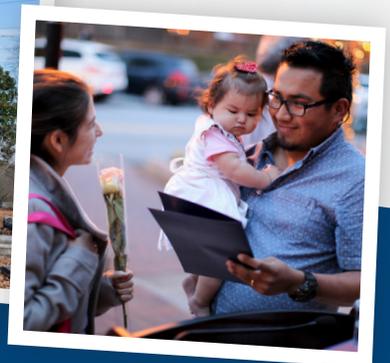
IRISH

FEST

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, March 9 • 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Downtown Norcross

Join the Irish Fest on Saturday, March 9, in Downtown Norcross from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. Experience Irish delights with music, dancing, face painting, balloon twisters, food and more! Don't miss The Rectory's Irish Afternoon Tea at 1:00 p.m. Come for the craic and celebrate St. Paddy's Day in style! Sláinte!



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 6

Planting For Pollinators Workshop, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., City Hall, 2nd Floor Community Room

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

FEBRUARY 10 - FEBRUARY 24

The Rectory's Artist Exhibit, The Rectory

FEBRUARY 12

Movie Monday: Mission Impossible Dead Reckoning Pt. 1, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m., Cultural Arts & Community Center

FEBRUARY 16

Georgia Arbor Day Celebration, 10:00 a.m., Pinnacle Park

FEBRUARY 26

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



Scan to get the Spanish Newsletter!

¡Escanee para recibir le boletín en español!