



A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER 2024

HOLIDAYS

IN NORCROSS

The holiday spirit has officially arrived in Norcross, and we're ready to celebrate! With everything from festive shopping to enchanting carriage rides, our HoliDAYS in Norcross is packed with seasonal cheer.

Join us for a merry and bright experience you won't want to miss!

HISTORIC NORCROSS HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

November 16 • 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. • Downtown Norcross

Get ready to deck your shopping bags this holiday season at the Historic Norcross Holiday Open House! The Heart of Norcross Business Association invites you to explore our festive downtown, where shops are filled with holiday cheer, seasonal decor and unbeatable deals. With door prizes, sales and delightful treats, it's the ultimate shopping event to get you in the spirit. After you shop, relax and enjoy a meal at one of our cozy downtown restaurants!

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

December 6 • 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. • Thrasher Park

Fa-la-la your way to our Holiday Celebration, where festive fun awaits! Enjoy carriage rides, holiday hits, cozy hot cocoa and a special appearance by Santa and his not-so-jolly friend, the Grinch! Capture magical moments at the photo booth and watch country sensation Lydia Simonds bring down the house at Thrasher Park. With her soulful storytelling and a unique blend of country and blues, Lydia's heartfelt performance is sure to captivate the crowd. Plus, the Greater Atlanta Christian Choir will spread holiday joy. It's the perfect night to unwrap the holiday season with a little sparkle and cheer!



Mayor: Craig Newton • **Mayor Pro Tem:** Bruce Gaynor
City Council: Andrew Hixson, Marshall Cheek, Matt Myers, Josh Bare
City Manager: Eric Johnson • **Assistant City Manager:** Tracy Rye
City Clerk: Monique Philip

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

December 7 • 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. • Downtown Norcross

Step into a winter wonderland at the Historic Norcross Christmas Village. The day will be decked out with face painting, photos with Santa, Christmas carolers and more. Don't miss special appearances by Disney Princesses, Frosty the Snowman and Buddy the Elf! Plus, take a free carriage ride through Downtown Norcross from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., enjoy acapella tunes from The Uptown Girls and visit the Candy Cane Lane Kids Zone. It's a holly jolly time for all!

CARRIAGE RIDES

December 6 - December 20

Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. • Skin Alley, Behind 45 South Cafe

It's time to sleigh the holiday season in Downtown Norcross! Join us for complimentary Carriage Rides every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. from December 6 to December 20, except for December 10 when no rides will be available. Experience the magic of the season with dazzling lights and festive tunes while boarding behind the delightful 45 South Cafe. Don't miss this chance to ride into a winter wonderland and create merry memories!

PHOTOS WITH SANTA

December 11 - December 20

Every Wednesday & Friday

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. • 45 South Cafe

Capture the magic of the season with a visit from the jolly old man himself, Santa Claus, for Photos With Santa at 45 South Cafe! Join us every Wednesday and Friday from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., starting December 11 through December 20; please note that Santa will still be visiting on December 10 and December 17, but no photographer will be on site. Share your holiday wishes and snap a merry photo with Santa for a small fee. Bring your festive spirit and create unforgettable holiday memories that will last a lifetime!



**Scan Or Click
Here To For The
Full Lineup:**



November 13 - December 9 • City Hall Lobby

Get ready to jingle all the way to giving! Starting Wednesday, November 13 a beautifully decorated tree will take center stage in the City Hall Lobby, adorned with gift tags for children in need. Each tag represents a little one awaiting a special surprise this holiday season. By picking a tag and purchasing a gift or two, you can spread some festive cheer to local families facing challenges.

Please return your new, unwrapped gifts with the tags attached to the City Hall Lobby by Monday, December 9, before 5:00 p.m. Let's unite to make this season merry and bright—your generosity will truly make a difference!

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY



On Wednesday, October 23, the City of Norcross hosted its State of the City address at the Crowne Plaza, where Mayor Craig Newton took the stage to highlight the community's achievements, plans and exciting future. It was a wonderful evening filled with reflection on how far our city has come and where it's headed. If you missed it, don't worry—we've got you covered with this recap of the evening's key takeaways!

Mayor Newton began by celebrating Norcross' rich history. Established in 1869 by J.J. Thrasher, our town started as a small railroad community and has grown into a vibrant hub with a charming blend of the old and the new. While preserving our historical roots, Norcross continues to modernize and expand. Since the city doubled in size in 2012 through annexation, we've seen more opportunities arise for residents and businesses alike.

One exciting area of focus was housing. With developments like The Perry Residences on Jimmy Carter Boulevard and the Sage senior veteran living project, Norcross is actively addressing the housing needs of our growing community. The city is also committed to keeping Norcross safe with plans for a brand-new Public Safety Building, ensuring that our police and municipal court have the best resources to serve the public.

Another highlight was the city's financial health. With a \$1.4 million surplus, Norcross is investing in infrastructure, public services and sustainability initiatives. Mayor Newton proudly shared that Norcross holds Platinum certification in the ARC Green Communities Program. Recent efforts, including pollinator workshops and expanding our trail system, show our commitment to making Norcross a greener, healthier place to live.

Thanks to everyone who attended the event! For those who couldn't join, be sure to scan or click the QR code below to view the video footage of the event with all the updates. Together, we're building a bright future for Norcross!

**Scan Or
Click Here
For The Full
Presentation:**



IN THE KNOW

MOVIE MONDAYS



November 12
The Color Purple



November 25
Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes

Lights, camera, action! Dive into the magic of cinema with Norcross Movie Mondays at the Cultural Arts & Community Center. **Due to the Veterans Day holiday, the first Movie Monday of the month will be moved to Tuesday, November 12.** Otherwise, join us for the 4th Monday of the month for a free movie screening and light refreshments. With showtimes at 1:30 and 6:30 p.m., get ready for double the fun! Grab your popcorn and settle in for a reel good time.

First FRIDAY Concerts



November 1 • 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Cultural Arts & Community Center

Get ready to groove at the First Friday Concert Series with the sensational Xtreme Party Band! This vibrant 6-piece ensemble will set the stage ablaze with their dynamic vocals, sax, keys, drums, bass and guitar, blending Motown, classic rock and today's hottest hits.

Bring your favorite snacks and drinks or indulge in local dining delights. Don't forget to support the CAN-Do Food Drive by bringing a single-serve, packaged food item. Join us for an electrifying evening!

Scan Or Click Here To RSVP:



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS



November 2 • 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. • Thrasher Park

Immerse yourself in the vibrant colors and rich traditions of the Dia De Los Muertos Festival! Join us for a heartfelt celebration filled with authentic music, dance and delicious cuisine. Come together with the community to honor our ancestors in this joyous tribute to life and legacy!



HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

November 9 • 10:00 a.m. • Thrasher Park Pavilion

Embark on a delightful journey through time with our Historic Walking Tour, guided by local historian Gene Ramsay. Discover the captivating stories that shaped Norcross as we stroll through its charming streets. Join us for this enriching experience—no reservations needed—where history comes alive in every step!



NORCROSS GALLERY & STUDIOS

November 1 - November 30
'Our Home Is Your Home' Photo Competition

Join us as Norcross Gallery & Studios celebrates a great selection of inviting views of our city in the "Our Home Is Your Home" Photo Competition! Come see stunning photographs of Norcross in all seasons showcased at City Hall and the Norcross Gallery & Studios.

For exhibit schedules and workshops, visit norcrossgalleryandstudios.org.



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

November 11 • 10:00 a.m. • Veterans Park

Celebrate our military veterans at the Veterans Day Ceremony. We'll come together to honor their sacrifices with inspiring speeches and patriotic music. Let's show our gratitude and support for the brave men and women who fought for our freedom.



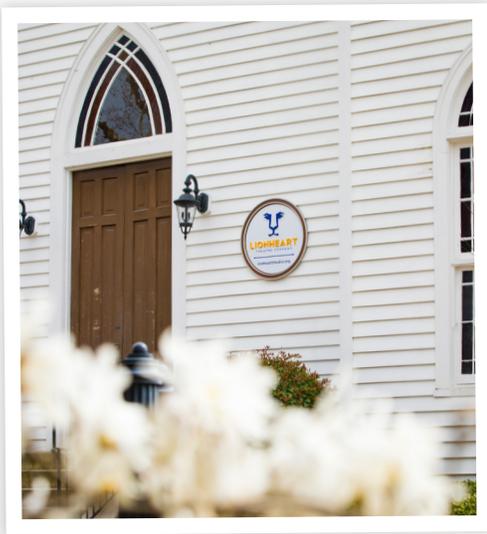
'A CENTURY OF SERVICE' VETERANS EXHIBIT

November 11 • 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. • The Rectory and Cultural Arts & Community Center

Celebrate our heroes at "A Century of Service," an exhibit honoring Norcross veterans from the 1900s, presented by the City of Norcross and Norcross Gallery & Studios.

Kick off the exhibit with an engaging opening reception on Monday, November 11 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., featuring light refreshments. Then, at 7:00 p.m., we'll head over to the Cultural Arts & Community Center for a special Zoom session with renowned sculptor Sabin Howard, who will share insights into "A Soldier's Journey," his central feature sculpture for the World War I Memorial in D.C. Don't miss your chance to ask questions and connect!

The exhibit runs throughout the month, so schedule your visit by calling 678-421-2025 and be part of this meaningful celebration.



THE LIONHEART THEATRE COMPANY

November 16 • Chaos Theory's 'Improv Comedy'
Join Lionheart for an evening of laughter with Chaos Theory's Improv Comedy on Saturday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are just \$12, and the show is suitable for ages 16 and up!

December 12 - December 22 • 'The Game's Afoot'
Lionheart presents the Sherlock Holmes-inspired comedy 'The Game's Afoot,' also known as 'Holmes for the Holidays,' by Ken Ludwig from December 12 to December 22. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for seniors, students and military, including dessert served at intermission. Performances are Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m., with a special Saturday matinee on December 21.

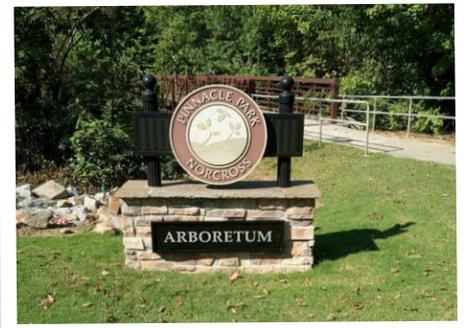
For more information or to purchase tickets, visit lionhearttheatre.org.

PUBLIC WORKS PROGRESS

We're excited to share some fantastic projects recently completed by our Public Works team! From new signage to upgraded features in our parks, these improvements are designed to enhance our community's quality of life. Check out some of the progress below; we appreciate the hard work and dedication of our team in bringing these projects to fruition!

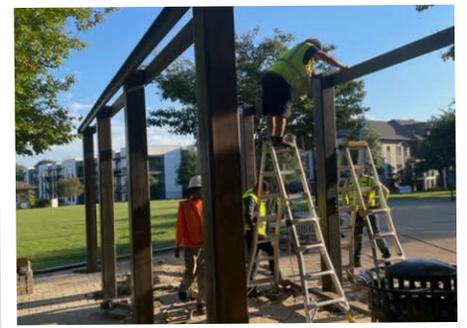
PINNACLE PARK

Pinnacle Park has been designated as an arboretum! New signs featuring QR codes have been installed, allowing visitors to listen to narrations about the trees and plants. Enjoy and explore!



LILLIAN WEBB PARK

Contractors at Lillian Webb Park are currently replacing the two pergola structures with durable steel materials. This upgrade will enhance the park's aesthetic appeal and longevity, ensuring that visitors can enjoy the beautiful outdoor space for years to come.



DISCOVERY GARDEN PARK

Discovery Garden Park has recently seen an exciting upgrade with the replacement of our damaged water feature. The new installation features vibrant floodlights at the base, capable of changing colors to create a stunning visual experience for visitors.



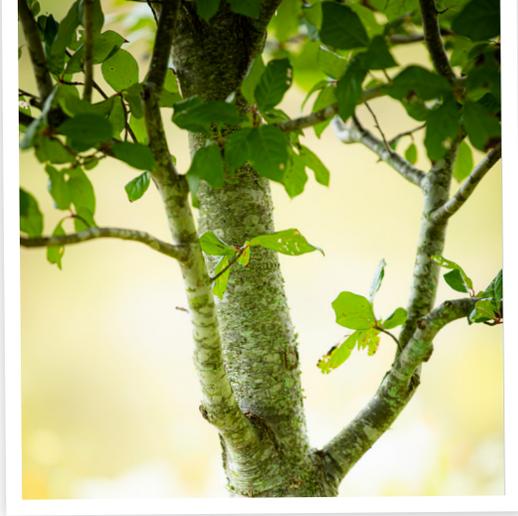
TREE TALK

By Michelle Osborne, Tree Preservation Board Member

As our population becomes more urban, it is essential to preserve and protect our connection to trees in our daily lives. The Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Washington State University conducted interviews and compiled studies to examine the relationship between childhood contact with urban forests and adult attitudes toward nature. The benefits for adults who maintain a healthy interaction with trees include an enhanced sense of community and a greater sense of environmental responsibility. The effects on children are particularly significant.

Research from Vancouver indicates that emotional maturity and communication skills in children correlate with vegetation density in their neighborhoods. According to *The Daily Scan*, the environment surrounding residential areas was assessed using a high-resolution land cover map linked to children via zip codes. Analysis revealed that children exposed to more vegetation within a 250-meter buffer zone around their homes were more likely to have better developmental outcomes in kindergarten.

The Washington State University study also emphasizes that children involved in tree-planting programs develop a sense of ownership for these trees, leading to a stronger incentive to ensure their survival. One study examining adult memories of childhood play found that outdoor activities were recalled more often than indoor ones, with natural objects like sticks, rocks and trees being used as toys most frequently remembered. Memories can influence future behavior. Let's create some arboreal memories!



ON-DEMAND SHUTTLE SERVICE

Early this fall, the City of Norcross teamed up with Gwinnett County and Gateway85 to launch the Ride Gwinnett Microtransit, an innovative On-Demand Shuttle Service that's already making waves! With its flexible, shared rides in designated zones, this service provides residents, workers and visitors with a convenient way to navigate Gwinnett County without the limitations of traditional bus routes. Check out the step-by-step guide below to start your journey!



SCHEDULE YOUR RIDE NOW!

1. Request Your Ride: Use the Ride Gwinnett app to set your pick-up and drop-off location. Alternatively, call 770.246.4770 and select option 3. Spanish language assistance is available upon request.
2. Go to Your Pick-Up Location: Our curb-to-curb service picks you up where you are within the service area. Some locations have designated pick-up spots.
3. Hop on Board: Step into one of Ride Gwinnett's shuttles or vans.
4. Pay Your Fare: Each trip costs \$3 per person. Pay using the app or with exact change. Download the Ride Gwinnett App and get half-off your first trip with code 50OFF.
5. Arrive at Your Destination: Enjoy your trip and rate your ride!

Scan or
Click Here To
Learn More:



SUSTAINABILITY

TIP OF THE MONTH



Not sure what to do with old paint? If it's completely dry, toss it in the trash. If it's still wet, donate it to Habitat for Humanity, share with a neighbor or recycle it. You can also solidify wet paint with cat litter, sawdust or shredded newspaper before disposal.

Don't forget—Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful will host a paint recycling event on America Recycles Day, November 2, at the Gwinnett Fairgrounds. For more details, visit www.gwinnettcg.org.

NO GENERAL ELECTION

Friendly reminder! We want to let you know that there will not be a General Election in the City of Norcross this year. General Elections are held every two years, and the next one is scheduled for November 2025. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the City Clerk's Department at 678-421-2035 for more information!

HOLIDAY DAY OBSERVANCE



The City of Norcross will experience a few closures this month due to the holidays. Please be advised that City Hall will be closed on Monday, November 11 in honor of Veterans Day, and on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 for Thanksgiving.

While Veterans Day will not affect sanitation and recycling services, please note that Thanksgiving will result in delays. There will be no service on Thursday, November 28 and collections will run one day behind schedule from Friday to Saturday. Thank you for your understanding, and we wish you all a joyful holiday season!



NOVEMBER 1

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

NOVEMBER 2

Dia De Los Muertos Festival, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m., Thrasher Park

NOVEMBER 9

Historic Walking Tour, 10:00 a.m., Thrasher Park Pavilion

NOVEMBER 11

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

NOVEMBER 11

Veterans Day Observance, City Hall Closed

NOVEMBER 11

'A Century Of Service' Veterans Exhibit, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., The Rectory and Cultural Arts & Community Center

SEECCLICKFIX

Attention, Norcross residents! Since launching SeeClickFix this past summer, we've experienced remarkable enhancements in usability and accessibility. With just a few taps on the mobile app or a click on your browser, you can effortlessly submit service requests and contribute to our community's improvement. Together, we're making Norcross an even better place to call home!

Check out the steps below to join in:

1. Download the SeeClickFix mobile app from your app store, available on both Apple and Android.
2. Create an account to receive updates and view support tickets—though it's not required to make requests or report concerns.
3. Prefer using a browser?
Visit norcrossga.net/seeclickfix.
4. Start submitting requests today and help improve our community!

NOVEMBER 12

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

NOVEMBER 13

Mayor's Angel Giving Tree, City Hall Lobby

NOVEMBER 16

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

NOVEMBER 25

Movie Monday: Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m., Cultural Arts & Community Center

NOVEMBER 28 & 29

Thanksgiving Observance, City Hall Closed



Scan to get
the Spanish
Newsletter!

¡Escanee para
recibir le boletín
en español!