



# A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NEWSLETTER • MAY 2025



## SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Summer nights, starry skies and sweet, sweet tunes—oh my! **The City of Norcross' Summer Concert Series is kicking off in style!** From May through September, join us at Thrasher Park from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. for a toe-tappin', finger-snappin', soul-clappin' good time. Bring a picnic blanket, swing by your favorite local eatery or just come ready to groove—the stage will be rocking with a lineup of sensational performers all summer long.

But that's not all, music lovers! Every concert also helps hit a high note for the community through the CAN-Do Food Drive. Drop off canned goods and non-perishable items at the event and help fill the shelves of local food pantries.

So grab your friends, your lawn chairs and your best dance moves—because summer in Norcross is about to sing! **Check out the full performer lineup and start planning your summer groove!**



### GRAB YOUR SPOT

Summer vibes and live tunes are almost here! The countdown has begun—table sales for the Summer Concert Series are still available. Grab yours and snag the best view in the house!

SCAN OR  
CLICK HERE TO  
PURCHASE:



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

# CHECK OUT SUMMER CONCERT LINEUP



## MAY 23 • SIDE PIECE

Side Piece is Nashville's powerhouse all-female supergroup, made up of top "side women" who've played for icons like Beyoncé and Shania Twain. With electrifying energy, blazing fiddle solos and powerful harmonies, they're rocking the stage and shattering stereotypes one song at a time!



## JUNE 6 • THE SOUL CARTEL BAND

The Soul Cartel Band is a high-energy groove machine, blending R&B, soul and pop hits to keep you moving all night long! With smooth vocals, funky beats and a vibe that's impossible to resist, they bring the soul to every stage they hit!



## JUNE 20 • RUBIK'S GROOVE

Rubik's Groove is your ultimate "outside-of-the-box" '80s, '90s and '00s tribute band, bringing non-stop energy and a full-on interactive experience! From rock to hip hop, characters to costumes and killer videos, they'll transport you back to the best music eras with a show that's as wild as it is unforgettable!



## JULY 18 • C.O.T. BAND

The C.O.T. Band is Atlanta's own Latin powerhouse, blending salsa, merengue, jazz, funk and Brazilian beats with a unique twist that'll make you move! From rocking local venues to performing at major festivals, they bring an infectious fusion of Caribbean rhythms and world music that'll have you dancing and vibing all night long.



## AUGUST 1 DANCING DREAM

The ultimate ABBA tribute, bringing back the glitter, glamour and disco magic of the '70s with all the iconic hits you love! Get ready to dance and sing with a high-energy show that'll have you saying, "Thank You for the Music!"



## AUGUST 15 NU WAVE ATL

Nu Wave ATL brings the ultimate tribute to the high-energy, electrifying new wave and alternative hits of the '80s! Get ready to dance, sing and relive the neon-soaked era.



## AUGUST 29 7 BRIDGES: THE ULTIMATE EAGLES EXPERIENCE

7 Bridges: The Ultimate Eagles Experience is the premier tribute to the legendary band, delivering spot-on harmonies, incredible musicianship and an electrifying concert experience— all without backing tracks!

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## UNDERSTANDING THE VALUE OF THE PERMITTING PROCESS



Building or renovating a property is an exciting journey, but it's important to remember that the permitting process is key to ensuring the safety, health and wellbeing of everyone involved.

**Here's why the permitting process is essential and how it helps us maintain a strong, safe and vibrant community:**

### **1. CODE COMPLIANCE:**

Building codes set standards for construction to make sure that the structures we create are safe and sustainable. Whether it's plumbing, electrical work, accessibility or energy efficiency, permits ensure that all aspects of your project follow these important guidelines. This guarantees the quality of your construction and protects you from potential hazards.

### **2. CONSUMER PROTECTION**

For property owners, obtaining a permit is a form of protection. It helps ensure that contractors and builders are adhering to the right standards, giving you peace of mind that the work will be up to code. It's about preventing substandard work and ensuring the longevity and safety of your investment.

### **3. SAFETY STANDARDS**

From structural integrity to fire safety, permits are all about keeping everyone safe. Each construction project undergoes regular inspections to verify that it meets safety codes. This helps avoid issues like structural failures or electrical hazards that could be dangerous to you, your family or even neighbors.

### **4. ZONING REGULATIONS**

Permits are necessary to confirm that your construction project fits within the city's zoning regulations. Zoning ensures that projects comply with how properties are used and where structures are built, preserving the character and safety of our neighborhoods.

### **5. LEGAL AND LIABILITY PROTECTION**

Failing to obtain a permit can result in costly fines, work stoppages, or even legal action. In addition, working without proper permits may affect insurance coverage. Permits provide a documented history of construction that can be beneficial for future property owners, appraisers and inspectors.

### **WHO'S INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS?**

The permitting process is a team effort. For straightforward projects like electrical or plumbing work, our Norcross staff handles the review. For more complex plans, other agencies step in, including Gwinnett County for water, sewer, fire safety and more, and even the Georgia Department of Transportation when applicable.

In conclusion, obtaining permits ensures that our buildings are safe, up to code and compliant with local regulations. It protects both the property owner and the community, ensuring that every project contributes positively to the future of Norcross. So next time you're planning a project, remember: **permits are an important step toward a safe and sustainable future!**



## KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY GREEN AND SAFE

As a proud Tree City USA affiliate since 2004, Norcross has long been committed to the health and safety of our urban forest. In the past two years, the city conducted a comprehensive tree inventory for both Right of Way trees and Parks trees, totaling approximately 3,200 trees. This was done with the help of SavaTree, a local tree care company that has maintained our beloved State Champion Elm for over 20 years.

This inventory includes important data about each tree, including its location, species and a risk rating based on its safety. Trees are assessed for potential hazards, considering the risk to people and property. Risk ratings range from Extreme to Low, with the goal of identifying trees that need attention before they pose a threat. Currently, we've identified 13 Extreme Risk, 43 High Risk and 143 Moderate Risk trees, with additional trees recently discovered that need to be addressed.

While many of these trees need to be removed, especially older Water Oaks that are showing signs of decay, the city is also focused on planting new trees to ensure a sustainable future. As we carefully remove hazardous trees, we continue our legacy of planting and nurturing new trees. These efforts, though often unseen, will grow and flourish for generations to come.

Maintaining Norcross' trees is a careful balancing act. It's about safety today, and creating a greener, healthier environment for tomorrow. We appreciate your support as we work to protect our trees, enhance our community and ensure a safe, beautiful place to live. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the City Arborist at 770-499-1041.

## BURGER ROYALTY REIGNS SUPREME AGAIN



Norcross has done it again! For the second year in a row, our charming city has proven that when it comes to burgers, we don't just participate—we dominate. B&W Burgers, Buns & Brews has officially claimed the crown—or should we say, the golden spatula—as Gwinnett County's Best Burger in Explore Gwinnett's 2025 Burger Week. And honestly, are we even surprised? Not even a little.

This year, they went all in with the Smoke House Smash Burger—a glorious, meaty marvel stacked high with double smash patties, gooey cheese, bratwurst because why not, crispy bacon, onion straws and a saucy BBQ drizzle. It wasn't just a burger; it was an experience. A beautiful, messy, need-extra-napkins kind of experience that left taste buds cheering and competitors weeping.

Norcross, you showed up, voted and proved that our city knows good food when we taste it. B&W didn't just win; they grilled the competition, seared past the rest, and smashed their way to back-to-back victory. The burger gods have spoken, and they have a favorite.

So, what's next? Another year of burger supremacy, of course! Until then, head over to B&W Burgers and celebrate with a well-earned bite of greatness. Norcross, keep being the flavor-packed powerhouse we know and love. Let's do it again in 2026!

# TREE TALK

By Charlie Riehm, Tree Preservation Board Member

As you begin your spring gardening, be sure to replenish or install mulch around your trees! Mulch does more than improve your lawn's visual appeal. By choosing the right type of mulch and applying it correctly, you can significantly improve tree health over time.

Mulching serves several vital functions in tree care:

- **Moisture Retention:** Mulch helps retain soil moisture by reducing evaporation.
- **Weed Suppression:** Mulch blocks sunlight, preventing weeds from germinating and competing with tree roots.
- **Soil Health:** Organic mulch breaks down over time, adding valuable nutrients to the soil and improving its structure.
- **Protection:** Mulch acts as an insulator, protecting tree roots from extreme temperatures and providing a buffer that shields tree trunks from lawnmower damage.

Organic mulch consists of natural materials that decompose rapidly, adding organic matter to enrich the soil. Common organic mulches include wood chips, bark mulch, compost, leaf mulch and pine needles, which are suitable for acid-loving plants. Choose the mulch type that matches your needs for adding nutrients, moisture retention, insulation and appearance.

Inorganic mulch consists of non-decomposing materials like gravel, rubber and plastic sheeting. While they don't enhance soil fertility, they can provide other benefits such as weed suppression, moisture retention and adding an aesthetic feature to your landscape.

Mulching around trees is a crucial practice for homeowners looking to create a thriving and beautiful landscape. Learn to avoid common mistakes and replenish mulch as needed to ensure healthier trees for many years to come.



**SUSTAINABILITY**



**TIP OF THE MONTH**

## 3 WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR ENERGY USE

1. Adjust the thermostat. Just by adjusting the thermostat 3 degrees higher in the warmer months, or vice versa in the cooler months, you can cause significant reductions in energy use annually.

2. Unplug electronics like fans, heaters and TVs when not in use or on vacation.

3. Install solar panels. Solar panels are allowed in the city for residential and commercial areas, but permits are required.



# IN THE KNOW

## MOVIE MONDAYS



May 12  
Wicked



May 27  
Inside Out 2

Lights, camera, action! Dive into the magic of cinema with Norcross Movie Mondays at the **Cultural Arts & Community Center**. Join us every 2nd and 4th Monday 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!

Please note, due to the Memorial Day holiday, the second Movie Monday of the month will be held on Tuesday, May 27. Different day, same fun!



## MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE

Monday, May 26  
11:30 a.m. • Thrasher Park



Get ready to celebrate Memorial Day in a meaningful way! Join us for an exciting Memorial Day Remembrance featuring complimentary hot dogs and inspiring words from Norcross Police Department Officer and Veteran Terry Schaefer.

Enjoy a lively program with heartfelt speeches from Mayor Newton and a powerful performance by the 116th Army Band. It's a day of honoring, fun and community spirit you won't want to miss!



## HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE

The City of Norcross would like to inform you that City Hall will be closed on Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day. Normal operations will resume on Tuesday, May 27.

Please be aware that sanitation and recycling services will experience a one-day delay from Tuesday to Saturday, with no services on Monday, May 26.

Thank you for your understanding, and we wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday!

## HISTORIC CEMETERY TOUR

May 18 • 2:00 p.m. • Norcross City Cemetery

Join local historian Gene Ramsay for a lively dive into Norcross' past. Explore the Historic Cemetery Tour, uncover tales of the town's founders, and decode the mysteries behind street names while delving into intriguing stories from 1915 to 1923. This engaging tour promises a blend of fun, learning and connection with the unique history that shapes Norcross. Don't miss this chance to experience history in a whole new way! Attendance is free; RSVP is just to secure your spot.

SCAN OR CLICK  
HERE TO RSVP:



## NORCROSS GALLERY & STUDIOS



### May 1 - June 7 • 'Pigments of the Imagination' Exhibit

Explore 'Pigments of the Imagination,' a vibrant new exhibit at the Norcross Gallery & Studios, opening May 1 and running through June 7. Immerse yourself in a colorful collection of artistic expression that sparks creativity and inspires wonder.

Plus, join us for the 'Pigments of the Imagination' Reception on Sunday, May 18 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. where you can celebrate this incredible exhibit and connect with fellow art lovers.

### May 3 - June 16 • 'Artist of the Month'

Discover the captivating collage and sculpture art of Adam Faust, an Atlanta-based artist and Operations Director at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, on display at 45 South Café throughout May. Experience his unique, thought-provoking creations while savoring your favorite coffee and treats.

### May 3 - May 4 • Abstract Flower Painting Class

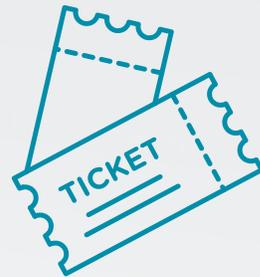
Join us on Saturday, May 3 and Sunday, May 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Unleash your creativity in the Abstract Flower Painting Class with renowned artist Chitra Ramanathan. Explore fun, unique techniques to paint vibrant flowers in an abstract style.

### May 9 - May 17 • 'Reflections at The Rectory' Exhibit

Explore the captivating photography of Ashley Lynch at the Cultural Arts & Community Center, running through Friday, May 9. Then, immerse yourself in 'Reflections at The Rectory,' featuring works by 36 talented students from Paul Duke STEM and Norcross High from Saturday, May 10 through Saturday, May 17.

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

# THE LIONHEART THEATRE COMPANY



## May 2 - May 18 • 'The House of Blue Leaves'

Lionheart Theatre is excited to present the Tony-nominated Best Play, 'The House of Blue Leaves' by John Guare! Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for seniors, students and military. Enjoy a delicious dessert served at intermission. Performances run Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m., plus a special Saturday matinee on May 17 at 2:00 p.m. Don't miss out!

## May 31 • Chaos Theory's Improv Comedy

Get ready for a night of spontaneous humor with Chaos Theory's Improv Comedy show at Lionheart Theatre on Saturday, May 31 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12. A great way to spend your evening! Ages 16+ welcome.

## June 7 • ShakesBEER: Much Ado About Nothing

Join Lionheart Theatre on Saturday, June 7 at 7:30 p.m. for a hilarious twist on Shakespeare with ShakesBEER: Much Ado About Nothing. Enjoy games, laughs and plenty of fun! Tickets are \$18, and it's 18+ only. Don't miss out!

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [lionhearttheatre.org](http://lionhearttheatre.org).



## MAY 12

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

## MAY 18

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

## MAY 23

Summer Concert Series: Side Piece, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Thrasher Park

## MAY 26

Memorial Day Observance, City Hall Closed

## MAY 26

Memorial Day Remembrance, 11:30 a.m., Thrasher Park

## MAY 27

Movie Monday: Inside Out 2, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m.,  
Cultural Arts & Community Center



Scan to get  
the Spanish  
Newsletter!

¡Escanee para  
recibir le boletín  
en español!