



# A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER 2025

## Arttober IN NORCROSS

Immerse yourself in a symphony of color, culture and creativity—Norcross' Arttober transforms the city into a month-long canvas of artistic flair. From live music and plein air painting to culinary delights and cultural traditions, every corner bursts with creativity. Be sure to snap pictures throughout Arttober, tag @cityofnorcross, and use #artoberinnorcross to share your vibrant moments!

### OCTOBER 2 – NOVEMBER 1

Norcross Gallery & Studios' "Shapes '25" Silent Auction

### OCTOBER 3

First Friday Concert

### OCTOBER 3

Lionheart Theatre's 'Improv Comedy' Show

### OCTOBER 4

Bluesberry Beer & Music Festival

### OCTOBER 9 – OCTOBER 12

Lionheart Theatre's 'Bewitching' Show

### OCTOBER 11 & OCTOBER 12

Norcross Art Splash Festival

### OCTOBER 11

Norcross Gallery & Studios' Art Walk'

### OCTOBER 11 & OCTOBER 12

Art In The Park Pop-up

### OCTOBER 11 & OCTOBER 12

Norcross Gallery & Studios' 'Paint Out'

### OCTOBER 22

Art In The Park Pop-up

### OCTOBER 23

Art In The Park Pop-up

### OCTOBER 25

Deutsche Klassik German Car Show

### NOVEMBER 1

Dia De Los Muertos Festival

### NOVEMBER 7

First Friday Concert

### PUBLIC ART TOUR

Get ready to explore our city's creative side with a guided brochure featuring a map and list of murals, sculptures and more!

### COLORING PAGES

Bring the magic of art and culture to life with our free downloadable coloring sheets! From iconic sculptures to vibrant local events, add your own splash of color and make each masterpiece your own.

SCAN OR CLICK  
HERE FOR  
MORE DETAILS:



**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

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## NORCROSS PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION

Public art is more than decoration—it celebrates Norcross’ rich cultural heritage, strengthens community bonds and brings our city to life. The Norcross Public Arts Commission, also known as NPAC, plays a vital role in shaping and maintaining this creative landscape, and residents are invited to support and engage with these initiatives.

NPAC has been busy keeping Norcross vibrant and visually engaging. Atlanta metal artist Ryan Durrett recently refreshed the city’s metal sculptures, including favorites like George and the Praying Mantis, with a meticulous paint update. Shoutout to the Public Works Department for scrubbing and polishing all five pieces!

One of NPAC’s most playful initiatives celebrates the city’s rare white squirrels with near life-sized bronzed sculptures in a winter-white patina. Marty Dawe from Cherrylion Studios provided NPAC with a prototype to help with site selection, and Mayor Newton joined a field trip to imagine the possibilities at several locations around town! The first three squirrels are currently in the sculpting



phase and, when ready, will be installed in Thrasher, Lillian Webb and Betty Mauldin Parks. These whimsical pieces are designed to create an interactive art hunt for residents of all ages to enjoy, adding a touch of fun and discovery throughout the city.

Other highlights include the Free Little Art Gallery in Betty Mauldin Park—decorated by Norcross Elementary students. Need supplies? Check out the Paul Duke FLAG Box in the Norcross South End Parking Lot. NPAC also gave its inaugural “Imagine” Award at the Reflections student art show, organized by Norcross Gallery & Studios. The 2025 recipient was Gherald Ramirez for his mixed media piece, P.A.

Finally, a special thanks to the 2024-2025 NPAC Board—Robert Forro, Michael MacManus, Nicole Morgan, Jacques Murphy, Yamily Mijes-O’Reilly and Chair Liz Simpson—for their dedication and passion in making Norcross a city where art thrives. To meet the board and learn more about our projects, visit us at our booth during the Norcross Art Splash Festival!



# 2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION



## Notice of Election to the Qualified Voters of the City of Norcross, Georgia:

You are hereby notified that on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, an election will be held in the voting precinct of the City of Norcross, Georgia (“Norcross”).

This election will include:

- Filling the expired term of Mayor (currently held by Craig Newton)
- Filling the expired Council terms (currently held by Matt Myers and Bruce Gaynor)
- Voting on a homestead exemption increase for ad valorem taxes levied within the city limits.

### Special Ballot Question

Voters desiring to vote for the enactment of the homestead exemption act shall do so by voting “YES,” and voters desiring to vote against the enactment of the homestead exemption act do so by voting “NO” to the following question presented on the election ballot:

Shall the Act be approved which raises the homestead exemption from City of Norcross ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes for residents who own and occupy their residences of that city from \$9,000.00 to \$45,000.00 and raises the homestead exemption from ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes for residents of that city who are 65 years of age or older and who own and occupy their residences from \$18,000.00 to \$90,000.00?

YES    NO

**SCAN OR  
CLICK HERE  
FOR MORE  
DETAIL**



# HEROIC TEAM AWARDED

The City of Norcross proudly congratulates Communications Officer Carin Elmore and Police Officer Gabriel Veras who were awarded the Scottish Rite, Valley of Atlanta Arthur M. Kaplan First Responder Award on September 4 for their heroic lifesaving efforts earlier this year.

Both Elmore and Veras bring a wealth of experience and dedication to public safety. Elmore, who grew up in a family of law enforcement professionals, has spent years ensuring residents receive fast and effective emergency response. Veras, raised in Philadelphia and seasoned through service in multiple police departments, has built a career on helping those in crisis with empathy and skill.

Their commitment was on full display on April 7. Just after noon, Elmore received multiple RapidSOS calls from the Rails Way area. Acting quickly, she created a 911 call for service in the dispatch system, sending officers to the area before receiving any information from County 911. Officer Veras arrived to find a 3-year-old child unconscious in the front yard. Without hesitation, he began CPR, performing chest compressions and rescue breaths. Thanks to his swift actions, the child regained a pulse, began breathing independently and was safely transported to the hospital in stable condition.

The City of Norcross is honored to celebrate Elmore and Veras, whose quick thinking, courage and seamless teamwork exemplify the very best of our first responders. Their dedication gives our community hope, reassurance and a powerful example of service in action.



# PAVING THE WAY

Congratulations! Shoutout to Donny Maxwell, our Roads & Stormwater Superintendent! On August 26, he was recognized by the State of Georgia for outstanding public service, with the proclamation presented by Councilman Josh Bare. Thank you for your dedication and hard work!



## THREE DECADES OF TIMELESS TREASURES

The City of Norcross congratulates Antique Traditions on 30 incredible years of serving our downtown community. Since 1995, this beloved shop has offered a curated mix of vintage and contemporary furniture, home décor, gifts and unique finds, becoming a cornerstone of our historic district.

To mark this milestone, Antique Traditions invites everyone to their weeklong anniversary celebration from Tuesday, September 30 through Saturday, October 4, featuring a special Anniversary Sale, evening events, refreshments and surprises.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to join in celebrating a local business that has made a lasting impact on our community. Here's to 30 years of success and many more to come!

**For the full lineup of events, follow @antiquetraditions on Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates.**



## PROPERTY DEED FRAUD ALERT



While there have been no reports of deed fraud in Norcross, it's always smart to stay informed and prepared. "Stealing home deeds," also known as title or deed fraud, occurs when criminals impersonate homeowners to transfer property ownership fraudulently.

Scammers can use forged documents and stolen identities to take out mortgages on a property's equity or even sell it to an unsuspecting buyer.

To help protect yourself, residents can sign up for the Filing Activity Notification System, also known as FANS. This voluntary system notifies you electronically whenever certain real estate or personal property documents are filed with the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' offices.

Notifications are generated forward-looking, based on filings after you create a request and help you monitor activity tied to your property.

Stay proactive, informed and prepared. To sign up for FANS alerts, visit [fans.gscca.org](https://fans.gscca.org) and create your notification preferences today.

## AFFORDABLE LIVING FOR 55+ RESIDENTS

Big news in Norcross! We'd like to welcome the new Sage 5430, who officially cut the ribbon on September 9. Sage 5430 is a brand-new 70-unit affordable senior housing community on Buford Hwy. This transformative project brings high-quality, affordable living for residents 55+ and strengthens the very heart of our community.

Conveniently located less than a mile from Downtown Norcross and directly served by a Ride Gwinnett bus stop, Sage 5430 ensures residents are connected throughout Gwinnett County—supporting a vibrant, accessible and thriving living environment. This milestone was made possible through the incredible partnership of Blue Ridge Atlantic Development, Norcross Housing Authority, Atlantica Properties, Gwinnett County, Hudson Housing Capital, Reinvestment Fund, Lument and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Together, we're building a stronger, more inclusive future!



## BEHIND THE SCREENS

The City of Norcross IT Department is dedicated to ensuring seamless, secure and innovative technology services for residents, city employees and all stakeholders. Led by Chief Information Officer Andre M. Gima, the department's mission focuses on strengthening network security, improving data accessibility and advancing technology solutions that meet the evolving needs of the community.

Andre brings over 20 years of experience in technology leadership, including roles in local law enforcement agencies, the Georgia Department of Defense and military communications. His expertise allows him to provide clear assessments of current systems while crafting a forward-looking vision for enhancements across the city's digital infrastructure. Supporting him are IT Manager Tarajee White and IT Specialist George Hall, whose collaborative efforts ensure daily operations run smoothly, from maintaining secure networks to implementing user-friendly solutions for city staff and residents alike. Together, the team emphasizes proactive technology governance, efficient service delivery and continuous improvement.

With Andre's extensive background and the department's skilled team, Norcross residents can trust that the city's IT systems are not only reliable but continually evolving to serve the community better.



Carving pumpkins this year? Give it a second life by burying it in your backyard or planting it in a pot to feed your soil. When we toss edible food, it rots in landfills and releases greenhouse gases that harm our planet. By composting, buying only what you need and using every tasty bit, you are reducing landfill waste and promoting a healthier earth.

## TREE TALK

Residents often ask about what is allowed when a neighbor's tree creates issues, whether from overhanging limbs, roots crossing property lines or dead and hazardous trees. These situations can lead to extra maintenance, repairs or even personal injury.

### TREE MAINTENANCE AND LIABILITY

Tree owners are responsible for keeping their trees safe. A visibly diseased, dead or hazardous tree that causes damage can result in liability for the owner. Ignoring warnings about dangerous trees is considered negligence. Conversely, if a healthy tree falls due to an unforeseeable event, like a severe storm, the damage may be considered an "act of God" and the owner may not be liable.

### PROPERTY LINES MATTER

Property lines are legally defined boundaries established in public records and extend above and below ground. This is important when trees grow across lines, affecting both neighbors' rights.

### UNDERSTANDING A TREE'S VALUE

Trees can be surprisingly valuable. For example, a 3-inch tree purchased for \$500 with \$1,500 installation costs and five years of maintenance at \$180/hour could total an investment of \$11,000. Mature trees can appraise at tens of thousands of dollars. Removing or pruning a neighbor's tree without consent can have serious consequences.

### COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Open dialogue with neighbors can prevent misunderstandings and foster cooperation. Sharing costs for professional tree care is often more economical and amicable than legal disputes.

We look forward to exploring proper pruning techniques and safe removal of dead or hazardous trees in upcoming articles to help residents protect their property and community.



# IN THE KNOW

## MOVIE MONDAYS



**October 13**  
Coco



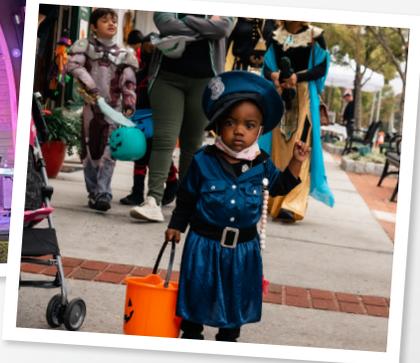
**October 27**  
The Addams Family

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!

# GET IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON



Get ready for a spook-tacular season of family fun with our Spirits of the Season lineup! From trick-or-treat delights to a ghoulishly fun night out, there's something to thrill everyone.

**October 9 – October 12 • Lionheart Theatre's 'Bewitching' Show**  
Step into a spooky and whimsical world of Halloween-inspired short plays, full of twists, chills and wickedly fun laughs.

**October 23 • Heart Of Norcross' Witches Night Out**  
Get ready to stir up some fun from 5:30–8:30 p.m.! Join our local coven for live music, witches' brew, tarot readings, moonlit painting, hair tinseling, metallic tattoos and magical in-store specials. Keep your eyes peeled—Elphaba and Glinda from Wicked will be singing and strolling downtown! Grab your hat and broom for a bewitching night out exploring shops, restaurants and more.

**October 25 • Deutsche Klassik German Car Show**  
Get into the autumn spirit at a festive Oktober showcase of German classics! BMWs, Porsches, bratwurst, bier and lively polka come together for a spirited celebration of German culture and fall fun.

**October 25 • Heart Of Norcross' Downtown Trick-or-Treating**  
After the Deutsche German Classic Car Show at 3:00 p.m., get your costumes on and join us for a ghoulishly fun evening of Trick-or-Treating! Follow the spooky signs to uncover sweet surprises from local shops, restaurants and businesses—while supplies last.

**November 1 • Dia De Los Muertos Festival**  
Celebrate with music, dance and rich traditions honoring loved ones, paired with delicious Mexican flavors and a joyful tribute to life and remembrance!

SCAN OR CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAIL





## NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP & RECYCLING DAY

October 4 • 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. • Norcross Public Works

Turn your cleanup into a fun, eco-friendly day! Bring paper for shredding, electronics, recyclables, glass bottles, scrap metal, bulk items and more to help keep our community green.

For details on accepted items, volunteer opportunities, and traffic flow, check out the city's website and join the sustainable celebration!



## NORCROSS GALLERY & STUDIOS

October 1 - October 14 • Artist Of The Month

Norcross Gallery & Studios is excited to present Marcia Shirley as the Artist of the Month. Her brilliant landscape and floral artwork will be on display at 45 South Café through October 14. Marcia's pieces capture the beauty and serenity of nature, bringing vibrant colors and intricate detail to every canvas.

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

## PEDAL NORCROSS

October 18 • 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. • Downtown Norcross

Get ready to roll with Pedal Norcross, a fun 4-mile group bike ride through Historic Norcross that celebrates safe, sustainable biking! Enjoy free bike and helmet rentals from Aztec Cycles, tune ups by The Bicycle Doctor, a practice riding loop, vendor booths and activities for the whole family. Check in begins at 2:00 p.m. and early arrival is strongly encouraged for cyclists! Scan or click the QR code to learn more about the event as well as volunteer and sponsorship opportunities!

SCAN OR CLICK HERE  
FOR MORE DETAIL



## DAY OF PLAY

October 22 • 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. • Lillian Webb

Head to Lillian Webb Park for Day of Play, in partnership with Live Healthy Gwinnett! This free, family-friendly event features autumn-inspired games, play zones and outdoor adventures. No registration needed—just bring your energy, wear closed-toed shoes and get ready for a day of laughter, movement and fall fun!





# THE LIONHEART THEATRE COMPANY

October 18

'Better Dead Than Alive' Staged Reading

Step into the world of theatre at Lionheart! Catch the staged reading of Better Dead Than Alive by Hank Kimmel on Saturday, October 18 at 7:30 p.m. Be part of the play's creative journey—free to attend!

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



## OCTOBER 3

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

## OCTOBER 4

Neighborhood Cleanup & Recycling Day,  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Norcross Public Works

## OCTOBER 4

Bluesberry Beer & Music Festival,  
5:00 - 10:00 p.m., Betty Mauldin Park

## OCTOBER 11

Norcross Art Splash Festival,  
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Thrasher Park

## OCTOBER 12

Norcross Art Splash Festival,  
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Thrasher Park

## OCTOBER 13

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

## OCTOBER 18

Pedal Norcross, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.,  
Downtown Norcross

## OCTOBER 22

Day Of Play, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., Lillian Webb Park

## OCTOBER 27

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



Scan to get  
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Newsletter!

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recibir le boletín  
en español!