



# A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NEWSLETTER • JANUARY 2026

## CITY OF NORCROSS 2026 LINEUP

2026 is here and Norcross is already buzzing with energy. We're diving into a year packed with colorful festivals, feel good concerts, festive holiday celebrations, epic car shows and all the community fun you've been waiting for.

Check out the calendar below and start plotting your year with every can't-miss moment.

### JANUARY

- 2: First Friday Concert
- 12: Movie Monday
- 26: Movie Monday

### FEBRUARY

- 6: First Friday Concert
- 9: Movie Monday
- 13: Valentine's Father-Daughter Dance
- 14: Valentine's Night To Remember
- 23: Movie Monday

### MARCH

- 6: First Friday Concert
- 7: Irish Fest
- 9: Movie Monday
- 13: Day Of Play
- 23: Movie Monday

SCAN OR CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL LINEUP:



**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

# First FRIDAY Concerts

Cue the lights and strike up the band because our First Friday Concert Series is back to kick off the New Year in style. Meet us at the Cultural Arts & Community Center every First Friday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. for feel good tunes, good company and a whole lot of rhythm. Pack your favorite snacks and sips or swing by a local restaurant for takeout before you find your seat. Tickets drop two weeks before each show, so keep your calendar close.

And the best part? Each concert doubles as a chance to spread a little kindness through our annual CAN-Do Food Drive. Bring a single serve, individually packaged food item and help us make some noise for a good cause. Check out the suggested items by visiting the QR code below. Let's make every First Friday a night of music, community and heart. Check out the lineup below and start planning your favorite show of the year.

## JANUARY 2 • 7 SHARP 9

7 Sharp 9 brings an energetic blend of pop, rock, jazz and blues straight from Atlanta. With original tracks featured on VH 1 and MTV, they deliver crowd pleasing performances at events of all kinds, from lively weddings to standout corporate celebrations.

## FEBRUARY 6 • THE RAINMEN

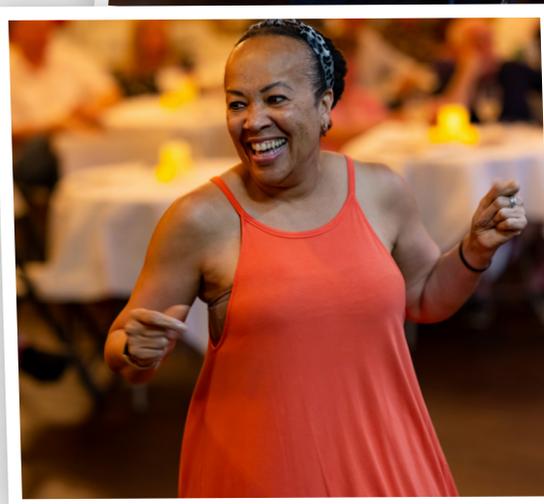
The Rainmen bring the best of the 60's and early 70's to life with spot on covers of legends like The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and The Doors. Their energetic shows spark instant nostalgia and get every crowd dancing, singing and soaking up the good vibes.

## MARCH 6 • THE GOLD STANDARD BAND

The Gold Standard Band brings the party with an electrifying mix of Motown, classic soul and Carolina beach favorites. This talented 8 piece group keeps crowds moving with smooth harmonies, big energy and nostalgic hits that turn every show into a feel good musical celebration.

## APRIL 10 • 80HD

80HD cranks up the nostalgia with a high energy blast of 80's new wave and dance floor anthems. Their electric stage presence and crowd favorite hits turn every show into a neon soaked party that keeps everyone dancing from start to finish.



SCAN OR CLICK  
HERE TO RSVP:



# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## KEEPING YOU CONNECTED IN 2026

A brand new year means brand new ways to stay engaged with your city, and Norcross has everything you need to stay in the loop. Whether you love scrolling social media, checking your inbox or popping into a meeting from your couch, we have a channel made just for you. Let's make 2026 the year we stay connected, prepared and fully plugged in to all the excitement happening right here at home.

Start with the basics by visiting [norcrossga.net/signup](http://norcrossga.net/signup) or scanning the QR code below to access every communication platform in one easy place. From newsletters to alerts, it is your one stop shop for staying informed all year long.

### NEWSLETTERS

Our newsletters are a resident favorite. If you enjoy the printed version, the digital edition is even better. Delivered to your inbox in English and Spanish, it keeps you updated wherever you are. And since you are reading this one now, you are already ahead of the game.

### WEEKLY EBLAST

Start each week with the Monday Eblast. It highlights concerts, movies, events and everything happening around town. It is a quick and easy way to plan your week and make sure you never miss the fun.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram is where all the fun lives. Follow @cityofnorcross for events, behind the scenes moments, dining finds and plenty of city vibes. Facebook is your go to for notices, meetings, sanitation schedules, outages and alerts. Together, they give you the perfect mix of fun and information.

### SEELICKFIX

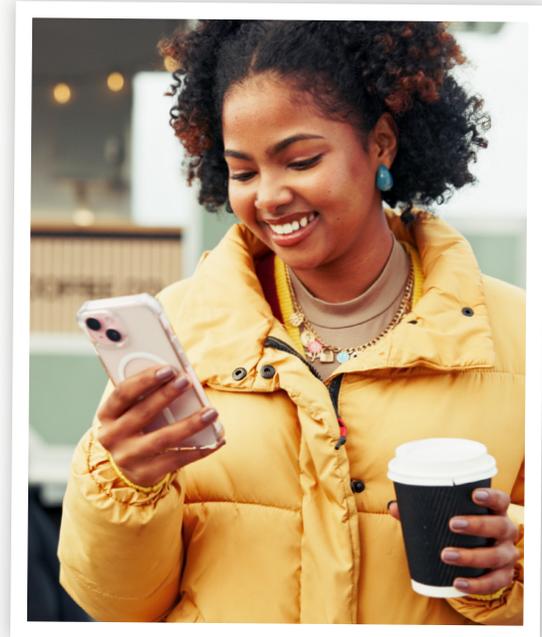
If you see a pothole, fallen tree limb, broken streetlight or anything that needs attention, report it through SeeClickFix. It takes only a moment and no account is required. It is the simplest way to help keep Norcross safe, clean and running smoothly.

### CIVICREADY

CivicReady is our fastest alert system and the quickest way to stay informed. Choose text messages or email to receive real-time updates on road closures, event changes, emergencies and more. You can even customize the categories you want so you only get the alerts that matter most to you.

### CIVICCLERK

CivicClerk makes it easy to follow city meetings. Explore agendas, minutes, livestreams and even sign up to speak, all in one convenient place. It is the best way to stay engaged with your local government.

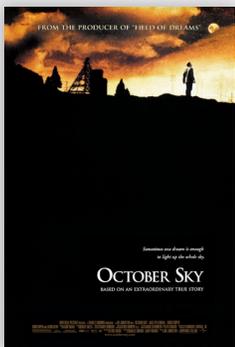


SCAN OR CLICK HERE TO SIGNUP:



# IN THE KNOW

## MOVIE MONDAYS



January 12  
October Sky



January 26  
Dead Poets Society

Lights, camera, action at the Cultural Arts & Community Center! Catch a free flick **every 2nd and 4th Monday**, complete with light refreshments to sweeten the show.

With screenings at **1:30 and 6:30 p.m.**, it's double the movie magic. Grab your popcorn, claim your seat and get ready for a reel good time!



## A GREENER GATEWAY

Back in December, Norcross celebrated more than holiday cheer. Residents, staff and elected officials gathered to unveil the brand new front entrance at the Johnson Dean Forest Preserve, and the energy was as refreshing as the forest itself.

The preserve's story goes back to the early 2000's, when the city purchased the property using federal grant funding aimed at protecting natural spaces in urban communities. Soon after, local volunteers transformed the sewer right of way into an inviting walking trail, giving everyone a peaceful slice of nature close to home. In 2016, the Tree Preservation Board became the forest's official stewards, and from there, years of care, planning and improvement brought this entrance project to life.

The newly revealed entrance impressed everyone at the ribbon cutting. Guests enjoyed seeing the beautifully restored well and wellhouse, now brought to life with a vibrant wildlife mural by the Norcross Public Arts Commission. The site features a permeable-paved driveway with four marked parking spaces, a new retaining wall, fresh fencing and improved access for visitors. Updated signage helps guide and inform guests, while thoughtful landscaping, native plantings, river rock swales and rain gardens work together to manage stormwater and protect the natural environment.

The result is a warm, eco-friendly welcome into one of Norcross' most cherished natural spaces. It blends beauty, sustainability and accessibility, all while honoring the forest's roots and future.

If you have not visited recently, now is the perfect time to explore the Johnson Dean Forest Preserve's new entrance and rediscover the charm of this beloved urban forest. In Norcross, nature is not just preserved, it is proudly celebrated.

## ARTS IN ACTION

In 2026, the Norcross Public Arts Commission is bringing a little extra magic to town with the White Squirrels of Norcross project. The city's beloved white squirrels will soon come to life as thirteen bronze statues with a snowy white patina, placed throughout Norcross as part of a playful art hunt. Residents helped inspire the project by sharing name ideas and squirrel sightings, and NPAC will be posting updates as the sculptures make their journey from Atlanta to Utah and eventually home to Norcross.

Over the holidays, the community also got creative with NPAC's Acorn Decorating Contest. A big thank-you goes to everyone who participated and to Savage Pizza for proudly displaying the artwork for all to enjoy. Designs ranged from Picasso-inspired masterpieces to festive reindeer and Frosty the Acorn. Residents who want to bring a piece of Norcross art home can purchase a limited-edition acorn or squirrel sculpture made of durable, weatherproof marble composite. Acorns are available for \$200 and squirrels for \$800. To order, contact NPAC at [npac@norcrossga.net](mailto:npac@norcrossga.net).

And don't forget to take a second look at the "Greetings from Norcross" mural which welcomes a new face for the New Year. The beloved artwork recently gained a new addition when Clara Nesbit, a cherished teacher and women's suffrage advocate, was added. Known as "Miss Clara", she taught at the Norcross school for black students and worked with the League of Women Voters. The updated mural can be found on the side of Savage Pizza along Wingo St., proudly honoring another inspiring figure from Norcross history.

These highlights are just a teaser of the exciting things ahead, and the Norcross Public Arts Commission looks forward to a bright year filled with creativity, community pride and even more art that sparks joy throughout the city.



## ROUGH DRAFT ATLANTA DELIVERS NORCROSS NEWS THIS SPRING

Coming this spring, you can look forward to a fresh new way to receive city news with the arrival of Rough Draft in Norcross. The monthly newsletter you're reading now will look a little different in the coming months. Instead of being included with utility bills, the printed newsletter will still arrive straight to your mailbox but will now be distributed through Rough Draft Atlanta as part of a new partnership.

Rough Draft's Reporter Newspapers are free, monthly community publications mailed directly to homes and available at key businesses throughout the area. Rough Draft currently produces monthly newsletters for cities such as Brookhaven, Sandy Springs, Tucker and more and now proudly brings coverage to Norcross. Rest assured, the City of Norcross monthly newsletter will continue to provide all the important stay-in-the-know information you rely on, including city updates, events, improvements, notices and more.

Printed newsletters will continue to arrive in mailboxes at the beginning of each month. Digital versions will also remain available, and residents can sign up to receive the digital newsletter at [norcrossga.net/signup](http://norcrossga.net/signup) or directly through Rough Draft Atlanta at [roughdraftatlanta.com/newsletters](http://roughdraftatlanta.com/newsletters). We're excited about this new partnership and look forward to continuing to keep you informed!



# SUSTAINABILITY



## TIP OF THE MONTH



REDUCE



REUSE



RECYCLE

Did you know glass is a recycling superhero? It's 100 percent recyclable and can be transformed again and again into brand-new bottles, jars and even fiberglass. In Norcross, all glass bottles and jars such as wine bottles, beer bottles and pasta sauce jars can be dropped off at Public Works at 345 Lively Ave.

Just remember, glass cannot go in your curbside bin in Norcross. Keeping it separate helps protect our single-stream recycling from contamination and ensures everything can be properly processed. Waste Management accepts glass bottles and jars only, so items like wine glasses, plates, bowls or broken glass should not be placed in curbside recycling. When in doubt, drop it off or throw it out to help keep our recycling stream sparkling clean!

**For more information on recycling, visit [norcrossga.net/sustainability](http://norcrossga.net/sustainability).**

## TREE TALK

*By Charlie Riehm, Tree Preservation Board Member*

Norcross is home to a rich variety of trees that shape our parks, streets and neighborhoods. Each one tells a story, offers cooling shade, helps clean our air and adds beauty to our city. Now the Tree Preservation Board is inviting residents to help honor the trees that make Norcross unique by nominating a favorite tree for the new Distinctive Tree Registry.

Is there a towering oak you pass on your daily walk, a historic tree used as a landmark or a striking Japanese maple that always catches your eye? Maybe you know a tree with a fascinating backstory, one that has been a gathering spot for generations or a special species that brightens your own yard. Whatever the reason, the Tree Board wants to hear about it.

The Distinctive Tree Registry will spotlight some of the most notable trees in town and help raise awareness of their ecological, aesthetic and historical importance. To nominate a tree, simply share the location, species if known and a short note about what makes your tree stand out. Email your submission to [treeboard@norcrossga.net](mailto:treeboard@norcrossga.net) and a member of the Tree Board will follow up and do their best to meet with you.

Your nominations will help create a living catalog that celebrates Norcross' natural heritage and encourages tree canopy stewardship for years to come. Submit your nomination today and help recognize the trees that make Norcross truly special so these living landmarks can be cherished and protected for future generations.

## EMPOWERING LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS

The City of Norcross Economic Development Department is excited to partner with Prospera, an organization dedicated to helping entrepreneurs build strong, successful businesses through bilingual services that save time, reduce costs and provide personalized guidance. Together, we aim to expand economic opportunity and support a thriving business community in Norcross.

As part of this partnership, residents and local business owners are invited to a free Prospera Business Orientation on Monday, January 13 at 10:00 a.m. at Iglesia Pentecostal Roca Sólida, located at 6855 Jimmy Carter Blvd, Suite 2250. This Spanish-language session is a great opportunity to learn how to start or grow a business, covering essential steps such as licenses and permits, state requirements, financing options and the many ways Prospera can assist through consulting, training and valuable resources.

**To attend, please RSVP to [Jmina@norcrossga.net](mailto:Jmina@norcrossga.net). Whether you're launching a new venture or strengthening an existing one, this orientation will equip you with the tools and confidence you need to thrive in Norcross.**

# HOLIDAYS

IN NORCROSS

Celebrate love all month long in Norcross. Whether you're twirling the night away at a father-daughter dance, snuggling up for a dreamy carriage ride or enjoying delicious date-night specials at our cozy local restaurants, there's something for every heart. Check out the lineup below and come make unforgettable memories as we share the magic of Valentine's season in the heart of Norcross.

## FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

February 13 • 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Cultural Arts & Community Center

Celebrate the cherished bond between fathers and daughters at the Valentine's Father-Daughter Dance, a night filled with twirls, laughter and memories to hold onto forever. Enjoy dancing, delicious treats and a few magical surprises. Tickets are \$35 per pair and \$5 for each additional daughter. Stay tuned for ticket dates!

## NIGHT TO REMEMBER

February 14 • 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Downtown Norcross

Enjoy a romantic evening filled with charm, from dreamy carriage rides and vow renewals to complimentary photos and cozy dinner specials. Whether you are celebrating with your partner, enjoying a girls' night or treating yourself, it is the perfect way to make Valentine's memories.

Plus, participating downtown businesses are spreading the love all weekend long with special deals and sweet surprises. Whether you are looking for romantic dinner specials, unique shopping offers or the perfect little treat to make your Valentine's weekend magical, we have you covered.



## NORCROSS GALLERY & STUDIOS

Now - January 10

### 'Designs In Flowers' Exhibit

Norcross Gallery & Studios presents 'Designs In Flowers', on display now through Saturday, January 10. Designer Melanie Sheldon created five stunning seasonal floral arrangements, which member artists reimagined in vibrant, colorful works. This exhibition celebrates the beauty of each season and the creative talent within the Norcross arts community.

Now - January 31

### Artist Of The Month

Artist of the Month Anne Labaire is showcasing her beautiful semi-abstract and semi-realistic paintings at 45 South Café now through Monday, January 5. For the rest of January, the café will also feature selected photos from the popular fall photography exhibit. Stop by to enjoy the artwork and support local creativity.

January 15 - February 7

### 'Driven To Abstraction' Exhibit

Norcross Gallery & Studios kicks off the new year with 'Driven To Abstraction', on view Thursday, January 15 through February 7. The exhibition showcases bold abstract works by member artists in a wide range of styles, media and color. Visitors can also enjoy a special reception on Sunday, February 1 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. to meet the artists and experience the show up close.

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

## THE LIONHEART THEATRE COMPANY

Lionheart Theatre Company is raising the curtain on an exciting new year, ready to bring even more local entertainment to the community while proudly supporting the arts. Whether someone wants to audition, join a theatre camp or simply sit back and enjoy a show, there's a place for everyone. From comedy to drama and everything in between, audiences can explore the full 2026 season lineup now available on the Lionheart Theatre Company's website.

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

# HOLIDAY DAY OBSERVANCE

Friendly reminder! Please note that City Hall will be closed on Thursday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day and will reopen with normal operations on Friday, January 2. Sanitation and recycling services will not operate on Thursday, January 1 and will be delayed by one day, with collection moving from Friday to Saturday.

Additionally, City Hall will also be closed on Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and will resume operations on Tuesday, January 20. Sanitation and recycling services will operate on their regular schedule that day with no delays. Thank you for your understanding, and we wish everyone a safe and happy start to the New Year!



## JANUARY 1

New Year's Observance, City Hall Closed

## JANUARY 2

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

## JANUARY 12

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

## JANUARY 19

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observance, City Hall Closed

## JANUARY 26

Movie Monday: Dead Poets Society, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m., Cultural Arts & Community Center

# REAPPLY AND CLAIM YOUR HOME SAVINGS

On November 4, 2025, Norcross voters approved a local ballot measure to increase the city's homestead exemption beginning with the 2026 tax year. New City of Norcross homestead exemption amounts effective in 2026:

- **Homeowners under age 65 as of January 1, 2026:**  
The exemption increases from \$9,000 to \$45,000
- **Homeowners age 65 or older as of January 1, 2026:**  
The exemption increases from \$18,000 to \$90,000

### Do I need to reapply?

Most Norcross homeowners do not need to take any action. If you already have a homestead exemption on file with Gwinnett County and or the City of Norcross, your city exemption will be automatically updated to reflect the new amounts.

### Senior homeowners age 65 and older

Additional guidance will be shared in the coming days to clarify eligibility. The city's senior homestead exemption is separate from Gwinnett County and Board of Education senior exemptions, but most eligible residents will not need to reapply.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the City of Norcross Finance Department at 770-448-2122 or [taxes@norcrossga.net](mailto:taxes@norcrossga.net).



Scan to get the Spanish Newsletter!

¡Escanee para recibir le boletín en español!