



A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NEWSLETTER • MARCH 2026

IRISH FEST

March 7 • 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Downtown Norcross

Feeling lucky? Irish Fest is back and bringing a full day of Irish cheer, lively entertainment, and hands-clapping fun. The City of Norcross, in collaboration with the Historic Norcross Business Association and the Drake School of Irish Dance, invites you to celebrate with live music, high-energy dance performances, face painting, balloon twisters, food and plenty of Irish spirit.

New this year, show off your luck and creativity in the Leprechaun Costume Contest, with a prize awarded for the best look. The crowd-favorite Irish Jig Contest also returns with adult male, adult female and kids categories.

Plus, sip your way through the fun with Afternoon Teas To Go, offered by Taste of Britain. Tea boxes must be reserved in advance. Reserve your tea box, then pick it up on Saturday, March 7 between 1:00–5:00 p.m. at the tent on Skin Alley. It's the perfect pairing for a festive afternoon. Sláinte!



**SCAN OR CLICK
HERE FOR
INFORMATION:**



Mayor: Craig Newton • **Mayor Pro Tem:** Bruce Gaynor
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 MAKES ROAD RESURFACING A PRIORITY

Smooth, safe streets are essential to a strong community, and in 2025, the City of Norcross made road resurfacing a top priority. With 41.2 miles of city-maintained roadway, keeping pavement in good condition is one of the most visible and important services the city provides. That's why Norcross has made a major investment in resurfacing efforts over the last two years, and crews are now finishing up this latest round of paving work.

Since June 2024, the City has resurfaced 71 roads, improving 21.4 miles of pavement—approximately 52% of all city roads. This large-scale investment helps extend the life of existing streets, improves ride quality for residents and visitors and supports long-term maintenance planning.

A Multi-Phase Effort with Big Results

Norcross's resurfacing work has been completed in phases to maximize efficiency and funding opportunities:

- 2024: 23 roads resurfaced (7.1 miles)
- 2025 Phase 1: 29 roads resurfaced (9.8 miles)
- 2025/26 Phase 2: 19 roads resurfaced (4.5 miles)

In total, the program represents an \$8.9 million investment in roadway improvements. Grants covered \$3.3 million, bringing the city's share to \$5.6 million. The majority of the resurfacing costs were funded through Transportation SPLOST, supplemented by grants. This combination allowed the city to accelerate improvements while responsibly managing local resources.

How Roads Were Selected

The city used a data-driven process to ensure resurfacing dollars were spent where they were needed most. In May 2024, an independent contractor completed a Pavement Condition Analysis to assess roadway conditions across Norcross. Roads were then prioritized based on that analysis, starting with streets rated in poor condition, followed by those in fair condition.

Timeline: From Start to Finish

Repaving began in June 2024 and continued through October 2024, then resumed in August 2025. The city's resurfacing work is concluding, with final paving and closeout activities wrapping up now.

What's Next in 2026

Road resurfacing will continue in 2026, guided by the pavement condition analysis and available Transportation SPLOST funding. Norcross is committed to investing in infrastructure that residents rely on every day, because better roads mean a better community for everyone.



IN THE KNOW



March 9
Grumpy Old Men



March 23
Spectre

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!

NORCROSS WELCOMES NEW COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER



Julie Brechbill joined the City of Norcross on January 12, 2026, as its Communications Manager, bringing more than 25 years of experience in public-sector communications, media relations and digital storytelling. Prior to joining the City of Norcross, she served as Communications Director for the City of Roswell for more than two decades, leading a 10-person team and overseeing citywide communications strategy, community engagement, crisis communications and executive counseling.

Julie's background includes extensive experience in social media, brand management, video production, publications and traditional media relations. Earlier in her career, she led Palm Beach County's government television station, directing a 19-member team and coordinating communications and media coverage during major events, including the 2000 presidential ballot recount and the anthrax attacks following 9/11.

She holds a B.A. in Journalism from Eastern Illinois University and an M.S. in Organizational Leadership from Colorado State University. Julie has been recognized nationally, including being named a 3CMA Communicator of the Year, and has earned multiple Savvy and Silver Circle awards.

The City of Norcross is excited to welcome Julie to the team and looks forward to the impact she will make in this role. Her experience, leadership and passion for community storytelling will play an important part in strengthening connections and sharing the stories that make Norcross such a vibrant place to live, work and visit.

First FRIDAY Concerts



Kick off the month with **live music, good vibes and your neighbors** at the First Friday Concerts! Bring your own snacks or grab takeout from downtown favorites. It's the perfect way to enjoy a night out, celebrate community and start the month on a high note. Check out the lineup below!

March 6 • 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Cultural Arts & Community Center

Kick off March with the First Friday Concert—featuring **The Gold Standard Band!** This 8-piece powerhouse serves up high-energy Motown, classic soul and Carolina beach vibes that'll have you dancing, singing and smiling all night. Tickets are live—grab yours before they're gone!

April 10 • 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Cultural Arts & Community Center

April's First Friday Concert features **80HD**, Atlanta's ultimate high-energy tribute band, bringing the best of 80s new wave and dance hits to life. With infectious energy and crowd-favorite classics, they'll have everyone dancing all night. Tickets go live Friday, March 27—don't miss out!

DAY OF PLAY

March 12 • 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. • Lillian Webb Park

Get ready for a Day of Play! The City of Norcross and Live Healthy Gwinnett invite you to a free, action-packed time full of games, activities and laughter. Grab your closed-toe shoes—it's your chance to run, jump, play and make new friends!

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED AT FIVE NORCROSS RAILROAD CROSSINGS

Construction is now complete on a set of pedestrian improvements at five railroad crossings in the City of Norcross, making it safer and easier for people to walk across the tracks.

This project was driven by safety concerns. Before work began, there were no clearly defined sidewalks or marked pedestrian crossings at these locations. The new improvements create more visible, accessible routes for pedestrians and help better separate foot traffic from vehicle movements near the tracks.



The project included pedestrian-focused upgrades at the following railroad crossings: Rowan St., Autry St., Holcomb Bridge Rd., Park Dr.-Jones St. and Langford Rd. Work consisted of new concrete sidewalk connections, curb and gutter, brick pavers, crosswalks, updated drainage structures, striping, along with grading and erosion control.

The total project cost was \$508,643, funded through the city's Transportation SPLOST program. Construction took approximately four months to complete.

A key factor in delivering this work successfully was the extensive coordination required around an active rail corridor. The city appreciates support and collaboration from Norfolk Southern Railroad, which helped ensure the improvements could be completed safely and efficiently. These upgrades are part of Norcross' continued commitment to improving walkability, connectivity and safety for residents and visitors, especially in areas where pedestrians and trains intersect.



NORCROSS ACHIEVES PLATINUM RECERTIFICATION AS ARC GREEN COMMUNITY

The City of Norcross has once again been recognized as a leader in sustainability, earning Platinum-Level recertification through the Atlanta Regional Commission's (ARC) Green Communities Program.

The voluntary certification program honors local governments that implement innovative policies and practices to reduce environmental impact, protect natural resources and enhance quality of life for residents. Norcross's continued commitment places the city among an elite group of communities across Metro Atlanta recognized for sustainability leadership.

Norcross earned certification points for a range of initiatives that demonstrate long-term environmental stewardship, including:

- Transitioning to energy-efficient LED street lighting, saving an estimated \$50,000 annually in energy costs.
- Developing Discovery Garden Park, a hands-on outdoor learning space where residents of all ages can explore gardening, beekeeping and nature.
- Partnering with communities along the Buford Hwy. corridor on a regional Safety Action Plan to improve walking and biking conditions across a 13-mile stretch from Brookhaven to Norcross.
- Implementing land stewardship and ecological landscaping practices city-wide, through native plantings, landscape enhancement installations, green infrastructure projects, an award winning pollinator garden at City Hall and urban forest management at places like Johnson Dean and Pinnacle Park.
- Engaging Norcross High School seniors in sustainability-focused capstone projects for the past five years, including recent improvements to the city's sustainability webpage.

The City of Norcross remains committed to building a future that is environmentally responsible, economically vibrant and community focused.

COUNCIL APPROVES UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE UPDATES

Council approved amendments to the City of Norcross Unified Development Ordinance at the February Regular Council Meeting, affecting supplemental regulations and CX (community mixed use) and BH (Buford Hwy.) zoning districts.

Key changes include:

- Clarifying regulatory authority by removing district-specific language that referenced the Comprehensive Plan as a development compliance standard, reinforcing that development standards and approvals are governed by adopted ordinances.
- Requiring a Special Use Permit for multifamily residential (removing multifamily as a use "by right") to provide added oversight and help ensure compatibility with district character and surrounding context.
- Adding Supplemental Standards to multifamily and mixed-use development.
- Updating density bonus incentives to improve consistency in interpretation and administration and to establish explicit caps on total allowable density bonuses for residential-only and mixed-use development.
- Additional updates in other sections were approved to clean up and clarify ordinance language for easier understanding.



LIONHEART

THEATRE COMPANY

THE LIONHEART THEATRE COMPANY

March 13 - March 29 • 'Dearly Beloved'

Get ready to laugh out loud! Lionheart presents the hilarious Southern comedy 'Dearly Beloved' by Jones Hope Wooten. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors, students and military, with dessert included at intermission. Performances run Fridays and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2:00 p.m. and plus a special Saturday matinee on March 28.

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

NORCROSS GOES NUTS FOR ART: HELP NAME OUR BRONZE SQUIRRELS!

This spring, 13 bronze squirrel statues are scampering into Norcross as part of the White Squirrels of Norcross project, and we need your help naming them! We've collected tons of creative suggestions from the community and have narrowed it down to finalists for the first three squirrels. Now it's your turn to vote for your favorites before they move in and start "frolicking" around Betty Mauldin Park, Thrasher Park and Lillian Webb Park.

To vote, visit the NPAC page on norcrossga.net, follow Norcross Public Arts Commission Instagram, @norcross_publicartscommission or find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/norcrossartsfor](https://www.facebook.com/norcrossartsfor) for the voting link. Voting is open through March 31.

And while you're out squirrel-spotting, keep an eye out for NPAC's new light box vinyl wraps! You'll see them at 10 intersections across the city, featuring digitally enhanced photography, local icons and student artwork. Themes include parks, cultural celebrations, filming, jazz, trains, splash pad fun and more. We're turning everyday utility boxes into mini art exhibits. See you out there, and happy hunting (and voting)!



SCAN OR CLICK
HERE TO VOTE



NORCROSS DISCOVERY GARDEN PARK TURNS TEN

Can you believe it's been nearly 10 years since Norcross Discovery Garden Park first opened? This special community garden has been growing curiosity (and a whole lot of plants!) since October 22, 2016 and yes, opening day even included a visit from Walter Reeves, the Georgia Gardener.

Over the years, the garden has become a favorite spot for Norcross residents and visitors to learn about organic gardening, check out hands-on demonstration projects and enjoy a peaceful break in the middle of the city. What started as a shared idea has truly blossomed into an eco-friendly community space built through teamwork, volunteer spirit and neighborhood support.

Help us celebrate!

We're planning anniversary activities that will look back on how far we've come, and where we're headed next. It'll be a chance to connect with fellow gardeners, supporters, community partners and friends, with a special gathering focused on reflection, fellowship and a little well-deserved recognition.

We'd love for you to be part of it as we celebrate the past, enjoy what the garden is today and keep building an even greener future together. Stay tuned for updates, and if you have questions (or want to get involved), reach out anytime at dgp@norcrossga.net.

TREE TALK

Protecting trees is only the first step. Communities like Norcross face the bigger challenge of ensuring the trees we save today remain healthy and beneficial for decades. Trees don't thrive in isolation. Even preserved mature trees can weaken over time if soils are compacted, drainage is poor or roots lack space. Often, trees fail because the conditions that supported them were lost.

The focus is shifting from mere tree protection to long-term tree performance. Healthy soils, adequate root space, water and oxygen access and compatible surroundings are critical for trees to continue providing shade, cooling, stormwater management and beauty. Planning for the future is essential. Mature trees will eventually age out and without foresight, neighborhoods risk sudden canopy loss. Supporting the next generation through proper planting, care and placement is as important as protecting existing trees.

This holistic approach strengthens the community's commitment to trees. By focusing on the conditions that allow trees to grow, adapt and endure, Norcross ensures today's preservation efforts result in tomorrow's shaded streets, healthier waterway and livable neighborhoods. Thriving trees require more than protection—they need care for the places they call home.

ROUGH DRAFT ATLANTA BRINGS NORCROSS NEWS TO YOUR MAILBOX

You're reading the first edition of the City of Norcross Newsletter in its new format. Through our partnership with Rough Draft Atlanta, city news is now delivered in a refreshed, community-focused publication. While the look and distribution have changed, our commitment to keeping residents informed and connected remains the same.

The printed City of Norcross Newsletter is now distributed through Rough Draft Atlanta rather than included with utility bills. Rough Draft's Reporter Newspapers are monthly community publications mailed directly to homes and available at key businesses throughout the area. Rough Draft partners with cities such as Brookhaven, Sandy Springs and Tucker, and we're proud for Norcross to be part of that network.

You can continue to expect important updates, event information, improvement projects, public notices and more each month. Printed newsletters will arrive in mailboxes at the beginning of the month, and digital versions remain available.

Residents can sign up for the digital newsletter at norcrossga.net/signup or directly through roughdraftatlanta.com/newsletters. We're excited about this new chapter and look forward to continuing to keep you informed.



NEW PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING TAKING SHAPE

Norcross's new Public Safety Building is quickly taking shape, bringing a modern, purpose-built facility for the Police Department and Municipal Court.

Rising on the site of the former Norcross Library at Buford Hwy. and Stevens Rd., the 42,252-square-foot facility is beginning to look like the architect's original vision. Framing is nearly complete, exterior brickwork is underway along Buford Highway and windows are scheduled for installation. The project team expects the building to be "dried in" (weather-tight) within the next four weeks. Progress is also visible behind the building, where a portion of the secured rear parking lot has been paved.

When complete, the building will include approximately 2,600 square feet of public-facing meeting space, along with more than 4,000 square feet of unfinished space reserved for future needs. The project remains on schedule for mid-August completion.

A great way to see how far we've come: check out the side-by-side images in this issue, an architect rendering from last year next to a recent photo taken from the same front entry view.

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFO



SAVE THE DATE



April 4 • 10:00 a.m & 1:00 p.m. • Rossie Brudage Park

Hop into spring with an Easter Egg Hunt! Enjoy a fun-filled adventure for all kids, plus an Egg-stra Special Needs Egg Hunt designed for children with special needs. Bring your baskets, smiles and get ready for egg-citing surprises!

April 11 • 8:00 a.m & 12:00 p.m. • Norcross Public Works

Join us for our Neighborhood Cleanup & Recycling Day, a seasonal event making it easy to do your part. We accept single-stream recyclables, glass bottles and jugs, electronics, scrap metal and more.

April 18 • 5:00 - 10:00 p.m. • Betty Mauldin Park

Get ready for a “berry” good time at the Bluesberry Beer & Music Festival! Enjoy blueberry treats, refreshing drinks and soulful blues music, plus special deals around town—dance, sing and grab your “blue” fix with friends!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



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Movie Monday: Spectre, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m.,
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Scan to get
the Spanish
Newsletter!

¡Escanee para
recibir le boletín
en español!