

HISTORIC Norcross Newsletter TIMES

Publication for the Historic Norcross Georgia Area · November/December 2011 · Number 52

WINTER IN THE CITY

By Tixie Fowler

As the seasons alter the natural canvas of our community, so do they change the landscape of local events. Instead of picnic blankets and outdoor concerts, neighbors gravitate to the warmth of indoors. Televised football and soccer practice takes precedence over a lazy afternoon in the park. Any free time is spent shopping for the holidays, going to parties and attending family get-togethers. Winter is a time when people connect in a different way than they do in summer; nonetheless, the sense of community remains strong in Norcross, enhanced by a vibrant calendar of ongoing events.

November 14th is the 4th Annual Toys for Tots Golf Tournament at Berkeley Lakes Country Club. This event kicks off the Marine's annual holiday drive in Gwinnett County. Last year, the Gwinnett drive collected over 715,000 toys; Marines handed them out to needy families and supported organizations throughout the entire metro Atlanta area. This golf tournament is open to everyone, regardless of handicap (it's a scramble) – to sign up for this year's tournament and support a gratifying cause, email tommcdermott@bellsouth.net.



November 12th is Date Night Downtown, offering grown-ups a last breather before the holidays hit. Enjoy dinner downtown, then stroll over to Lionheart Theatre, where Pearl Cleage's "Blues for an Alabama Sky" is on the playbill (for details, visit www.lionhearttheatre.org). Get a glass of wine and stroll through town – several shops will stay open until 8pm. The Vargas/Harbin Studio/Gallery will be open late, there's live music in 45 South Café and karaoke at the Iron Horse Tavern. Make it a date to unwind in the heart of our romantic old town.

The following weekend, the holidays officially commence! November 19th is the merchant's annual Holiday Open House, with seasonal merchandise glowing and glittering on shelves and in storefronts. Get a relaxing head start on your shopping, support our local businesses and save yourself the headaches of the malls. From 10am – 8pm, Norcross shops will be offering samples to nibble on as you wander through, door prizes and discounts and lots of other open house treats. There is beautiful jewelry in all price ranges, home accents, aromatherapy goods, art and an-



tiques and fabulous gift baskets. From hostess gifts to that "perfect something" for those you love best, downtown shops will offer a plethora of holiday choices.

Continued on page 6

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May The Best
Holiday Yards
WIN!!

Calling all festive fanatics – let's make Norcross shine this year for the winter holidays! For Christmas and Chanukah, a holiday panel will jury the best and most creative front yards, looking for angels, stars and wondrous lights. Categories are Best Overall, Most Creative, Best Religious, and Best Traditional. Set your stage for a beautiful holiday – the judges will be out on December 10th. Prizes go to the winners in each category, so pull the stops, hit the decor aisles – let's make outdoor Norcross a holiday place to imagine!

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Join us in this very important mission to save the Historic Norcross Times Newspaper. Make your check payable to the "Norcross Times" and mail to the following address: Norcross Times, PO Box 741, Norcross, GA 30091.

By Gordon C. Tomlinson

The Vote To Enforce The Ban On Dogs In Our City Parks

At the July 11, 2011, Mayor and Council Meeting, our Norcross City Council voted 3-2 to enforce an existing ordinance (Chapter 30 Parks and Recreation, Paragraph 18) banning dogs from our city parks. Councilmembers Charlie Riehm, Craig Newton, and Ross Kaul supported enforcement of the ordinance and Councilmembers Andrew Hixson and David McLeroy opposed same. Within several days after the vote, the city removed all pet stations throughout our downtown area and parks in lightening speed.

To Council's surprise, the city received unwelcomed media attention on the Metro Atlanta television channels, in the local papers, and on internet blogs. I was informed by a city official that the city received numerous complaints about "messes" being left behind and that the city's goal is to keep the parks clean when residents attend concerts and other events in which people will be sitting on the grass.

Surprisingly, several weeks ago, another city official informed me that dog poop in our parks is simply not an issue, but was used to promote enforcement of the ban. He stated that he has no problem with dogs in our parks and would like to aggressively pursue habitual violators who fail to clean up after their pets. A city resident was quoted as saying, "The key point here is Norcross is promoting itself as an active, pet friendly community that wants to attract people with similar views. The 'Creative Class' that we've been discussing for several years now are looking for active and vibrant communities that promote walkable outdoor activities that encourage, and don't exclude, their pets. To discourage this is actually a vote against the type of future development we're trying to promote and these types of policies would have a negative economic impact on downtown redevelopment."

A blogger wrote, "I don't know much about Norcross' growth plans but, if you're looking to encourage higher densities throughout or in certain parts of your city, public accommodations for pets is key...If you're looking to use density to offer more affordable housing options or appeal to other market segments, banning pets from parks is about as counterproductive as you can get."

With good reason, the City of Norcross promotes itself as a "dog-friendly" town and if you attended the Norcross Art Festival this past weekend, the number of dogs present could easily be estimated in the hundreds. So it is that responsible dog owners and dog lovers alike who frown upon those Councilmembers who voted to enforce the ban on dogs in our city parks.

By Bill Barks

Way To Go Edna!

The "Atlanta British Car Fayre" reached new heights again this year! With over 200 of the most wonderful British cars you will ever see, terrific entertainment and a Norcross Chamber of Commerce day that was the best and biggest ever. Crowd estimates are around 8000 people from all over the metro area came to our wonderful downtown. Our thanks go out to a wonderful lady and one of Norcross' most prominent businesswomen--Edna Berkshire for another job well done!

CONGRATULATIONS ART FEST COMMITTEE!

We at the Norcross Times want to congratulate the entire Norcross Art Fest Committee in general and Art Fest Managers Francis Schube and Cindy Flynn in particular for a super job! Your group has grown this project over the years from humble beginnings to the first rate annual event that makes us all proud to live in Norcross. Crowd estimates run as high as 60,000 people who came to Norcross to see the over 180 participating artists wares. Our special thanks go to the host, the City of Norcross, who in turn were ably co-assisted by hundreds of volunteers. The entire committee put in many hours of hard work and it sure showed! Again, a special thank you goes to Francis and Cindy for their leadership and great results.

HERE ARE MY TWO "HOT BUTTON'S" ISSUES

1. Although new construction has come to a stand still, the City of Norcross in the past has approved a substantial amount of infill and high-density development most of which were town homes. I believe Norcross already has more than enough town homes that are already built. Therefore except in the downtown area and per the LCI study, I believe when construction starts up again, we should only approve and build single-family detached dwellings.

2. A number of our Norcross citizens especially on the east side of Buford Highway feel the City ignores their complaints and problems with roads, traffic, services code enforcement and crime. A "tour" of the east side of Norcross is hardly reassuring. An LCI study was done a couple of years ago concerning the East side of Norcross, and it had some wonderful ideas! --it should be "dusted off" and used to kick start a plan for our east side by the new Council and Mayor.

**GET OUT
& VOTE!!**

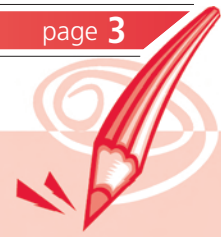
This election is a very important election for Norcross. There are many important issues that will be decided by the next Council and Mayor. Norcross' future depends on our leaders making good and proper decisions that have been fully and openly discussed, debated and then decided upon. To insure that our great potential is achieved, we as voters need to make informed and wise choices. Enclosed in this edition is an insert on the candidates that are running. This insert needs your careful attention and consideration. When you have completed that task - you then need take that all important next step - get out and VOTE!!

By Chuck Paul

Happy Birthday to the Norcross PDC

As we move towards 2012, the Norcross PDC will be celebrating its 10th year of keeping our citizens informed as to what is going on in our community. These include current events of all sorts: political, educational, and cultural. We have had numerous guest speakers in the last year including now U.S. Congressman Rob Woodall, State Senator Curt Thompson, Captain Brian Harr of the Norcross Police Department and many others. The PDC has grown into a must attend event for those who are able to spend an hour on any given Wednesday at the 45 South Café. Our meetings begin at 8:15AM and generally last about an hour.

Beginning in 2012 we will have a new chairperson for our group and our search is going on as this article is being written. I have been proud to have chaired the PDC for the last three years. In an earlier Norcross Times article I wrote about how important it is for all of our volunteer groups (Art Fest, Tour of Homes, and Norcross Arts Alliance) and others to have folks in the wings that are ready, willing and able to serve in keeping Norcross-A Place to Imagine. Let's keep the volunteerism moving in an upward direction!



HISTORIC CITY OF
Norcross
Newsletter
TIMES



Publisher:
Bill Barks
770-449-4419
wgbarks@aol.com



PDC Chairman:
Chuck Paul
770-446-0590 ext.106
chuck.paul@a-closer-look.com



Ad Chairman:
Julie Barks
770-490-6184
wgbarks@aol.com



Graphics:
Ines Kuhn
404-486-8996
ines@ineskuhndesign.com

The Norcross Times Newsletter is printed by:
Alphagraphics@Peachtree Corners
5952 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Suite 16
Norcross, GA 30071

Editorial Policy: Editorial and Opinion articles reflect the views of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Progressive Development Committee (PDC), the publisher of the Norcross Times Newsletter. Articles are accepted for consideration by e-mail to the editors or in letter form to PDC P.O. Box 741, Norcross, GA 30091. All articles must be signed. Deadline for submission is the fifth day of months February, April, June, August, October, and December for publication the following month.

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By Tixie Fauler

A Face of the Law

At this year's Norcross Police Appreciation banquet, a young woman with soft blond curls and an open, friendly smile took the stage, applauded by an enthusiastic audience of Norcross residents, officials, family and fellow officers. She was being recognized as 2011's "Officer of the Year," an award bestowed by the popular vote of her peers in the Norcross Police Department (NPD).

An NPD detective, Beverly Parnell has not only earned the respect of her fellow officers, she has done so while maintaining a grueling academic schedule. In 2006, Ms. Parnall began law school at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School in downtown Atlanta, graduating in 2010 with a Juris Doctorate (law degree). In 2011, she passed the Bar Exam and was sworn in by a Gwinnett County Superior Court Judge in June, 2011. Today, in addition to being a full-time NPD detective, Ms. Parnall has also started her own law practice (The Parnell Firm, LLC) in a part-time capacity, handling general civil matters and family law. She is also currently studying for the Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) test.

"For four years, classes were usually 3 nights per week until 9:30pm in Atlanta so there were a lot of late nights and then early mornings to be back at Norcross for work," Parnall reflected. "But I think being a police officer helps give me the confidence to deal with all the challenges I face in the courtroom since I already know that I can handle the pressures I face every day on the police force."

Ms. Parnall's law enforcement career began with the NPD as an intern in 1999, while she was also earning a BS in Criminal Justice from Georgia State University. After graduation in 1999, Norcross hired her as a patrol officer



Mayor Bucky Johnson presents Detective Beverly Parnell with "Officer of the Year" award at 2011 Police Appreciation banquet.

Photo courtesy of Charlie Harbin

and sent her to the police academy where she graduated with honors. "I have worked a variety of positions here at Norcross," Parnall explained. "I've worked as patrol officer, dispatcher, evidence custodian, records, detective, and officer in charge and have assisted with our CALEA accreditation."

Currently a full time Detective with the NPD, Parnall handles white collar cases which includes forgery, identity theft and fraud, as well as sex crimes and crimes against children. "A lot of times police work is not pretty and usually does not highlight the good side of people so trying not to become cynical is sometimes a full time effort," she commented. "But I find this work satisfying and, most days, rewarding personally even if no one else notices what I did that day."

The evening of the appreciation banquet, the respect and camaraderie of her fellow officers was evident. Dallas Stidd, Norcross' Chief of Police, expressed his pride in her achievements both professionally and academically, saying that she "managed to do it all with an unwavering dedication, exceptional work ethic and a positive attitude." What was especially impressive to many of the women in the room is that she earned these accolades in an environment not traditionally populated by many females.

"It's not easy being in a profession dominated by men," admitted Parnall. "I have just done the work required and worked hard. This is a profession that attracts alpha males who don't always think women are up to doing the job as well as they can. The challenge is earning their respect so that they trust your abilities. After observing me in various situations, my co-workers realized I am someone who can absolutely help them when they need it, regardless of the situation."

Beverly's warm smile and easy laugh are a sharp contrast to the seriousness of the Kevlar vest and gun she wears to work each day. The NPD continuously qualifies as one of the top 1% of the 5% of all law enforcement agencies in the United States; within that group, Beverly shines as an example of the outstanding men and women who have sworn to protect the Norcross community.

Terry Flemming, senior pastor at the Norcross First United Methodist Church, perhaps said it best when he spoke to the officers present at the Police Appreciation dinner that evening:

"When you put on your uniform and you step into your role as a public servant, you stand for something bigger than yourself... you stand for us, all of us, for our community. You stand for the rule of law, which sets us apart from the animals. You help to hold us accountable to standards higher than any one of us. You stand for order and authority in a world that more and more often forgets how important those things are. You stand on the front lines for us, on that thin blue line that holds back the flood tides when nothing else will. When we see you we breathe easier and we sleep better, because we know that somebody is on the side of what's right."

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By Sean Matthews

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A Patron can be an individual, group of individuals, club or business. Be creative and join your friends & neighbors in becoming a Patron. You can also name a special person as a Patron. For example: In Honor of a special teacher or In Memory of a loved one. For a \$100.00 donation, beginning with the Jan/Feb issue of the Norcross Times, your name will be listed as a Patron of the newspaper for the next year.

Make a difference in your community. Join us in this very important mission to keep the Historic Norcross Times Newspaper alive and well.

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By Charlie Riehm

The Arts in Norcross Keep Growing...

What a smashing success our Art Fest was! Another record crowd of over 60,000 art enthusiasts shopped for fine art objects, enjoyed music and a wide variety of food in gorgeous weather, and continued to enhance Norcross' reputation as a destination for the arts.

The success spilled over to the "Chairs for Charity" event run by Arlene Beckles and sponsored by the Norcross Arts Alliance (NAA). This fundraising event for our nine local schools raised \$2,400, almost double the 2010 total! This is the first time that all the items, which also included 8 mailboxes plus more adult chairs and bar stools, received bids and were sold! But much of the success lies in the appeal of the event to both kids and adults. The kids came up with innovative themes like Harry Potter, Zebra in 3D, Butterfly in Seat, Crayola/Book, and Rainbow Mailboxes, and there were hugs and squeals from the student artists when they saw how high the bids were! One patron even wrote a "Thank You" note for an artist and attached a journal, and another wants more information on how to work with some of the student artists. And one child told Arlene that, after this experience, she was going to enter the arts curriculum at Norcross High! Thanks to the teachers, principals, student artists and friends that came out and mingled with the crowd both Saturday and Sunday.

We also held our first Literary Arts Venue in Heritage Park during the Art Fest. This is a new series of hour-long literary events that combined storytelling, published authors reading excerpts from their books, writers and poets talking about their creative works, and historians and longtime Norcross residents sharing personal insights on local history. Based on the popularity of this type of event in other art festivals and of the book-signing series here in Norcross, we plan for this celebration of literary art to become a popular annual event.

The Norcross Arts Center (aka "The Nest") had a well-attended soft opening September 24th. It is now a very attractive gallery and store, so drop by 17 College St. any Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday between 10am and 4pm to meet Lori Sturgess, Director of The Nest, enjoy the unique art in the center, and hear what she has planned for the coming months. We'll have another preview event for local folks in early November, and the Grand Opening will be next January. That will be followed in the spring by the contest for four artists to do original paintings on the electric utility box covers around Lillian Webb Park, as mentioned in the last issue. Look for the Call to Artists sometime soon!

Kudzu Art Zone sponsored their third local exhibit of fine photography October 14-29 as part of the city-wide Atlanta Celebrates Photography show. Many Kudzu members had their work accepted in this show. This adds yet another successful dimension to the art experience in Norcross!

The Norcross Arts Alliance (NAA) is now in its third year in its efforts to raise the cultural level in the greater Norcross area. We are very pleased that we have been able to sponsor some innovative events, art contests for local schools, public art, and most recently opening of The Nest in the old rectory across from city hall. NAA has also learned to appreciate the many ways that art contributes to a community, including enhancing our quality of life, economic development, and particularly improving stu-



dents' grades and overall education experience. So NAA asks you to please vote YES on November 8th to renewing the 1% SPLOST sales tax for education. With federal and state funding being cut, these funds are critical to maintaining the high level of education we have achieved in Gwinnett County and ensuring that education in the arts is adequately funded in every curriculum.

Continued from page 1

By Tixie Fowler

WINTER IN THE CITY

If you have family in town for Thanksgiving, why not treat them to a post-turkey day in downtown? On Friday and Saturday, The Shops of Antique Traditions and others will be open until 8pm. Take a break from turkey leftovers - the restaurants will be open, and downtown will be festive with holiday décor and music.

The following Friday, December 2, is the official opening of SPARKLE! Historic Norcross' annual celebration of the holidays. It begins in Thrasher Park at 7pm, when the towering limbs of the community Christmas tree will burst into color and light. Santa will be on hand, and a horse-drawn carriage will carry visitors throughout the historic district. All month long, the city will herald the holidays with music, carriage rides, Santa sightings, teddy bear teas and cultural arts activities. On December 10th, the City Cemetery will gently glow in the annual Celebration of Lights, a time when the community gathers to light hundreds of candles in memory of those who have passed. The ceremony will begin at approximately 5:30 pm (don't be fooled by the total eclipse that day).



Various groups in the community will be celebrating Chanukah and offering Christmas pageantry, as well as rewarding opportunities to reach out to families in need. Once again, the Norcross First United Methodist Church will be offering free gift wrapping - they have Chanukah wrappings, too! Folks are encouraged to "bring all of your gifts" to Gordon Tomlinson's law office at 15 S. Peachtree Street on December 16th from 6pm - 8:30pm, and again on Saturday, December 17th between 10am - 5pm.

SPARKLE! continues through December 22nd, keeping weekdays and weekends brimming with holiday energy. For a complete schedule of what is happening around town, visit www.aplacetoimagine.com. Be sure to look under "Community Happenings" as well as on the home page calendar.

As this article is being written, it is a balmy 80 degrees out - the golden fall sunshine making the idea of a holiday rush and the cold, gray winter seem far away. But those days will be here soon enough; with that in mind, on behalf of the City and the merchants in Downtown Historic Norcross, may you and those you love be warm and well and safe as 2011 draws to a close.

By Julie Barks

Christmas Ham

- One 8 ¾ lb ham
- 1 apple, cored and chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 ¼ cups cider
- 6 black peppercorns
- 1 bouquet garni
- 1 bay leaf
- about 50 cloves
- 4 Tbsp raw brown sugar

Put the ham in a large saucepan and add enough cold water to cover. Bring to a boil and skim off the scum that rises to the surface. Reduce the heat and simmer for 30 minutes. Drain the ham and return to the saucepan. Add the apple, onion, cider, peppercorns, bouquet garni, bay leaf and a few of the cloves. Pour in enough fresh water to cover and return to a boil. Reduce the heat, then cover and simmer for 3 hours 20 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 400 F. Take the saucepan off the heat and set aside to cool slightly. Remove the ham from the cooling liquid and, while it is still warm loosen the rind with a sharp knife, then peel off and discard. Score the fat into diamond shapes and stud with the remaining cloves. Place the ham on a rack in a roasting pan and sprinkle with the raw brown sugar. Roast in the oven, basting occasionally with the cooking liquid, for 20 minutes.

Serve hot or cold later.

Serves 8

Brussel Sprouts with Buttered Chestnuts

- 12 oz Brussel sprouts, trimmed
- 3 Tbsp. butter
- 3 ½ oz canned whole chestnuts
- pinch of grated nutmeg
- salt and pepper
- ½ cup slivered almonds, for garnish

Bring a large saucepan of salted water to a boil. Add the brussel sprouts and cook for 5 minutes Drain thoroughly.

Melt the butter in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the brussel sprouts and cook, stirring for 3 minutes, then add the chestnuts and nutmeg. Season with salt and pepper to taste and stir well. Cook for an additional 2 minutes, stirring, then remove from the heat. Transfer to a warm serving dish, then scatter the almonds over all and serve.

Serves 4

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If your bronze or copper piece is an antique, be sure you really want to remove any corrosion on it – sometimes that lowers the value. If you do want to clean the item, first carefully lift off any loose flakes of corroded metal. Then wash or soak it in buttermilk (use hot buttermilk on unlacquered bronze). Rinse and dry well.



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By Chuck Cimarik

Making Your Downtown the Best It Can Be

Credit where credit is due, so this article is all Jeff Hopper's doing – responsibility – fault. A year ago Jeff suggested to me that the best way to “get involved” in Norcross was to start showing up at the PDC meetings. Drinking Coffee on Wednesday with the People who attend this weekly update on all things Norcross at 45 South lead me a week later to a DDA (Downtown Development Authority) meeting. A morning meeting at which I, a guest, voiced opinions of skepticism and optimism on a project brought to the group's attention. Three months later I was selected to replace a board member whose term had expired. So back to Jeff, what a DDA does, and how the City of Norcross will always need volunteers to make sure the vision for our city is pursued and fulfilled.

It's my turn to do what Jeff did – offer an opinion and let someone know how to get involved in their community and find opportunities to affect our future. DDA's exist to support the vision and goals of a city. Here's the mission of the Norcross DDA, “...to encourage historic preservation, promote economic growth and revitalization; to correct and prevent deterioration of the Norcross Downtown district by working with public and private interests to obtain or develop the legal, monetary and organizational tools necessary for revitalization; to attract businesses to the downtown area which meet the needs of the community; to promote Downtown Norcross as an economically desirable place to live, work, and visit; and to improve the quality of life in Historic Norcross by providing a clean, comfortable, attractive and safe Downtown environment.”

But where do the ideas and actions to complete this mission come from? Who owns them? Whose are they? What are they?

The success of an all volunteer organization depends not just on the

leadership but also on the enthusiasm and energy of its members. There is clearly a vibe around Norcross – you can feel it at the events in Thrasher Park, during the youth games at Cemetery Field, and from the RockTenn lunch crowd that flows into our downtown every day. All of this is positive and the result of foresight and planning, yet at the same time I think we all see the questions; Annexation, Peachtree Station's City bid, and Parking to name just a few. The “what are we going to do?” and “how are we going to do it?” questions always get answered by those who give of their time and enthusiasm. Ask yourself; are you the type of person who enjoys being the “who” is going to get it done? If so then the DDA may be the place for you.

What do you see for Norcross? Have you ever read a business plan with an idea so original and so obvious you know you should have thought of it yourself? Do you want to? Have you ever helped a neighbor by holding a ladder for 20 minutes? Ever made friends with a Florida (UF) graduate...despite a proper upbringing and moral reservations? If your answer is yes, then the activities of the DDA might be right for you. DDA's exist to help cities implement their self created vision for strategic growth and economic development. The Norcross DDA can make loans, buy and sell land, and facilitate our economic growth and development in ways a City Council cannot, which is why the Georgia Legislature created them. The Norcross DDA is one of the Economic Development levers for our City Leaders to pull to realize the vision for Norcross. Times are not easy right now; the city's leaders and the DDA will wrestle with development and budget issues not seen in my lifetime. But it will be a terrific experience, which in the end gives me an opportunity to help my city, my neighborhood, and my new friends. If you're looking for the same type of opportunity, let a City Council or DDA member know – they (we) would be happy to talk more with you.

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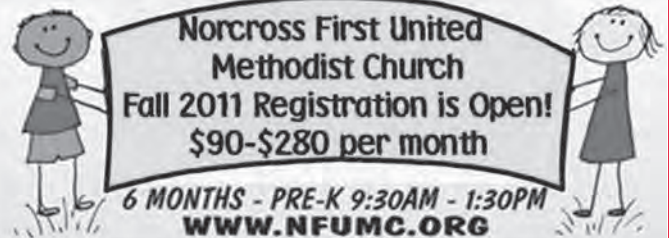
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CELEBRATING JOYFUL UNIONS

Edited by Edie Riehm

Civil War Diary of William Daly Burtchaell

The road home after the Civil War ended was a very long journey for many men – especially those in the South where railroad lines had been destroyed, leaving some only the power of their own two feet to propel them home. William Daly Burtchaell's recollections of his own odyssey reveal to us the awakening of his senses (e.g., the taste of bacon and corn bread, the blue of someone's eyes) in his newfound freedom after being imprisoned and malnourished for so long. War brings out the worst and sometimes the best of human nature and Burtchaell seemed to experience both in generosity from strangers and also greed from others trying to make money from men desperate for a meal or a place to sleep. While it is hard to believe that a hotel room would cost \$60 a day back then – especially when that same hotel let rooms for \$3 a day about 10 years later (info obtained from <http://vhs3.vahistorical.org/vhsimages/library/Broadsides/Broadside.1875.02.jpg>), it is true that inflation in the Confederacy soared during the war, upwards of 9000 percent largely due to structural issues within its government. (For more information on this subject see http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Speculation_During_the_Civil_War)

Many thanks to Michelle Morgan for allowing the Norcross Times to reprint excerpts from her ancestor's diary.

After The War On The Way Home

The morning that I was exchanged we came down the James River on a Yankee boat and stopped along side of a Confederate boat that had Yankee prisoners. The first thing I got on the Confederate boat was a piece of nice smoked bacon and some corn bread. I can never forget how it tasted after my long starvation.

On reaching Richmond I drew some money and went to the best hotel in the town, St. James Hotel on Main Street, where I paid sixty dollars a day. When meal time came I found a crowd gathered at the closed door of the dining room ready for a rush when it should be opened. I was never good at a scramble of that kind, so was among the last to enter. It was a fine large room with long tables set with plates, and on each was a small piece of bacon, an Irish potato, and a piece of corn bread about the size of an ordinary biscuit. There were no waiters or attendants of any kind and there was no use to call for one and no use to wait. Each man's supply of food was in his plate. They had no intention of listening to either complaints or requests. What I wonder at is that they did so well.

The next day I went to the office of General Ewell, who had the most beautiful eyes I have known any man possess. From him I obtained an order on all commissaries for rations and on all railroads and steamboats for transportation. By the time I reached home this paper was a curiosity fit for a museum. Every man I took it to stamped it until there were stamps on top of stamps and the original writing was illegible. It is a pity it ever was lost. With this in my possession, I went to take the train I found it crowded with sick and disabled men going home from prisons and hospitals. They were standing in the aisles and hanging on the outside and clinging to the roofs of the cars. My health was so bad that I could not stand such hardships, so I returned to the hotel, hoping for better luck the next day. But the next day it was the very same thing and I felt desperate. I took out a hundred dollar bill and walked along the train, offering it to any man for his seat. At last a man accepted my offer, but it took me something like half an hour to reach the seat, and there was a good deal of grumbling from the other men that he did not get off instead of taking up standing room, to which they considered he was not entitled. After all of this you can imagine my uneasiness when the conductor of the train came to examine my order and noticed the defect of a changed date. After hesitating a long time, he passed on, but returned to take another look at it, after which he returned it to me and troubled me no more.

That pass was no guarantee that I should travel by train all the way home. I soon found that I had a great deal of walking to do, for the railroads were badly torn up all over the country at that time.

I had a lot of new socks, and when my shoes began to gall my feet pretty badly, I just took them off, and when I wore out one pair of socks, I threw them away and put on another pair. But when I was nearing a town I sat down and put my shoes on so that I could walk through the town with some show of decency.

One day while I was sitting by the roadside putting on my shoes, a very nice lady rode by on horseback, and as she passed I could see that she was crying. I suppose that my condition was so miserable that she could not help it.

On my way I fell in with Captain Davis of North Carolina, though I do not know just where. We had been in prison together, and had been exchanged together. He was a very fine man, and we corresponded up to within a short time of his death. Well, we journeyed on until we came to the place where we must separate. Here he took out of his pocket book two five-dollar bills in greenbacks (I don't know where he could have got them) and offered me one. I refused it. I told him that I did not know that I would ever be with that much money again, and I was afraid I could not repay him. Then he wanted me to promise to go and live in his state.

I found a great difference in the people of North and South Carolina. In North Carolina they seemed to be afraid to do anything for me for fear that it might be found out by the Yankees and that they would be held responsible for it. They refused to let me sleep in their piazzas or their hay, and in one instance I remember I took my rations to a house and offered the cook half if she would cook them for me, but her mistress would not let her do it.

When I crossed into South Carolina I found things very different. One day I stopped at a house, where a very nice old lady came to the door. When I told her that I should like to spend the night, she told me that her sympathies were with the soldiers, but that she made a practice of asking for papers that would identify them as such. I produced mine, whereupon she invited me in and gave me a nice room and supper and breakfast. But being so travel-soiled and wretched, I could not bring myself to desecrate the clean white bed that she gave me.

When I reached Macon, Georgia I went to the office of Virgil Powers, an old friend of mine and one of the finest men that Georgia ever produced. While we were engaged in talk he dispatched his servant, for what purpose I did not know until his carriage drove up to the door, and out stepped his wife. Then nothing would do them but I must go to his house. And there nothing was too good for me; but fresh from the horrors and hardships of prison life, I felt so out of place in a clean, orderly house that again I wrapped myself in my blanket and slept on the floor.

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By Arlene Beckles

Young Artists Continue to Shine for Charity

The excitement and success of the Third Annual Chairs for Charity is still fresh on the minds of the many talented students from the Norcross Schools Cluster. Their imaginative designs truly exceeded the expectations of the Norcross Art Fest organizers. When the producers of Art Fest asked the board members of Norcross Arts Alliance to grow the popular program for 2011, the non-profit organization was up for the challenge. A website "www.Chairs-forCharity.org" was created by the business students of Norcross High School to drum up enthusiasm.

All nine schools in the cluster participated this year. Arlene Beckles, Co-chair of Chairs for Charity and a Norcross Arts Alliance board member said "just visiting the students while they were hard at work painting was a threat for me and reinforced my belief that I am doing the right thing for the students." She said that several fifth graders made her smile as she heard them say that "someone was actually going to bid on my chair and this was motivating me to want to help people." These wonderful remarks were what made Beckles keep plugging away at the project. She is a true dynamo and an amazing ambassador for the Norcross community. Beckles said that she was fortunate to have a wonderful partner, Andi Biron, this year to help organize the colorful school activity.



Georgia Clark, a Norcross High School student, was the artist behind the most popular chair this year – a Harry Potter masterpiece. Not only did the chair have the mystic Harry Potter design on the seat, but its legs looked like brooms. Clark has expressed interest in furthering her studies in art. Another stunner this year was a zebra in 3D that was created by the Fifth Grade Art club of Norcross Elementary. A grandmother visiting Norcross to celebrate the birth of her grandson was the highest bidder on this black and white piece of art.

New additions this year were metal mailboxes that were donated by local Norcross subdivision, Hunter Hall, which hoped the children would put them to good use. The students painted many fun designs including a spotted puppy and a colorful fish, but sunflowers seemed to be the favorite

among the schools.

Beckles hopes that she can be as lucky in 2012 and get 60 chairs donated again. She says that if this does not occur, her main focus will be to get each school sponsored by a company or business who can help purchase the chairs, mailboxes and art supplies.

For more information about the project and to sponsor a school for next year, please contact Arlene Beckles at apbeckles@yahoo.com.

All proceeds from this silent auction will go back to the schools that participated.



Norcross Garden Club

November Events: Both day and evening meetings for November will feature Floral Designer Josh Borden of Borden Design Group. Josh will be designing several beautiful arrangements that will be raffled off at the end of each meeting. Josh has spoken to the club in past years, and is a club favorite. Join one of the November meetings to get some awesome tips on flower arranging for the upcoming holiday season. You won't want to miss this very informative and fun meeting!

The evening meeting is **November 10th at 7pm, and the day meeting is November 14th at 9:45am.**

Meetings are open to everyone, so come out and join us.

You can check out Josh online at www.bdgblooms.com or visit the garden club website at www.norcrossgardenclub.org.

For more information email norcrossgardenclub@gmail.com.

The Norcross Garden Club is located at 33 College Street, Norcross 30071. The club is the yellow house across from city hall.



By Bob Smith

The Peachtree Corner Rose That Blooms For Charity

When a group of 19 ladies from the Peachtree Corners area decided to form a charity organization, the name nearly presented itself. As many of them are gardeners by avocation, including one Master Gardener, the Official Flower of the State of Georgia, the Cherokee Rose, noted for its beauty as well as its survival skills, seemed like a natural. Thus the Cherokee Rose Civic Association was born.

Likewise, the first opportunity for the group presented itself, or rather, herself, in short order. A number of the Cherokee Rose team met at the Robert D. Fowler YMCA, where all were familiar with Jan Nance, a beloved staple of the Y for the past 12 years.

After several years as a YMCA member, Jan ascended to water aerobics instructor in 2008. In August, she was diagnosed with uterine cancer, and subsequently received the news that her health insurance had reached the maximum payout.

Says Cherokee Rose member Louise Tittsworth, "Although Jan is pursuing financial assistance from hospital aid at Northside Hospital and emergency Medicaid, she is dealing with not only the terror of cancer, but the burden of not only facing where is the other money coming from."

Cherokee Rose sprung into action, and began to organize the "Upscale Yard Sale," a benefit to be held at the Fowler Y, from which 100 percent of the proceeds will go to Jan Nance.

While the benefit for Jan is the first for the group, they are actively involved in other efforts, as well.

Some club members volunteer in the media centers at Stripling. Others collect and donate items to the Norcross Cooperative Ministry.

Several have begun collecting gently used handbags and filling them with toiletries, with the intent to deliver them as gifts to local shelters in November and December. These are to benefit victims of domestic abuse who sometimes arrive at the shelter with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

Member Deb Harris has recently completed volunteer training with "Ahisma House a charity dedicated to helping the human and animal victims of domestic violence across Georgia reach safety together.

It is clear to all of the members of Cherokee Rose that there is no shortage of need in Gwinnett County for efficient, well-managed fund raising efforts. Like the eponymous flower, they are as determined as they are beautiful, and will climb any hurdle to accomplish their goal.

By Bill Barks

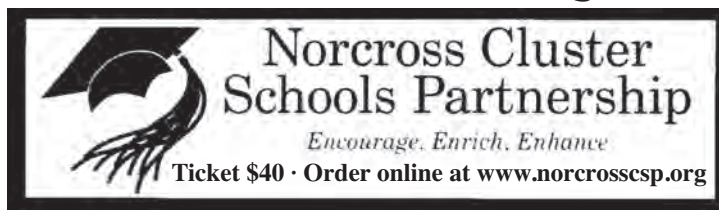
Happy 100th Birthday Evelyn!

Evelyn Fern Guinan Dray celebrated her 100th Birthday On September 13 2011. She had a wonderful Birthday party at her church, Norcross 1st Baptist surrounded by her family and many friends on September 10, 2011. Mrs. Dray was born in Montrose, Michigan on September 13 1911. She has lived and been very active in Norcross since she moved here in 1985. "Miss Evelyn" has 2 children, Patty Schuler of Norcross and Russell Dray of Woodberry, Tennessee as well as 5 grandchildren and 15 great-grand children. She was honored by Mayor Bucky Johnson and the Norcross City Council at the regular City Council Meeting held on October 3rd with a City Proclamation.



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A fundraiser benefiting



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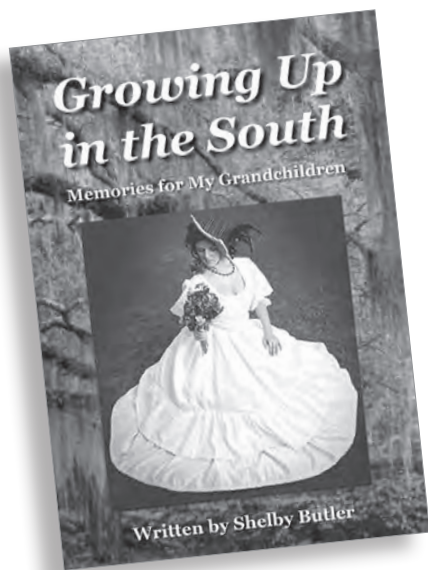
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By Chuck Warbington

Investing in our Future

How many times have you been late to a meeting, or missed a shining moment for your son or daughter and been forced to utter those all too familiar words- "Sorry, I was stuck in traffic." For many of us this is a frequent occurrence, and for many it has caused them to reevaluate their choice of a suburban life.

To some extent congestion is a positive reflection of the economic success this region has experienced. And nowhere is that a better reflection than right here in Gwinnett. For decades we have seen an influx of new citizens vying for amenities like a world class school and park system that have made this a great place to call home. Because of the growth in an educated populous, Gwinnett has seen success in attracting large corporations which help drive our economic vitality.

That same growth which has driven our economic success in the past now threatens our future. We've reached a tipping point where our levels of congestion have become such a drain on the quality of life that it begins to outweigh some of the other amazing benefits our communities offer. For decades, suburban growth has been fueled by the desire of families to have access to quality public schools and affordable housing options, and those benefits outweighed the cost of longer commutes. But with increasing congestion and ballooning commute times families are starting to take a second look at those assessments.

Next year, the citizens of Gwinnett and the entire Atlanta region will have the opportunity to shape their own future. A referendum will be held in the July primary asking citizens if they are willing to pay a penny sales tax for a defined list of transportation projects aimed at easing their traffic woes. I would encourage everyone to find out as much information about the list of projects as possible. All who are interested can visit www.atlantaregionalroundtable.com to find the full list of projects and additional details about the referendum.

There are positives and obvious costs associated with a referendum like this, but I have heard no one make the argument that this is not a problem worth solving. Ultimately Gwinnett voters will decide whether we stand pat and wait for disinvestment to solve the problem for us or if they invest in the future of their own community.



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Family Christmas Craft Workshop

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 7:00PM

"Dude, You Hear What I Hear?" | Children's Musical

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 7:00PM

"Salvation Created" | A Christmas Musical

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 7:00PM

"Dancing the Christmas Story" | Hispanic Christmas Pageant

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

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5:30PM Family-Friendly Service

7:00 & 11:00PM Candlelight Communion Service

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One Service at **11:00AM** in the Sanctuary

For More Information, Call 770-448-4142

By Sloan Roach

A Day Made Better

On Tuesday, October 4, 2011, two Norcross Cluster teachers were recognized by Office Max during their annual "A Day Made Better" event. The Norcross area honorees were Mr. Ken Almon of Norcross Elementary and Tracy Pelinsky of Beaver Ridge ES. These teachers were recognized for their performance in the classroom and their dedication as outstanding teachers. They each received a total of \$1,000 worth of classroom supplies, a teacher's chair, a color printer, and numerous supplies and materials.



Norcross ES Principal Dora Hill helping to surprise Mr. Almon and his students when the Office Max team arrived to recognize the Norcross ES teacher.

ALL Norcross Cluster Schools Earn ENERGY STAR Rating...

A review of schools in Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) recently earned 111 of Gwinnett's 117 eligible schools the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) ENERGY STAR certification for superior energy performance. Every single school in the Norcross Cluster received this certification. To achieve this recognition, each of the schools had to perform in the top 25 percent of K-12 schools nationwide for energy efficiency and meet strict energy efficiency performance levels set by the EPA.

To be rated "top performing," the facilities had to have an energy performance score of 75 or higher— Gwinnett's average score was an impressive 86. As impressive is the fact that top performing ENERGY STAR certified schools cost less to operate than the average performers. With more than 21 million square feet ENERGY STAR certified, GCPS leads the nation for K-12 certified building space, saving \$8.4 million annually systemwide.

Two Norcross Seniors Recognized as 2012 National Achievement Scholarship Program Semifinalists

The National Achievement Scholarship Program, founded to honor and provide scholarships to academically promising Black American students, annually recognizes high-performing high school seniors.

Norcross High

Kristopher A. Beauchamp

Anthony A. Morgan

Peachtree ES Teacher Recognized as Semifinalist for Gwinnett County Teacher of the Year

Cathy Clements Kreimer of Peachtree Elementary-- 5th Grade Teacher

SPLOST IV: November 8 Ballot Item

Since the 1997, Gwinnett County Public Schools has benefitted from a special purpose local option sales tax, or SPLOST, for education. Since 1997, SPLOST has provided GCPS students with thousands of needed classrooms in 46 new schools and dozens of school additions, as well as technology improvements that are essential to world-class teaching and learning.

The current SPLOST for schools, SPLOST III, will expire June 30, 2012. Recently, the Gwinnett County Board of Education approved asking voters to keep the one-cent SPLOST for another five years. The extension of the current SPLOST will appear on the November 8, 2011, ballot. Key facts regarding this SPLOST:

Anticipated revenue of \$876 million (By law, Buford will get \$17.1 million based on their student enrollment, leaving GCPS with \$858.9 million.) Projects include 5 new schools, 1 bus facility, and 9 additions and renovations. Also included is air conditioning for all middle and high school gyms and all elementary activity buildings, along with all kitchens that currently do not have air conditioning.

Significant technology upgrades including retrofits for all schools and infrastructure support and digital content to expand the walls of the classroom and make learning more engaging and relevant to today's world.

Facility improvements to address preventive maintenance that has been postponed due to budget cuts (roofing, painting, carpeting, etc.)

This is not a new tax, but rather an extension of the current sales tax.

If approved, what's in SPLOST IV for the Norcross Cluster? Go to the school system's web site www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us for a cluster listing and additional information about the education SPLOST.

*Thank you to Norcross for supporting
the 2011 Taste of Norcross!*



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Kiwanis Club of Norcross

A civic organization dedicated to serving the children of Norcross and the world. Meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 8:00 am at the Community Center. Contact Derek Lawson at (770) 995 4069.



Lions Club - A Pride of Lions

Meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Lions Clubhouse on Price Place in Norcross. Contact Verne Boucher at 770-623-1343.



Masons

Masonic Lodge #228 meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, with fellowship at 6:30 pm and lodge at 7:30 pm, at 67 S. Peachtree Street in downtown Norcross. Contact Bill Barks at 770-449-4419.



Norcross Business Association

A promotion and networking organization of businesses and individuals, meets at 6:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. For more information please visit www.norcrossbusinessassociation.org.



Norcross Garden Club

Meets the second Monday of each month at 10:45 am, and the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm, in the clubhouse at 33 College Street. Contact Carol MacGregor at 770-840-9250.



Norcross Neighbors

A networking, social, and informational organization, meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Community Room in NC City Hall, 65 Lawrenceville St. Contact Sean Matthews at 404-803-2785.



Norcross Woman's Club

65 N. Peachtree St. Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Contact Elaine Williamson at 770-448-4352.



The Order of the Eastern Star

Chapter #426 meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm at Norcross Lodge #228, F&AM, at 67 S. Peachtree Street downtown Norcross.

Progressive Development Committee



A volunteer group offering service for the betterment of Norcross, meets every Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. at 45 South Cafe, 45 South Peachtree St, downtown Norcross. Contact Chuck Paul at 770-446-0590 ext. 106 or at chuck.paul@a-closer-look.com.



Rotary International

Meets every Monday at 12:00 noon at the Carlyle House, 173 Carlyle St., Norcross. Contact Carolyn Collins at 770-300-0246.

Save Historic Norcross



A non-profit community service group organized to preserve, protect, and promote the city's historic and natural assets, meets first Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m., 141 S. Peachtree St. For more information, visit www.savehistoricnorcross.com or call Anne Webb at 770-734-9924.

City Meeting Locations

City Hall Council Chambers First Floor
Mayor and City Council

City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room
Council Policy Work Session
Council Regular Work Session
Downtown Development Authority
Economic Restructuring and Design Committee
DDA Promotions Committee
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NOVEMBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 City Court 9:00, 10:30 a.m. Lions Club 7:00 p.m. Masonic Lodge 7:30 p.m.	2 PDC 8:15 a.m. City Court 9:00, 10:30 a.m. Save Historic Norcross 12:30 p.m. Health Talk with Dr. Hogan 6:45 p.m.	3 DDA Meeting 8:00 a.m.	4	5	6
7 NC Garden Club 9:45 a.m. Rotary Club 12 Noon Regular Work Session 6:00 p.m. Mayor and Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	8 Election Day Polls open 7a.m. - 7p.m. Planning and Zoning 7 p.m.	9 PDC 8:15 a.m. City Court 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Health Talk with Dr. Hogan 6:45 p.m.	10 NC Garden Club 7:00 p.m. CID Meeting 7:30 p.m. 5855 Jimmy Carter Blvd Eastern Star 7:30 p.m.	11 Veterans Day City Holiday	12	13 Mayor Lillian Webb's Birthday
14 Rotary Club 12 noon Architectural Review Board 6:00 p.m.	15 City Court 9:00, 10:30 a.m. Lions Club 7:00 p.m. Masonic Lodge 7:30 p.m.	16 PDC 8:15 a.m. City Court 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Health Talk with Dr. Hogan 6:45 p.m.	17 Kiwanis Club 8:00 a.m. Welcome Center	18	19	20
21 Rotary Club 12 noon	22 NC Business Association 6:00 p.m. NHPC 6:30 p.m.	23 PDC Meeting 8:15 a.m. Health Talk with Dr. Hogan 6:45 p.m.	24 Thanksgiving Day City Holiday	25 City Holiday	26	27
28 Rotary Club 12 noon	29	30 PDC Meeting 8:15 a.m. Health Talk with Dr. Hogan 6:45 p.m.				

DECEMBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 DDA Meeting 8:00 a.m.	2 Carriage Rides 6:30 - 9:30p.m. Santa Arrives 6:30 - 8:30p.m. Tree Lightening Thrasher Park 7p.m.	3	4
5 Rotary Club Meeting 12:00 noon Regular Work Session 5:30 p.m. Mayor & City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	6 City Court 9:00, 10:30 a.m. Lions Club 7:00 p.m. Masonic Lodge 7:30 p.m. Carriage Rides 6:30 - 9:30p.m. Santa 6:30 - 8:30p.m.	7 PDC 8:15 a.m. City Court 9:00, 10:30 a.m. Save Historic NC 12:30 p.m. Health Talk Dr. Hogan 6:45 p.m. Carriage Rides 6:30 - 9:30p.m. Santa 6:30 - 8:30p.m.	8 Norcross Garden Club 7:00 p.m. CID Meeting 7:30 p.m. 5855 Jimmy Carter Blvd Eastern Star Meeting 7:30 p.m.	9 Carriage Rides 6:30 - 9:30p.m. Santa Arrives 6:30 - 8:30p.m.	10 Candles in the Cemetary 5p.m. Old City Cemetary	11
12 Rotary Club Meeting 12:00 noon	13 City Court 9:00, 10:30 a.m.	14 PDC Meeting 8:15 a.m. Health Talk with Dr. Hogan 6:45 p.m. Carriage Rides 6:30 - 9:30p.m. Santa 6:30 - 8:30p.m.	15	16 Carriage Rides 6:30 - 9:30p.m. Santa Arrives 6:30 - 8:30p.m.	17	18
19 Rotary Club Meeting 12:00 noon	20 City Court 9:00, 10:30 a.m. Lions Club 7:00 p.m. Masonic Lodge 7:30 p.m. Carriage Rides 6:30 - 9:30p.m. Santa 6:30 - 8:30p.m.	21 PDC Meeting 8:15 a.m. Health Talk with Dr. Hogan 6:45 p.m. Carriage Rides 6:30 - 9:30p.m. Santa 6:30 - 8:30p.m.	22 Kiwanis Club 7:00 a.m. Welcome Center	23 City Holiday	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day
26 City Holiday	27 Norcross Business Association 6 p.m. NHPC 6:30 p.m.	28 PDC Meeting 8:15 a.m. Health Talk with Dr. Hogan 6:45 p.m.	29	30	31 New Years Eve	

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NORCROSS CITY OF FESTIVALS

NOV 12 DATE NIGHT DOWNTOWN

NOV 14 4TH ANNUAL TOYS FOR TOTS GOLF TOURNAMENT

NOV 19 DOWNTOWN MERCHANT'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

DEC 1-21 **SPARKLE!** DOWNTOWN HISTORIC NORCROSS FOR UPDATES, PLEASE VISIT
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* CARRIAGE RIDES - TUES. WED. FRI. 6PM - 9PM

* TREE LIGHTING 7PM, SANTA ARRIVES 6PM - 8PM, THRASHER PARK, **DEC 2**

* CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS, CITY CEMETERY, **DEC. 10**
COME LIGHT CANDLES WITH US BEGINNING AT 5:30PM

* CHANUKAH CELEBRATION & MENORAH LIGHTING, **DEC. 20**, THRASHER PARK

For a complete list of events and schedule info,
please visit www.aplacetoimagine.com



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