

HISTORIC Norcross *Newsletter* TIMES

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By Tixie Fowler

Annual Historic Norcross Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks Show

The most spectacular event this summer is the **Annual July 3rd Celebration**, hosted by the city and the Norcross Business Association. This year, the date falls on a Sunday - festivities begin at 3pm in Lillian Webb Park with the appearance of "Housebroken", billed as Atlanta's premiere rock and roll party. 4pm kicks off family fun throughout downtown with pony rides, train rides and lots of great food (and don't forget you can always dine at one of our local restaurants!) At 7:00, "Kid Brothers" takes the stage in Lil-

lian Webb Park, playing the best of 60's, Soul, Motown, 80's and Classic Rock. Bring a blanket, chairs and a picnic and stake out your spot for great music, family fun and of course, an awesome fireworks display at dusk. If you wish to rent a table at the concerts, now's the time to do so - it's first come first serve and they go fast, so don't wait to reserve your space by emailing

Rip Robertson at crobertson@norcrossga.net.

The following weekend is another event that is fast becoming an annual favorite. It's the **BluesBerry Festival**, a funky combination of authentic blues music and fresh blueberries. Downtown shops and restaurants will have blueberry specials on hand, plus you can buy them fresh picked from local farmers. This year's band lineup includes Atlanta legend Stony Brooks & The Hooch, playing sets full of original tunes and swinging covers that pull fans to their feet. A full moon party at every show - it's a jitter bugging swing dance where everybody boogies. They'll be followed by T-Grease Johnson, another totally fabulous blues band that will keep the cool vibe going until 11pm. Bring your chairs and grab a spot outside the Iron Horse Tavern - we'll have the bands up on Al Karnitz' flatbed truck making music that'll keep downtown on its blueberry toes!



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By Bill Barks

ANOTHER GREAT CAR SHOW!

We at the Norcross Times want to congratulate the entire Norcross Car Show committee in general and Dodger De Leon in particular for yet another terrific Car Show. The downtown and Thrasher Park looked just great with 267 wonderful cars and 8000 visitors. As always the music was well just great and - I could understand the all words they sang. The Car Show committee's hard work resulted in donations of over \$14000.00 to several worthy causes. I sure hope this continues to be our annual May "flag ship event" because it has earned and deserves our full support. Personally it makes me very all proud to be from Norcross and have neighbors like the Car Show committee and Dodger. All in all it was just a super job- very well done!

By Ross Kaul

Norcross Has A Plan

Recently, I was asked if Norcross had a plan in place for disasters - man-made or natural.

The good news is that we do have such a plan in place. Norcross Police Capt. Brian Harr and I talked about our Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) as he leafed thru the documentation showing our detailed plans. We discussed how quickly this plan may be turned on with our Incident Command Structure (ICS) presently in place. Multiple levels of Incident Command certifications are in place for municipal levels personnel. Chief Dallas Stidd and Capt. Clay Thompson, the officer coordinator, along with Capt. Harr each have a specific place to be and function to perform in the event of an emergency operation.

All sworn and civilian personnel have access to the police department Emergency Operation policies from the servers; supervisors have access to back up disc. Early alerts are a critical part of the EOP. We use the Nixle.com notification system to send out alerts via email and text messages to your cell phone. Norcross maintains an early warning siren that is silently tested by an on duty Communications Officer (three times daily) and monthly (3rd Saturday) with an audio test. A well designed EOP is flexible. For example, it is difficult to have a specific site predetermined as a community emergency shelter. If that site is damaged or becomes inaccessible; the plan must have the flexibility to allow emergency personnel to relocate emergency shelter quickly. Gwinnett County (GEMA) consistently updates with our system organization.

However, for our community to be completely prepared, the burden falls on each of us to be ready. The Red Cross offers the following three steps for preparedness - Get a Kit, Make a Plan and be informed.

You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone immediately. This means having your own Kit with food, water, first-aid supplies, battery/solar powered weather radio (I use Eton FR-600 with hand crank and flashlight), medications, duct tape, blankets and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least three days. You could get help in hours, or it might take days. In addition, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage and telephones may be cut off temporarily.

Something else to consider that your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to Plan in advance: how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and how you may respond to different situations. Share your mobile phone numbers with family/friends that will be concerned. Identify an out-of town contact. It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family and friends.

Be informed - Emergency preparedness is no longer the sole concern of earthquake prone Californians or those who live in "Tornado Alley". Preparedness must also take into account man-made emergencies as well as natural disasters. Knowing what to do during an emergency is an important part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.

Yes, Norcross is prepared; let us be sure we are individually prepared for that unwanted emergency! Please take time to visit the Red Cross web page - www.redcross.org.

By Chuck Paul

Volunteering in Norcross - Let's keep it going

In January of 2006, our company, A Closer Look, Inc., purchased a building near downtown Norcross. I took this opportunity to investigate the inner workings of Norcross and what makes it work. Was Norcross the kind of place that I wanted to become an integral part of and if so, to what extent. As an outsider (I lived in Peachtree Corners at the time) I attended a couple of meetings where downtown parking, politics and other local issues were discussed. I began to attend PDC meetings at the coffeehouse (45 South) on an irregular and then a regular basis. After a year of meeting folks at various events (Arts Fest, Car Show, and Holiday Tour etc.), I was hooked! It was also easy to see that a small number of citizens did a large percentage of the volunteering for the various city events. I expect that this is true in many smaller cities like Norcross and don't get me wrong, many folks here do an incredible job of getting involved.

In order to sustain the enthusiasm that has prevailed in the past, it is critical that we not only pass the torch to others in the community but also do our best to get our younger folks involved so that the uniqueness of what is truly Norcross will prevail for years to come. If you have never volunteered for a city event, why not inquire as to how you can get involved? Ask a neighbor or someone that you know who has been involved in the past and dig in; my

guess is that you will find it not only a rewarding experience, but will help keep volunteers in the pipeline for the future.



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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

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By Rusty Warner

Positive Vision In A Tough Economy

Maintaining and growing a strong municipal business base is especially difficult in a down economy. To address this challenge in a creative and progressive manner, the City of Norcross hired Rusty Warner in 2010 as its Economic Development Manager. With several successful past business ventures in his portfolio, Mr. Warner knows firsthand the types of challenges business owners face; his entrepreneurial experience and versatile marketing skills bring a unique perspective to the city position.

"Rusty serves as a liaison between the City and our existing businesses, also focusing on potential business investors and developers," explained Norcross' City Manager, Rudolph Smith. "In addition, he works directly with entities like the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), Norcross Development Authority (NDA) and the DDA Downtown Manager, plus is an advocate for Norcross with county-level organizations including the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, the Community Improvement District (CID) and any other group directly involved with promoting growth of the local economy."

In the nation's current economic environment, many developers and potential entrepreneurs are sitting back until they perceive an upward turn. Mr. Warner sees this lull in development as an opportunity to market the city to outside entities and strengthen relationships with local businesses. "By getting businesses involved in their community, it not only generates a sense of pride, it also means better retention and a better chance of attracting new businesses," he commented. "People want to work in a positive, attractive environment that attracts good employees. Norcross offers that sense of community, with lots of great opportunities to grow."

In the early 70's and 80's, and even throughout the 90's, the City of Norcross attracted a number of industrial pockets around its perimeter. According to Mr. Warner, a number of these centers are now either empty or semi-vacant; therefore, identifying more economically feasible ways to use the available space is one of his goals. His strategy includes identifying creative ways to re-use the space and he aggressively markets these sites to businesses looking for new property. By partnering with the

city's public relations and marketing department, Mr. Warner implements a pro-active effort that includes creative marketing collateral, meetings with groups of potential stakeholders, and opportunities for business owners to network. "We already have a really great town here," he commented. "It's a matter of getting the word out and getting other business owners to help create a buzz. Once we get people in to see Norcross and what it has to offer, it virtually sells itself. My job is to make business owners and developers aware of the community, and then get them the support and incentives they are looking for."

Because Norcross offers much in the way of public services and lifestyle, there is an ongoing interest in local opportunities in spite of a tough economy. Since Mr. Warner took over the position of Norcross' Economic Development Manager late last year, well over 100 new jobs have been brought into the city and several new businesses have become part of the local portfolio. The Mayor and City Council are constantly working on progressive approaches for maintaining and growing the city's economic strength, an effort which is enhanced by the experience and expertise Mr. Warner brings to the table.



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By Sean Matthews

Time To Overhaul Norcross Neighbors

On July 15, 2002, Norcross Neighbors, Inc. adopted its modified By-Laws. Since then, the organization's mission has not changed. Its purpose is to serve as a membership organization comprised of homeowners and organizations residing within the Norcross, Georgia, city limits; to serve as a communications link between and among its members, governmental, civic, and community entities; and to preserve and protect the integrity of Norcross, Georgia.

The primary method of communication for the Norcross Neighbors association is email. We use a commercial email platform to deliver our messages and securely house our subscriber database. We create and deliver an average of 20 messages a month delivered to more than 450 subscribers. Our open rate average in May was 36.6%. This is 69% better than the industry average of 17.8%. The citizens of Norcross are most interested in subjects that impact the community at large. Readers respond to subjects like:

- Water Requirements and Restrictions
- This Week in Norcross
- Burning Ban 2011

Though we have many more paying members than we did in 2007, meeting participation is down dramatically, with the exception of key topic meetings like the State of the City Address, Gwinnett County Commissioners Candidates Forum or the Norcross City Council Candidates Forum. To clarify, there are nearly 80 households paying annual dues and more than 450 communication subscribers, but the average organization meeting draws maybe 20 people. Understand, I'm not complaining, but something is clearly wrong with our current model.

One theory is that there are just too many organizations and groups in Norcross pulling from the same small pool of active citizens. Another theory is that when Norcross Neighbors was founded, there were a number of "hot button" topics bubbling to the surface of our community. During the years 2002-2007, there was significant debate and discussion around a num-

ber of issues. These included, but were not limited to, the following:

- Complete overhaul of elected officials
- Establishment of a City Manager
- The construction of a master plan for parks
- The elimination of the Marshalls' department
- Inconsistent leaf pickup
- Zoning for density
- Tree permits
- Buford Highway redevelopment

This is just a sampling of issues culled from archived meeting minutes and they range from the simple to the complex. Since most of these issues have been tackled over time, the argument is there are no "hot-topic" items to address. As a result we have little participation in meetings or the desire to create active committees to tackle notable problems.

At our last meeting, there was discussion surrounding the evolution of our organization and that we should consider embracing our original mission as a communications link and reduce the scope of the annual meeting calendar. This single conversation prompted me to secure a place for Norcross Neighbors on both Facebook and Twitter so our name could not be hijacked by a third party. I am hopeful that these new mediums will help facilitate a more active dialog and greater participation in issues affecting our community. I have not completed the profiles or posted any messages, but I will announce our presence once it is constructed. I will turn to you, our members, to actively contribute to our social media conversation.

This will afford legacy board members, paying members and those interested in the viability of the organization the opportunity to consider the future of Norcross Neighbors and prepare for elections in January 2012. Those elected from this year's nominations will shape the association for the next ten years.

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By Tixie Fowler

Chill Out

With This Hot Line Up Of Summer Fun!

What better way to survive the summer heat, than by unwinding at one of Norcross' "cool" summer events?! The best place to go for weekly happenings is the city events website, www.aplacetoimagine.com, where you can find details about the entire lineup of that month's activities - and don't forget to sign up for the weekly email reminder! In the meantime, here's a quick look at what's happening in July and August.

Every Tuesday, from 4pm – 8pm, it's the **Whistle Stop Farmer's Market**. . . .tomatoes, squash, peaches, watermelon and blueberries are just a few of the fresh crops that local farmers will have on hand this summer. National research has shown that shopping the farmer's market costs the same overall as going to the grocery store; because it's all grown or baked locally, it sure tastes better! Plus, there's live music, and free kids' activities until school starts back. . . .check out the Exotic Animals visiting on July 12 (come pet a real kangaroo!). For weekly activities and seasonal crop lists, visit www.whistlestopfarmersmarket.com.



Speaking of music, the **Summer Concert Series** continues through the summer with a super lineup including The Stephen Lee Band, The American Flyers, Departure: The Journey Tribute Band, and Almost Elton John & The Rocket Band. There's **Date Night Downtown**, offering a variety of bluegrass and jazz, plus activities like free salsa dancing lessons! "The Velveteen Rabbit" is on the **Lionheart Theatre** playbill from July 14 – 17, and of course, there's always something going on in the **Norcross Welcome Center**, as well as the downtown shops, galleries and restaurants. Live music, trivia, painting classes, history exhibits and art openings. . . small wonder that Downtown Historic Norcross was voted "Best Arts & Cultural Scene" in Gwinnett!

Stay on top of it all by visiting the city events website, www.aplacetoimagine.com. You can also sign up for weekly emails, or by becoming a fan on Face Book. It's all good and it's all happening in Norcross this summer.

By Charlie Riehm

The Arts in Norcross

Norcross continues to live up to its award as the "Best Arts & Cultural Scene" in Gwinnett! Lionheart Theatre continues to present excellent plays and Kudzu Art Zone has a full calendar of art exhibits and workshops. The Welcome Center continues to host new artists, the outdoor concerts are in full swing, and downtown the new Harbin/Vargas gallery is now open.

The Norcross Arts Alliance (NAA) Artist Showcase held a great classical music evening in May, and another showcase featuring the art of story-



rytelling is coming up in late summer. The Artist Showcases let audiences enjoy talent in various disciplines, with an open discussion format after each presentation. It's a great chance to learn about the artists: their craft, creative techniques and what inspires them. NAA is also planning to participate in the Art Fest in October, with the annual "Chairs for Charity" auction. A

new attraction is planned - a daylong series of performing arts presented in Heritage Park. This is the little shady park just in front of the College Street Playhouse that Lionheart Theatre calls home.

Meanwhile, next to Heritage Park, the city is refurbishing the old parsonage so it can be used again, this time as an arts center. Plans include monthly art shows and other events, a retail store, an arts and crafts gallery, and an "arts incubator" -- six studios where artists will be able to gain retail exposure and business experience. One artist who has already expressed a strong interest in being involved in this center is Ms. Lori Sturgess, an NAA board member who creates sustainable art from recycled materials and is gaining national attention for her unique sculptures.

The most spectacular arts event in July and August will be the installation of a large mosaic alongside the pavilion in Thrasher Park. Anne Labaire designed the intricate 2-d art, and Jennifer Freeman is converting Anne's design into mosaic tiles, creating ground art that will be installed where the circle of pavers is currently located. Jennifer has painstakingly laid out the tile design in her studio, and



the concrete base for it is expected to be poured at the end of June. The concrete has to cure for about four weeks, so installation of the tile will begin in early August – if we don't get a lot of rain around then! This is a high-traffic area, so during the tile installation period the area will be mostly blocked off, but there will still be convenient access to the playground, pavilion, and bathrooms. There are some fun PR activities planned around the project, including a dramatic unveiling when it's complete (August 19th is the projected unveiling date, weather permitting!). Stay tuned to the city Face Book and at upcoming concerts for updates.

This mosaic is sure to become a Norcross icon, enhancing our city's growing reputation as a destination for artists and cultural arts appreciators. Since the project reflects the great creative relationships among local artists, organizations like the NAA, and the city, it will truly be a visual reminder that Norcross is "a place to imagine"!

By Julie Barks

Pasta With Pepper Steak

- 14 oz tagliatelle pasta
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 4 Tbsp unsalted butter
- 1 lb beef sirloin steak, trimmed
- 1/2 onion, halved and thinly sliced
- 1 Tbsp green pepper corns in brine
- 2 garlic gloves, finely chopped
- 8 oz button mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 3/4 cup dry white wine
- 2 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 cup beef broth
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 2 Tbsp chopped flat leaf parsley



Cook the pasta according to package instructions, then drain. Toss with 1 tablespoon of the olive oil, season with salt and pepper, and set aside.

Heat butter and remaining oil in a large skillet over very high heat. Add steak and cook for 1-2 minutes each side, then set aside. Reduce pan heat to medium, add onion, and cook, stirring occasionally, for 4-5 minutes until soft. Add the drained peppercorns, garlic, mushrooms and wine, and cook for a further 2-3 minutes.

Add the mustard, Worcestershire sauce, beef broth and cream. Season well and allow to simmer for 2 minutes.

Slice the steak thinly and add with the sauce and parsley to the pasta in the pan, then toss to combine. **Serves 4**

Household Tips:

Clean Your Grill

After you've finished cooking, an easy way to clean your grill is to dampen news paper and place it on top of your warm grill rack. Close the lid and leave the newspaper for 20 to 45 minutes. The wet newspaper will steam clean your grill and all you have to do is wipe it off — just don't let the paper stay too long and get dried on. Then you will have an even bigger mess to clean up.



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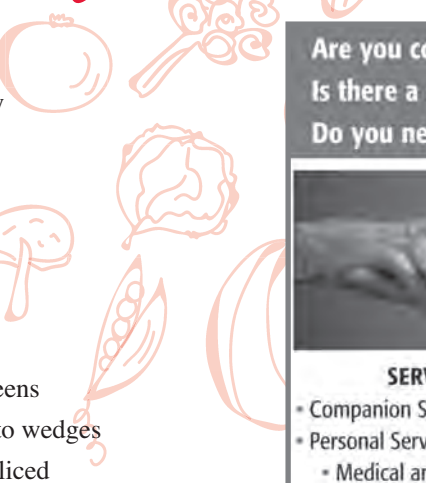
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Green Salad with Herb Vinaigrette

- 2/3 cup canola oil
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 1/4 cup minced fresh parsley
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 1 tsp dill weed
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 6 cups torn mixed salad greens
- 6 medium tomatoes, cut into wedges
- 6 large fresh mushrooms, sliced



In a small bowl, whisk the first nine ingredients. Cover and refrigerate for at least 8 hours. Divide salad greens, tomatoes and mushrooms among 8 salad plates. Whisk dressing; drizzle over salads.

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Is there a concern about their physical and/or mental condition?
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By Chuck Cimarik

Making Your Downtown the Best It Can Be

On May 3rd the DDA board dedicated the better part of day working with a facilitator from the Fanning Institute, <http://www.fanning.uga.edu/>, reviewing our short term and longer term goals and refining our work plans. Below is summary from the session report prepared by the facilitator:

There is a distinct sense of optimism and culture of service among Norcross DDA board members. The Authority wants to work effectively and efficiently to continue to grow the businesses in downtown and cement downtown as a primarily place for the community to gather, socialize and shop. As they identified, there is a lot of work to for the Authority to do. The Authority board used this planning session to continue to develop consensus around the group's mission and to identify the key areas of action where the Authority will focus over the next eighteen to twenty-four months.

In addition to the planning session the DDA met in joint session with the Mayor and City Council to make sure that the DDA is fulfilling its role as a partner with the city in the economic development of downtown with the city. This relationship is vital to the success of Norcross. The DDA needs to ensure they are meeting the needs of the city and work to educate the Mayor and Council Members about the Authority's powers and financing tools. The two entities cannot be working toward different outcomes in downtown. To be successful the vision for downtown must be a common one.

Last month the Design Committee received a suggestion from a local merchant who observed that with all the work currently planned for Skin Alley would the City consider adding sewer and water down the whole street? That idea was welcomed by Craig Mims - Director of Public Works, Utilities & Parks. His department jumped on the task with the support of the DDA Design Committee. The initial concept was presented to the Mayor and Council who expressed encouragement and

asked for a detailed design and cost estimate to be presented to them. The preliminary designs have been completed. These designs provide for sewer and water access for any building on Skin Alley. Additionally, the designs include community grease traps that would accommodate restaurants located adjacent to Skin Alley. All of the current restaurants currently have small, under sink or other types of above ground grease traps; of which the effectiveness is open for debate and very likely will not be allowed in the near future. The issue of Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) is one many people are unaware of but the City and County are trying to stay on top of. For a brief primer see this Gwinnett County website <http://tinyurl.com/3ohn93v>. The proposal for shared grease traps, maintained by the City and paid for by a user fee from the restaurants, is innovative and forward thinking; working to mitigate an issue before it becomes a bigger problem.

The Downtown Development Authority meets on the first Thursday of each month in the second floor conference room at City Hall from 8:00 to 9:30 AM. Please feel free to join us there. For questions or additional information call Chuck Cimarik at 404-915-7856 or email me at ccimarik@norcrossga.net.

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By Edie Riehm

The Civil War - A Matter of Perspective

We recently traveled to Maine. It is a beautiful state with small towns dotting its rugged "down east" coast. Many of these towns predate the American Revolution. However, during that part of our history, Maine did not exist as its own state as it was, for a long time, part of Massachusetts. In Camden we walked all around and came upon two monuments dedicated to those who had served in "The Great Rebellion". I've heard the Civil War called other things such as "The War Between the States" and also "The War of Northern Aggression," but I had never heard it referred to as "The Great Rebellion." Then I thought about the creation of Maine and recalled that it became a state as part of the infamous Missouri Compromise. In that hard fought agreement, Congress decided that slavery would not extend north of the parallel 36 degrees 30 north (with the exception of the proposed state of Missouri). The balance of slave states and free states would be maintained, allowing Missouri in as a slave state and Maine as a free state. More than forty years later, after the end of the Civil War, the "Mainers" who erected these monuments and wrote their inscriptions perceived this war as a rebellion that needed to be put down in order to save the Union. It is understandable, then, that people from Maine whose state's very existence is rooted in the long historic struggle over slavery that culminated in our Civil War, would refer to this conflict as "The Great Rebellion."

In this issue, we continue with another excerpt from William Daley Burtchaell's recollections of his experiences during the Civil War. In this passage, he describes his difficult ordeal trying to survive as a prisoner of war on Johnson's Island, in Sandusky Bay, Lake Erie. Admittedly, the treatment these Confederate soldiers received at the hands of the Yankees was brutal. However, having come fresh from our holiday in Maine, I read this passage with a perspective from both sides. On one hand, the southern prisoners believed that they deserved better treatment. On the other hand, northern soldiers might have felt that these southerners were traitors and got what they deserved.

Sources: <http://johnsonsisland.heidelberg.edu/history.html>

Note: Greek Fire is defined on this website: <http://www.civil-warhome.com/terms.htm> as "An incendiary substance used to charge shells, Greek fire saw little service during the Civil War because of its tendency to explode in a loaded bun before it was fired."

Many thanks to Michelle Morgan for permission to reprint the diary excerpt.

JOHNSON'S ISLAND

In many of the prisons the Yankees deliberately starved the prisoners to force them to take the Oath of Allegiance to their government; and to weaken them more each day, they had a cart loaded with everything nice to eat driven through the prison yard to tempt men to follow it. There was many a poor fellow who could not hold out against it.

On Johnson's Island, though, they were pretty staunch, however, I remember one case distinctly of a man who wrote a letter, offering to desert from the Confederacy, and lost it. It was found by some of the other prisoners, and it was dreadful to see the way they kicked and beat that man. The trouble and the cause of it was learned outside, and a corporal was sent in to take the unfortunate man out. The Corporal was kicked and knocked about in the same way and the two pushed toward the gate, which was opened just as they reached it. They were shoved through it and that ended the episode.

Another thing that I remember was a man; really a Yankee who before the war broke out was a newspaper man in North Carolina. He joined the Confederacy and was on Stuart's staff. Well, it was about the time the Yankees

were laying siege to Charleston and it was said they were firing Greek-fire into the town. Letters began to be published in a paper that was printed outside, and these letters were very bitter against the South. One, rejoicing at the distress of the people of Charleston, said that instead of Greek-fire it ought to be hell-fire that was rained down on the city. In some way the men found out that it was this Yankee who was the author of these letters. I was sitting in the door of one of the houses when I saw a little man, a Louisianan who had been a pilot on the Mississippi, running with a mob behind him, and in his hand he carried a rope in which he was rapidly tying a noose. When he reached the Yankee, who was sitting, he thrust the noose with all his strength over his head; but the Yankee, with a supreme effort, pushed the man's hands up and made a dash for the gate. If he had not had the luck to escape at that moment, he would have been hanged that day.

General Hill, a West Point officer, was put in command after Col. Pierson at Johnson's Island. He was very much of a gentleman. When he saw how the prisoners were starved, he came in and made a sympathetic address in which he told us that he was giving us all that the government allowed us. And we believed him.

Pierson was a very different man. He and the men under him had enlisted only to guard prisoners. And under him, added to all the other ill-treatment, we were dreadfully robbed. When our friends sent us money the letters were opened, the money taken out, and we were supplied with checks, which we could dispose of to the Sutler for writing paper, stamps, and tobacco; nothing else could be bought. Once or twice men bought ten or fifteen cents' worth of flour, ostensibly to make paste with which to paper their room; but after that the plan would not work. When we had spent perhaps a third of the money sent us, we would be notified that it was all gone. Besides money, many other things were sent the men, none of which they ever got. For instance, my sister sent me a large fruit cake, which these thieves ate for me.

Among the prisoners was a General Trimble. He was on crutches having lost a leg at Gettysburg. He had been in charge of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. He, hearing so many complaints about the robbery of the prisoners, asked all who felt inclined to do so to write him a letter stating their grievance. When he had collected something like a half-bushel, he asked for an interview with Colonel Pierson. When the sergeant had escorted him to Col. Pierson's office, he laid the letters on the desk before the Colonel and asked him to please read them and give him an explanation of the matter with which they dealt. After reading several, Pierson had no explanation to make.

"Do you mean to say", asked Trimble, "that you will do nothing about it?" Pierson answered, "I know nothing about it and will do nothing about it;" with that Trimble balanced himself on one crutch, and with the other aimed a blow at Pierson, but some of the friends of the latter came to his help, and that ended the thing.

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It's time to expect more.

Norcross Cluster Schools Partnership Celebrates Its Inaugural Year

The Norcross Cluster Schools Partnership (NCSP) has been actively engaged in exciting initiatives with Norcross schools since its inception in July 2010 when the first organizational meeting was held and the vision "A community actively supporting the Norcross Cluster Schools, to empower all students to grow in their learning, to achieve high school graduation, and embrace their potential as contributing members of the community" was conceived.

The members of the NCSP, who are local community members and corporate partners, have aligned with leaders in the school system; the Principals, their staffs and teachers. Witnessing the desire for delivering excellence in education from our local educators has been an inspiration that has validated the NCSP vision. Everyone is focused on providing resources to the students that will enable them to achieve their academic goals.

NCSP has made a significant impact in its first year of activation. The first major event, the Harvest Ball held in October raised over \$17,000. In May a portion of the proceeds from The Corners to Crossing Race was given to NCSP as a demonstration of their commitment to support our schools. Additionally, some members in the local community committed to making monthly donations to NCSP to support the schools in the cluster.

As a result of the philanthropic generosity of the local community, the NCSP was able to provide grants to the schools in the cluster. Some of the funds were used to support AP placement testing, an after schools soccer program and after school enrichment programs.

You CAN Make A Difference this Summer!

You've checked out the summer concert series and saved the dates for a calendar of fun. You have a new picnic basket and blanket, and a new pair of flip flops to dance in. What else?

These concerts are also the perfect time to bring a donation for the "CAN" Do hunger drive.....a county-wide effort to fill the shelves of Gwinnett County food banks. In Norcross, the items all go to the Norcross Ministries Co-op, which has been helping needy families in our community for many years now. There will be a collection bin for non-perishable food items at every concert, and while any canned good or non-perishable food item is gratefully accepted, each concert has a special "food theme" to make it easy to remember to donate. You can find out more about what's needed and what's appropriate to bring by going to aplacetoimagine.com or by emailing probertson@norcrossga.net.

The Norcross Cluster Schools Partnership is also planning another major fund raising event for November, so save the date on your calendars.

Working with, shaping and challenging the children who will be our future leaders is a major undertaking every day! We owe our local educators our appreciation and our commitment to support them as we all work towards improving the academic success of our students. NCSP has become a resource that connects community partners and educators. A heartfelt thank you to many generous community representatives from Norcross and the Peachtree Corners area who have given their time to get the organization moving, as well as the businesses and individuals that have given their financial support.

More needs and opportunities for engagement are anticipated throughout the 2011-2012 school year. NCSP needs you! Our kids need you! Join us as we work to make a difference, to encourage, enrich, and enhance our children's experiences throughout their academic years.

To learn more about NCSP and to get involved, go to our website www.norcrosscsp.org.

Summer Fun Begins At Fowler YMCA

Fowler Y's summer camp offerings are better than ever, full of options for children ages 5 to 16. Join us for tons of outdoor fun and adventure!

Camp Discovery is held at Simpsonwood Retreat Center on over 200 acres of nature trails, tennis and basketball courts, athletic fields, outdoor swimming pool, woods, and stream. It is the perfect setting for an exciting summer in the great outdoors.

Camp Imagine is held in downtown historic Norcross in the Cultural Arts and Community Center and neighboring parks and fields. In addition to sports, this camp offers a math & science camp and a creative arts camp. Both camps share one thing: they're a fun and happy place to enjoy the summer.

Stop by the Y to pick up a camp brochure and see the fun adventures that await your child. Financial assistance is available based on need. ine.com or by emailing probertson@norcrossga.net.



By John Dunleavy

Norcross Business Association Welcomes Summer

100 years ago as summer heat approached Norcross was often a regular place to visit for folks in Atlanta who wanted to get away from the "big city" heat. Today with its diverse collection of shops and restaurants Norcross is once again a favorite destination for people from all over.

While preserving the charm of our city and welcoming visitors the Norcross Business Association looks for ways to make both living and visiting here a memorable experience and this summer is no exception. Whether it be providing support to Sustainable Norcross to encourage recycling at events or participating in events the NBA is an integral part of our city.

This year in addition to handing of the vendor booths and information centers for the 3rd of July celebration the NBA is sponsoring a series of movies in Lillian Webb Park. These movies are family oriented and open to everyone at no cost. In addition there will be pre-show activities and modestly priced snacks to enjoy with your movie.

Speaking with Rachel Cook, a local banker with the Bank of North Georgia and Vice President of the Norcross Business Association about the 3rd of July we were delighted to hear about some new and exciting changes from years past. "We want to make sure the hundreds of people who gather in Lillian Webb Park are provided with access to food and other activities as well as preserve the street fair that is always so popular. By moving the children's activities to College Street and adding food vendors on Bostic as well as Jones Streets we hope people will explore everything Norcross has to offer." Ms. Cook said "we were concerned about long lines to get food and beverages last year so this year we plan to correct that."

Probably the most fun change this year will be the always popular train ride which will be in and around Lillian Webb Park and in the center of the multitudes of people gathered there.

On another occasion we caught up with NBA President John Dun-

leavy who spoke about the movie series in the park. "A business association is here for two purposes, 1.) promote it's members businesses and 2.) give back to the community. By offering a free movie event, while costly, we feel that we will really make a difference both for families whose budgets are stretched this year as well as friends and neighbors who want to get together in a relaxed family atmosphere in our beautiful new park. We hope that this will continue to reinforce the Norcross message of being a "place to imagine".

The summer movie series happens on one Saturday night each month starting on June 18th and continuing through September. All movies are suitable for kids young and old so grab your chairs, blankets and whatever else you need and join the crowd for a movie under the stars.

With a full schedule of activities designed to make Norcross the place to be this summer, your Norcross Business Association is proving to be one of our most valuable assets and we encourage you to support the members of the association. For more information and a directory of NBA members visit www.norcrossbusinessassociation.org.

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By Chuck Warbington

CID Works To Increase Pedestrian Connectivity

In a culture that has become heavily reliant on automobiles, it is easy to forget that many of our citizens still rely on another mode of transportation to reach their destination: their feet. Whether by choice or necessity, many citizens in southwest Gwinnett County rely on sidewalks everyday to get them where they need to go. Unfortunately, when this portion of Gwinnett developed, sidewalks were not viewed as a priority. The Gwinnett Village CID aims to remedy this fact and to provide pedestrians with greater levels of connectivity throughout southwest Gwinnett.

The CID believes that transportation options play a key role in building a strong business environment. To that end, Gwinnett Village is currently constructing a number of sidewalks throughout the district which will improve pedestrian access to Gwinnett County Transit stops and hopefully increase foot traffic for local businesses.

Projects are currently underway or are planned on Jimmy Carter Boulevard, Satellite Boulevard, Willow Trail Parkway, Beaver Run Road, Tech Drive, Pinnacle Way, Live Oak Parkway, Western Hills Drive and Graves Road.

With obesity rates at an all-time high, walking is one of the easiest and most convenient forms of exercise. Additionally, sidewalks help create a vibrant street life with people passing and interacting daily. Construction of these sidewalks is a small, but important, step toward the CID's ultimate goal of breathing new life into the area.



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MESSY GAMES Night
\$3.00
Sunday, August 28, 2011 ~ 5:00PM-7:00PM
for all middle and high school youth

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
FELLOWSHIP KICK OFF
August 24, 2011
*5:30 Dinner
*7:00 Bible Study for all ages
*Children's Choir (3 yrs ~ 5th gr.)

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REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11, 2011
Time To Be Announced

By Sloan Roach

End Of Year Honors From Norcross High

Norcross Graduate Earns College-sponsored Scholarship

Twelve Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) seniors recently learned that they will receive additional financial assistance for their college educations. The 12 high school graduates earned the National Merit Scholarship Corporation's (NMSC) College-Sponsored National Merit Scholarship. They join a select group of only 2,900 students from across the nation who received the honor. The scholarship winners earned the award based on their high school academic performance. They each have earned a scholarship worth between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship. The 2011 NMSC College-Sponsored National Merit Scholarship winner from Norcross High is: Adam D. Greenstein, Probable Career Field: Aerospace Engineering, National Merit.

Norcross Student Earns Top Score In Spanish

Allison Fisher of Norcross High is one of six Gwinnett students who earned a top score on the Level 3 Spanish Language Exam.

Five Norcross High Students Earn Broad Prize Scholarships

Five Norcross graduates from the Class of 2011 were among the 51 Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) students who received an early graduation present... they will have a share of \$1 million in Broad Prize scholarships.

The 51 students, representing 17 Gwinnett high schools, applied for the scholarships and were selected based on the recommendations of an independent application review committee comprised of admissions, enrollment and financial aid professionals from colleges and universities.

Gwinnett County Public Schools received the scholarship money because the district won the 2010 Broad (rhymes with "road") Prize for Urban Education, awarded by The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, a national education philanthropy. Awarded annually, The Broad Prize honors urban school districts that demonstrate the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement while reducing income and ethnic achievement gaps.

Although The Broad Prize recognizes urban school district efforts on the whole, the beneficiaries of The Broad Prize funds are the students themselves. Graduating seniors from Broad Prize winning and finalist districts are eligible for two- or four-year scholarships, depending on the type of higher education institution they choose to attend. Students who enroll in four-year colleges receive \$20,000 scholarships paid out over four years (\$5,000 per year). Students who enroll in two-year colleges or technical programs receive \$5,000 scholarships paid out over two years (\$2,500 per year). The Broad Prize scholarship program is administered by Scholarship America.

Broad Prize Scholarship Winners From Norcross High: Nurin Abdulwassy, Aminatou Diallo, Seth Hinsley, Florence Pham, Star Reese

Gwinnett 11th Graders Improve Already High Marks On Georgia High School

The results on the spring 2011 administration of the state graduation test (GHS GT) continue a trend for Gwinnett juniors, whose performance topped state results. The test was administered in March to more than 9,000 Gwinnett 11th graders. A student must pass all sections of the GHS GT in order to earn a high school diploma. In addition, the GHS GT is a factor in schools earning adequate yearly progress (AYP) under the Federal No Child Left Behind Act.

Gwinnett 11th graders scored the system's highest-ever passing rate in Science (96 percent) and met the previous all-time high in English/Language Arts (94 percent). Additionally, a higher percentage of Gwinnett students earned the "Advanced Proficiency" or "Honors" designation when compared to students in the state. (Note: Earlier this year, 98 percent of Gwinnett's students passed the writing test on the first try, while 95 percent passed in Georgia. The writing portion of the test was administered in September.)

Norcross High's Parrish inducted into Hall of Fame

A Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) teacher who was once charged with developing one of the largest theater arts programs within the district, has been honored for her decades of service. Gina Parrish, who teaches drama at Norcross High, is the latest inductee to the Georgia Thespians Hall of Fame. Ms. Parrish was inducted at the state conference of the Georgia Thespians held at the River Center for the Performing Arts, in Columbus. The Georgia Thespians annually recognize an individual for their years of dedicated service in the field of theater education.

In inducting Ms. Parrish, the organization honored her as a role model respected by peers and students who exemplifies extraordinary service to local and state thespian programs, exhibits extraordinary passion and enthusiasm for the educational process of theater arts, and extraordinary leadership and vision. In her 19 years of service to Norcross High's fine arts department, Ms. Parrish has contributed to the successful acting careers of many of her former students. Their success, she says, is due to the overall education career students experience. She explains, "It is a reflection of the work ethic that we instill in our actors, athletes, and students in general. I really believe that that work ethic transfers to everything they will endeavor in life."

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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. A Crafts and Collectibles shop is open Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 3 p.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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JULY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>4th of July Cuty Holiday</p>	<p>Kiwanis Club 8:00 a.m. Whistle Stop Farmers Market 4 - 8p.m. Lions Club 7:00 p.m. Masonic Lodge 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>DDA Meeting 8:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Summer Concert Series "Steven Lee Band" Thrasher Park 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Norcross Woman's Club Gift Shop 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Bluesberry Festival Downtown</p>	<p>4th of July Celebration Festivities start 5 p.m. Fireworks at dusk</p>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>Rotary Club 12 Noon Regular Work Session 6:00 p.m. Mayor and Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>City Court 9:00, 10:30 a.m. Whistle Stop Farmers Market 4 - 8p.m. Planning and Zoning 7 p.m.</p>	<p>PDC 8:15 a.m. City Court 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Health Talk with Dr. Hogan 6:45 p.m.</p>	<p>NC Garden Club 7:00 p.m. Eastern Star 7:30 p.m.</p>		<p>Norcross Woman's Club Gift Shop 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p>	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>Rotary Club 12 noon Architectural Review Board 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>City Court 9:00, 10:30 a.m. Whistle Stop Farmers Market 4 - 8p.m. Lions Club 7:00 p.m. Masonic Lodge 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>PDC 8:15 a.m. City Court 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Health Talk with Dr. Hogan 6:45 p.m.</p>		<p>Summer Concert Series "American Flyers" Thrasher Park 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Norcross Woman's Club Gift Shop 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p>	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<p>Rotary Club 12 noon</p>	<p>Whistle Stop Farmers Market 4 - 8p.m. NC Business Association 6:00 p.m. NHPC 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>PDC Meeting 8:15 a.m. Health Talk with Dr. Hogan 6:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Eastern Star 7:30 p.m.</p>			

AUGUST

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>Rotary Club Meeting 12:00 noon Regular Work Session 5:30 p.m. Mayor & City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Kiwanis Club 8:00 a.m. Whistle Stop Farmers Market 4 - 8p.m. Lions Club 7:00 p.m. Masonic Lodge 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>DDA Meeting 8:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Summer Concert Series "The Journey Tribute Band" Thrasher Park 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Norcross Woman's Club Gift Shop 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p>	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>NC Garden Club 10:45 a.m. Rotary Club Meeting 12:00 Noon Architectural Review Board 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>City Court 9:00, 10:30 a.m. Whistle Stop Farmers Market 4 - 8p.m. Planning & Zoning 7 p.m.</p>	<p>PDC Meeting 8:15 a.m. City Court 9:00, 10:30 a.m. Health Talk with Dr. Hogan 6:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Norcross Garden Club 7:00 p.m. Eastern Star Meeting 7:30 p.m.</p>		<p>Norcross Woman's Club Gift Shop 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p>	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p>Rotary Club Meeting 12:00 noon</p>	<p>Kiwanis Club 8:00 a.m. Whistle Stop Farmers Market 4 - 8p.m. Lions Club 7:00 p.m. Masonic Lodge 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>PDC Meeting 8:15 a.m. Health Talk with Dr. Hogan 6:45 p.m.</p>		<p>Summer Concert Series Almost Elton John: "The Rocket Band" Thrasher Park 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Norcross Woman's Club Gift Shop 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p>	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>Rotary Club Meeting 12:00 noon</p>	<p>Whistle Stop Farmers Market 4 - 8p.m. Norcross Business Association 6 p.m. NHPC 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>PDC Meeting 8:15 a.m. Health Talk with Dr. Hogan 6:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Eastern Star Meeting 7:30 p.m.</p>		<p>Norcross Woman's Club Gift Shop 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p>	
29	30	31				
<p>Rotary Club Meeting 12:00 Noon</p>	<p>Whistle Stop Farmers Market 4 - 8p.m.</p>	<p>PDC Meeting 8:15 a.m. Health Talk with Dr. Hogan 6:45 p.m.</p>				

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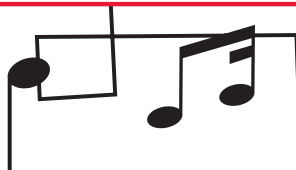


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- JULY 3** PRE-FOURTH CELEBRATION
- JULY 8** SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: THE STEPHEN LEE BAND
- JULY 9** BLUESBERRY FESTIVAL
- JULY 22** SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: THE AMERICAN FLYERS
- JULY 23** DATE NIGHT DOWNTOWN: BLUEGRASS PARTY
- AUGUST 5** SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: DEPARTURE: THE JOURNEY TRIBUTE BAND
- AUGUST 13** DATE NIGHT DOWNTOWN: COME SALSA!
- AUGUST 19** SUMMER CONCERT SERIES:
ALMOST ELTON JOHN & THE ROCKET BAND
- AUGUST 27** MOVIE NIGHT IN THE PARK: PRINCESS BRIDE



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



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