



**From the Mayor's Desk**

**May 2019**

## **Town Center Grand Opening, a Day to Remember**

The last Saturday in April turned out to be a picture-perfect day to celebrate the grand opening of our new Town Center. It was six years in the making to get to this day, and all of us on the council and city staff worked tirelessly to design a place that would serve as a gathering place for the community.

As part of the grand opening event, the Town Green officially opened with great fanfare featuring a ribbon-cutting, a parade, led by the Norcross High School Marching band, a Children's Plaza dedication, and recognition of the city's Veterans' Monument. The afternoon was filled with strolling musicians, stilt-walkers, balloon sculpture artists, food and drink, a live concert and a remarkable drone show.

The crowd of approximately 4,000 was primarily families having a great time. The teak deck overlooking the Green has plenty of comfortable seating and the grassy area in front of the stage is a perfect place to set up lawn chairs and enjoy the concerts that will take place throughout the coming months. You can find a complete listing of upcoming events on [the city calendar](#) posted on the [city's website](#). Be sure to bookmark the page so you can keep up with all the activities.

The Town Green features a children's play area that has a play structure and a giant slide - along with lawn games such as Connect Four, Cornhole and others. I walked around most of the day and got lots of compliments and feedback.

Several parents want more seating in the kids' play area so they don't have to stand. Two children told me that we need to expand the play area since it was crowded. We appreciate your feedback and will follow up on your suggestions.

We also heard that the slide, which was a tremendous draw, gets hot during the middle of the day despite the mats. The slide isn't quite complete as a shade structure will soon be installed which should address the issue of the hot surface.

The concert was well-attended, and everyone enjoyed the sound system and viewing screen. A couple of citizens felt the performance stage was too low from where they sat so we will look at ways to make the stage area more visible.

Thanks for your feedback, after all, this space is the “city’s backyard.” Our staff will be tweaking and perfecting the Town Green from now on for any issues that arise.

Still to be added is the botanical garden walk that will run along the creek that divides the Town Center from the developments to the south. It will feature a walk along a wooded path that leads to the Town Green. We will update you as this second phase of the Town Center moves along.

Council members Phil Sadd, Eric Christ, Alex Wright, Jeanne Aulbach, Lorri Christopher, Weare Gratwick and I would like to thank you for your support in the development of the Town Center which will be a tremendous asset to the city, not only for all who live here, but for the future economic growth of our city. This was a monumental project for our city that has yet to reach its 7th year anniversary.

Please contact us with your feedback and suggestions for the Town Green. Our contact emails and telephone numbers are listed on the city's [website](#). Use the link at the top of the homepage labeled “[Contact Us](#)” to access a complete list of contacts. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

***Mike Mason, Mayor***