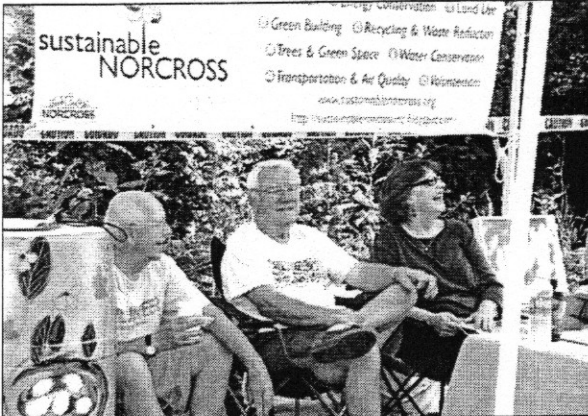




Insert your email for free automatic delivery

Subscribe

[quest commentary](#) | [elliott brack](#) | [feedback](#) | [archive](#) | [about](#) | [our sponsors](#) | [home](#)



SETTING THE STANDARD. The City of Norcross has been recognized by the Atlanta Regional Commission as a 2011 certified Green Community, winning the "Gold" standard. Last year, the city won the "Silver" level certification. The city de-constructed three older residential properties and salvaged the architectural elements instead of taking them to the landfill. The community was invited to a Salvage, Pickin' and Porch Party at which salvaged items were auctioned off. Sustainable Norcross volunteers Art Geist, Jim Scarbrough and Betsy Hixson take a rest during Pickin' and Porch Party. For more info, see Notable below.

TODAY'S FOCUS

Thank goodness for families at this time of the year

By BILL YORK
Special to GwinnettForum

STONE MOUNTAIN, Ga. Dec. 16, 2011 – Speeding is foolish considering the possible consequences. Becoming intoxicated is fraught with danger. Illegal drugs can impair your brain. Succumbing to specific peer pressures can ruin your life. Being charged with felonies results in a record impacting your future. Pierced eyebrows will assure that you will not be considered for many jobs. A prison record permanently stigmatizes.



York

I applaud parents who are involved in the development and conduct of their kids, guiding them in the right direction, advising them on how to be successful, inspiring them as obstacles occur, encouraging them to avoid the temptation of drugs and alcohol, teaching them morality and the importance of stability and predictability.

I know a mother who said early in her sons' teenage lives, "You can have an affordable car and an excellent education or you can have a costly car and a minimal education. I can't afford both." Both boys drive used cars. The advice was good. One will be in the medical profession; the other will compete with Bill Gates.

Their father was equally prudent, "You can have a blast in the back seat of your Ford or you can avoid parental responsibilities until you are mature and have enough income. Foolishness in the back seat also increases the likelihood of acquiring a disease. Contrary to liberal opinion youthful sex is not a safe practice," he said. Passing out condoms in school is a monumental blunder. It gives the idea that early sex is acceptable. Childrens' minds should be devoted to developing for their future responsibilities.

I sat and listened to the wisdom of devoted parents. They talked about the fork in the Y of early decisions; one choice assures low paying jobs and periodic unemployment, the other guarantees achievement. Priorities must be set early. They emphasized the importance of setting goals.

Spending time with your children is vital to their maturing with confidence; golf, fishing, soccer, hunting, vacations, school work plus family discussions. Solving emerging dilemmas gives your kids the assurance of continuing parental support. Without sound advice they often fall victim to peer pressures that gets them in trouble.

I advised my kids early that they could do anything they wanted to do in life as long as they did not encroach on the rights of others, including mine. I explained that during their life they would be confronted with many temptations and unless they were strong willed they could destroy their future by mistakes in judgment.

Too many people suffering today didn't get that advice. Prisons are overflowing with those who had no fathers from whom they could learn common sense during a critical time in their lives.

A huge problem is that there are many children who are unsupervised because of having a single working parent and who have never known masculine influence. With the absence of male input we see hostility, graffiti, smashed mail boxes, gang violence and other anti-social behavior. Kids desperately need involved parental guidance during their formative years.

Issue 11.74 | Friday, Dec. 16, 2011

TODAY'S FOCUS

•• **Thanks goodness for families**

ELLIOTT BRACK'S PERSPECTIVE

•• **Recognizing government that works**

FEEDBACK

•• **5 letters on regional sales tax**

UPCOMING

•• **Suwanee improvements, L'ville Rings**

NOTABLE

•• **Norcross Gold, 5 Forks Library upgrade**

ALSO INSIDE

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

•• **Precision Planning, Inc.**

GEORGIA TIDBIT

•• **Artist Benny Andrews**

GWINNETT CALENDAR

•• **Lots of activities on tap**

TODAY'S QUOTE

•• **About dogs and mankind**

OUR SPONSORS



ABOUT US

GwinnettForum.com is a twice-weekly online community commentary for exploring pragmatic and sensible social, political and economic approaches to improve life in Gwinnett County, Ga. USA.

•• **Contact us today**
•• **Subscribe for free**
•• **GeorgiaClips.com**

TODAY'S QUOTE

About dogs and mankind

"Mankind can live without dogs, but why should he? Dogs give such unconditional love and sheer pleasure."

– Modern proverb

MORE COPIES AVAILABLE NOW
Second edition of history makes great Christmas gift

Previously out of print, Elliott Brack's 850-page history, "Gwinnett: A Little Above Atlanta," is now available again. Since its original publication, the book was declared the winner of the **2010 Award of Excellence** for documenting Georgia history by the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board.



The book includes 143 demographic and historic tables, with more than 4,000 names in the index, and 10,000 names in the appendix.

Two versions of the book are available. The hardback edition is priced at \$75, while a softback edition is \$40. Books are available at:

- Atlanta History Center, Atlanta
- Books for Less, Buford
- Gwinnett Historical Society, Lawrenceville
- Parsons Gifts and Cards, Duluth
- Vargas and Harbin Gallery, Norcross

You can also order books through the Internet. To do that, go to www.elliottbrack.com to place your order. For mail orders, there is a \$5 shipping and handling fee. Purchases are also subject to the 6 percent Georgia sales tax.

SEARCH GWINNETT FORUM

Search

GWINNETT CALENDAR

30th Anniversary Production of The



