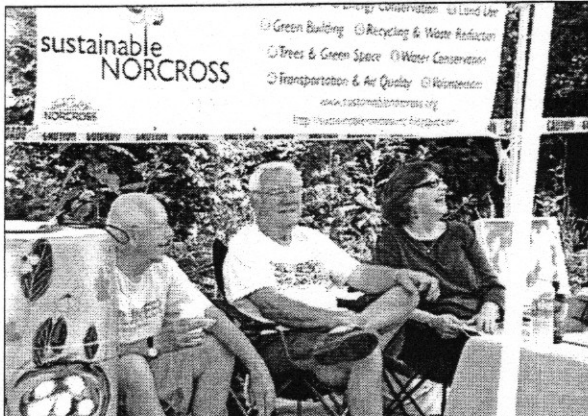




Insert your email for free automatic delivery

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, Little 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**

**First  
National  
Insurance**

**WIKAI®**

**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

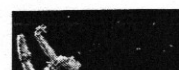
You can also order books through the Internet. To do that, go to [www.elliottbrack.com](http://www.elliottbrack.com) to place your order. For mail orders, there is a \$5 shipping and handling fee. Purchases are also subject to the 6 percent Georgia sales tax.

**SEARCH GWINNETT FORUM**

Search

**GWINNETT CALENDAR**

30th Anniversary  
Production of The



Christmas time is perfect for nurturing family relations, by touch and voice instead of glitzy cars and credit cards. I appreciated the scout knife and mittens when I was a kid. Everything was real. Wood feels nicer than plastic. Wood has a smell. Wood has unique grains. I can whittle on wood.

#### EEB PERSPECTIVE

### Looking at one governmental project which delights us

By ELLIOTT BRACK  
Editor and publisher

DEC. 16, 2011 -- Outside of growling about the weather, one of the biggest complaints you hear these days is about government.

Everyone seems to be down on government.

They say the government is:

- Inefficient.
- Wasteful.
- Too big.
- Can't get things right.
- Cost too much in taxes.
- And on and on.

But wait a minute. Government is a necessity for us, and doesn't always foul things up. Most government programs serve us well, and you don't want to do away with them. You need them in more ways than one, such as:

- Police and fire protection.
- Regulation of foodstuffs.
- Educating kids.
- Roadways and skyways.
- Parks and recreation.
- Public health.

And many more.

This week we found ourselves pleased with government in an unexpected manner.

Going south from Lawrenceville about 8 p.m., we took the fork of Georgia Highway 316 that leads to Pleasant Hill Road. As we turned right, we stopped at the first traffic light. When the light turned green, we began rolling.....and continuously for the next 7-8 miles, went non-stop all the way to the Chattahoochee River. Every traffic light we met was green the whole way. Sometimes when the light came into view, it was red, but before we got there, it had turned green.

That was government in action, by the work in this case by the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District (CID), in cooperation with Gwinnett DOT, to synchronize the traffic lights along Pleasant Hill Road.

Maintaining a normal speed, we breezed down the relatively busy thoroughfare, never halting. It was such a pleasure!

And it showed what can happen when citizens, in this case the Gwinnett Place CID and DOT, attack a problem with modern solutions. Many of us can remember that same road where you had to battle the traffic lights, often stopping at least at every other light. That was before modern science was put to work to bring the moving of traffic to the modern era, allowing for smooth flowing of traffic even on this busy road.

We felt like "shouting for joy" at what many people now realize as routine traversing of this road. Earlier, this roadway was a nightmare, and gave traffic a fit. Think of all the time, and gas, saved by the smooth-flowing of traffic!

This is one area that we can be proud of our government.

Far as that goes, though we groan and moan at government, most of us are sane enough to admit that our system of government works pretty well, though sometimes it seems, in spite of shenanigans of public officials.

In reality, we expect the roads to work (Gwinnett may have the smoothest roads of any nearby area); we expect the schools to be open; we expect the fire trucks to arrive quickly should we need them; and we know other functions of government generally run smoothly. Only now and then do we find a few rascals who give government a bad name. Most of the time, these ne'er-do-wells are shortly gone.

So yes, cheers for government all around us. It serves us far better than most of us will give it credit. The traffic moving on Pleasant Hill Road is my newest example.

#### ABOUT OUR SPONSORS

### Precision Planning, Inc.

The public spiritedness of our sponsors allows us to bring GwinnettForum.com to you at no cost to readers. Today's underwriter is **Precision Planning, Inc.**, a multi-disciplined design firm based in Lawrenceville, Georgia with a 29-year history of successful projects. In-house capabilities include Architecture; LEED® Project Management; Civil, Transportation and Structural Engineering; Water Resources Engineering; Landscape Architecture; Interior Design; Land and City Planning; Land Surveying; and Grant Administration.



Brack

**Nutcracker** by the Gwinnett Ballet Theater: **Through Dec. 18**, Gwinnett Performing Arts Center in Duluth. Over 150 dancers will be on stage for the 16 shows, with cast members from age 4 to adults. For more information, contact the GBT office at 770-978-0188 or visit the Web site at [www.gwinnettballet.org](http://www.gwinnettballet.org).

**A Christmas Carol: The Radio Show: Through Dec. 18**, New London Theatre in Snellville. WFAT Diet Radio in Snellville has hired a new theatrical troupe to put together a lively holiday version of the Christmas classic. For more details and to buy tickets, call 770-559-1484 or [email here](mailto:email@wfat.com).

**Model Train Exhibit:** At George Pierce Park Community Center **through January 2**. This is a "G" Scale train, and is presented by the Vines Garden Railroad Club. Exhibit is open Monday through Saturday.

**New Exhibit, "Lateral Thinking,"** is up **now through Jan. 14** at Kudzu Art Zone, 116 Carlyle Street in Norcross. Admission is free. Artists were challenged to construct images from a list of unrelated objects to explore their reaction to disparate items.

#### MORE EEB PERSPECTIVE

12/13: [Transportation tax doomed](#)  
12/9: [Great holiday gift](#)  
12/6: [Questions on Calhoun](#)  
12/2: [New school lines squiggled](#)  
11/29: [Try technology](#)  
11/22: [Judgeship runoffs to general](#)  
11/18: [Loyalty oaths at 2 schools](#)  
11/15: [Reason on Sunday sales vote](#)  
11/11: [Election reflections](#)  
11/8: [Early voting vs. absentee ballots](#)  
11/4: [2 groups want friends to vote](#)  
11/1: [Unconventional medical news](#)  
[EEB index of columns](#)

#### MORE RECENT COMMENTARY

12/13: [Houston: DAR chapter's gifts](#)  
12/9: [Kitchen: White House decorations](#)  
12/6: [Schiklar: Ham radio operations](#)  
12/2: [Olson: Hudgens winner's exhibit](#)  
11/29: [Sutt: New pharmacy](#)  
11/22: [Sawyer: New jury protocol](#)  
11/18: [Jackson: 7th year for PCOM](#)  
11/15: [Sharp: Nevada trip](#)  
11/11: [Rooker: Education plan](#)  
11/1: [Kitchen: White House visit](#)  
11/8: [Fenton: Annandale's expansion](#)  
11/4: [Perez, Nelems: Peachtree Corners](#)  
11/1: [Aulback: More myths/facts on vote](#)  
[COMMENTARY INDEX](#)

#### CONTACT US TODAY

© 2001-2011, Gwinnett Forum.com is Gwinnett County's online community forum for commentary that explores pragmatic and sensible social, political and economic approaches to improve life in Gwinnett County, Ga. USA.

PHONE: 770.840.1003  
EMAIL: [elliott@gwinnettforum.com](mailto:elliott@gwinnettforum.com)

Site designed and maintained by  
The Brack Group.