



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS!

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020



CITY MANAGER *Rudolph Smith* RETIRES

It is with great pride (and some sorrow) that we announce the retirement of Norcross' beloved City Manager, Rudolph Smith. As we approach his last day with us on September 2nd, we look back on his 22-year legacy and know that the impact of his contributions will be felt for years to come.

A Berrien County-native from Alapaha, Georgia, Rudolph has been a vital and key component in many business deals, marketing tactics and finance projects over the years. Having earned a degree in accounting and business

administration from the Abraham Baldwin College in Tifton back in 1980, Rudolph began his governmental career in the City of Alapaha, Georgia where he served for 18 years in different positions including Grant Administrator, City Clerk and City Manager. He first joined the City of Norcross in June of 1998 and was promoted to the City Manager position in November of 2008. He has been involved in municipal/county government for over 40 Years.

Prior to being named City Manager, Rudolph distinguished himself as the Norcross General Government Administrative Director. He also served as Norcross Tax and Business License Manager, presiding over a department which generates more than 68% of the total revenue for the city. Rudolph holds national and international municipal clerk certifications and is a Georgia certified finance officer. In 1992, he was given the District II Leadership Award by the Georgia Municipal Association and in 2007, he was selected as the Finance Officer of the Year by the Georgia Municipal Clerk/Finance Officers Association. In 2009, he was selected as one



of the 2009 Men of Influence by the Atlanta Business League.

More recently, Rudolph received a 30-year service award from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), which is the premier local government leadership and management organization. ICMA Service Awards recognize and celebrate members' dedication to public service and professional management at the local level. Rudolph was chosen to receive this award for his outstanding work with the city and his professional upbeat attitude in everything he aspires to.

Having served under three mayors and countless councilmembers, much has changed since Rudolph's first days in the city. However, if asked he would tell you he is still most proud of the role he played in bringing the city through the 2008 recession and ensuring a sustainable future. His conservative approach to managing the city's budget was instrumental in our ability to endure one of the most challenging financial crises in the city's history. For this success he was honored with the Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association, which is reviewed by the United States and Canada Government Finance Officers Association.

"It is time," Rudolph said in a message to staff and council. "I have been with the city for 22

years, and now it is time to take advantage of the opportunity to retire and enjoy traveling, gardening and spending time with my son. I also have plans to use my years of experience to consult part-time with other municipalities. I appreciate all the employees—I have enjoyed the many experiences I have had working with our team, and I am proud of our accomplishments during my years here. The city is blessed with an awesome team of professionals."

A steadfast leader working tirelessly 24/7 to better our community, his devotion and dedication to Norcross could never be in question. According to staff, Rudolph has been a "fair and compassionate leader," "lead by example," "set the bar for exemplary customer service," and "always listened and responded to residents and staff."

We are honored and proud to have had him in our service and on our staff for so long and wish him all the best in his retirement!



**DON'T
FORGET!**

**YOU CAN ORDER ONLINE
FROM THE NORCROSS
COMMUNITY MARKET!**

Each week this summer, you can place an order online at norcrosscommunitymarket.com between 9 a.m. Sunday and 5 p.m. Thursday. Those who have placed orders will then receive instructions on how to pick up their purchases via a socially distant drive-through at City Hall that Saturday! Payment is taken by credit card online, though the market does also accept SNAP (and doubles buying power on qualified food purchases).

SNAP shoppers must pay in person upon arrival for order pick-up according to USDA requirements. Contact manager@norcrosscommunitymarket.com or 404-580-2556 for more SNAP info. When you are picking up your order, please stay in your vehicle and a market volunteer will bring your order to you.

Please wear a mask if possible and observe safe distancing.

Norcross Community Market is following CDC guidelines to make your shopping experience as safe as possible.

#ShopLocal #GrowMyMarket



TREE TALK

Did You Know?

- Trees conserve energy. Three trees placed strategically around a single family home can cut summer air conditioning needs by up to 50 percent.
- Trees help prevent soil erosion. On hillsides or steep slopes, trees slow runoff and hold soil in place.
- Trees increase property values. The beauty of a well-planted property and its surrounding street and neighborhood can raise property values by as much as 15 percent.
- Trees increase business traffic. Studies show that the more trees and landscaping a business has, the more business will flow in. A tree-lined street will also slow traffic—enough to allow drivers to look at the storefront.

Trees are vitally important to us all and especially here in Norcross, a Tree City USA. Look for other fun and helpful information in the coming months in this new feature called Tree Talk!

Tree facts courtesy of treepeople.org.

THE CITY PROPERTY TAX AND STORM WATER BILLS

The City Property Tax and Storm Water bills will be mailed out around September 18th and are due November 23rd (postmark date does not apply—they must be received at City Hall by this date). If you don't receive a bill, it does not mean that you are not still responsible for payment. If you have any questions, please call the General Government Administration Office at 770.448.2122.

WELCOME BAGS AVAILABLE AT THE WELCOME CENTER!

New to Norcross? Pick up a Heart of Norcross Welcome Bag from the Welcome Center, full of info and offers from our downtown business association. If you're new to the area this is the perfect way to get acquainted with our friendly neighborhood retailers and restaurateurs, plus it all comes in a complimentary zippered bag that's great for those times you need a small, clear tote to take to events!



DON'T FORGET YOUR 150TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORABILIA!

Commemorative items are available for purchase in the Welcome Center celebrating Norcross' 150th Anniversary. Totes, tea towels and license plates are also available at Carolees, Taste of Britain and Antique Traditions, while Anna Balkan carries the boat tote. You can also order boat totes and tea towels online at norcrosscommunitymarket.com.

TOTE BAG
\$24.99

BOOK & DVD
PACKAGE
\$30.00

HISTORIC BOOK
\$20.00

HISTORY DVD
\$20.00

KEY RING
\$10.00

TEA TOWELS
\$14.99

LICENSE PLATE
\$10.00



Remember

TO FILL OUT THE CENSUS!

United States®
Census
Bureau

Make Norcross count!!
Respond now at my2020census.gov.



LONG-TIME DOWNTOWN MERCHANT TO RETIRE



Mr. Wayne Epps and the B&W Automotive Sales store have been staples in downtown Norcross for over 50 years—51, to be exact! Since 1969, Mr. Epps has been serving his clients with the same commitment to friendly, quality service. While there have certainly been changes over the years (think credit card machines and the advent of the movie industry as recurring clientele), Mr. Epps has strived to maintain the same neighborhood-feel customers enjoyed back in the early days when everything was a little slower-paced. However, to everything there is a season, and after a long and successful run, Mr. Epps has announced his well-deserved retirement. Things just won't be the same without you, Mr. Epps!

As a tribute to his legacy, we sat down to ask Mr. Epps a few questions:

What is your favorite memory?

Watching all the changes. Norcross was a small country town when we first opened, and seeing the path of its growth—being a part of that growth—has been a truly rewarding experience. We can contribute most of our success to that growth.

What will you miss the most?

The people. You know, we keep dog treats on hand and every morning, the dog-walkers come by all bright and cheerful. It's little moments and routines like those that I'm going to miss.

What will you miss the least?

The trains! (Laughing as one noisily whizzes by during our conversation.)

What are you most looking forward to?

I have a place up in Dawsonville on the lake—I love it there, it reminds me of Norcross 30-40 years ago. A simpler time. My wife and I planned to retire there, and while she passed away in December, I still plan to spend most of my time there now that I'm retiring.

Anything you can share about what the future holds for the store?

Funny you should say that! It's going to be a restaurant! Or maybe two...we just closed on a sale to James Redding, owner of several Gwinnett restaurants and he was talking about turning this place into either one large or two smaller dining establishments. It's very exciting—this side of downtown has always been slower to develop, and I'm happy to see it blossoming.

When is your last day?

I had 60 days from closing to finish up here, but we're ahead of schedule. Probably mid-September sometime.

Any last comments?

It's been a great run. I appreciate everybody, this community...I didn't know how close the community was until a few family tragedies hit. The way everyone came together to support us...it makes you feel good, real good. Makes you wonder why you want to leave! But it's time, and the next chapter is going to be even better.