



Changing of the Guard in Sugar Hill!

An era is ending and a new chapter begins in Sugar Hill. After 12 years serving as Mayor of Sugar Hill, - Gary Pirkle decided to step down at the end of December and will hand off the reigns to the recently elected, Steve Edwards. Mayor Pirkle has served the City as a Councilman from 1997 till 2001 when he ran for and was elected Mayor. During his tenure as Mayor, along with retiring City Manager Bob Hail, they brought prosperity and financial stability to our City by carefully managing the City finances and the annual budget. As a result of their stewardship the City has been able to build new and expanded parks, a new City Hall, West Broad Street streetscape, an amphitheater and a bright future for the City. Our citizens have enjoyed a stable millage rate for the past 13 years. All of this has been accomplished without raising taxes, floating bonds, or borrowing. National publications have rated Sugar Hill as one of the best cities for young families, one of the fastest growing cities and having a top rated golf course. Incoming Mayor Steve Edwards served as a Councilman for 8 years and ran unopposed for Mayor. DDA member Brandon Hembree was elected to fill the remaining City Council seat of Mayor Edwards.

From- Brett Harrell, State Representative, District 106, Former Mayor of Snellville

“Gary Pirkle and I were first elected to our City Councils in 1997. Over the past fifteen plus years, Gary has become a trusted friend and steady barometer of true public service for which I am sincerely grateful. Under Gary's leadership, Sugar Hill has prospered and both the citizens and business community have benefited greatly from his service. Congratulations on a job well done.”

From- Gwinnett County Chairman Charlotte Nash

“I have had the privilege of working with Mayor Pirkle during his service as a City Councilman and as Mayor. I know he feels strongly about his City and has worked hard to do what he thought was best for Sugar Hill. He should feel a great sense of pride at the progress that has been made and leave office knowing that he made a difference. Thank you, Mayor Pirkle for your service”.

From- Chairman Phillip Beard

“Gary Pirkle was the right man at the right time. He was instrumental in saving the City”

From- Sugar Hill Mayor Elect Steve Edwards

“Gary has been a great asset to the City and I will do my best to build upon the foundation he started”



Mayor Pirkle preparing to install the spire on top of the new City Hall.



Former Mayors Simon Johnson and George Haggard / Mayor Pirkle



The Mayor gave a class on Government and Leadership to Cub Scouts



Mayor's grand opening speech / new City Hall

News Bites:

- After review and comment by a team of professional judges, the Mayor and Council, the 75th Committee, and public input from the community - The winning entry for the City of Sugar Hill **75th Anniversary Logo Competition** was unveiled at the 10/14/13 City Council Meeting. The first place entry was designed by Erica Abrams, Art Director/Designer at the Veugeler Design Group. Veugeler Design Group is a boutique graphic design company, based in Buford, GA, founded in 2006 by Randall and Angela Veugeler. Angela Veugeler (pictured with Councilman Marc Cohen) accepted the award. 2014 kicks off the City's **75th Anniversary** and the Committee is working on a number of exciting projects. We are currently looking for items to include in the time capsule (which will be buried at a public City Hall ceremony on March 23, 2014) so let us know what you would like to see enshrined for posterity or contribute. Check our web site for more information on the events/activities. If you are interested to help manage or volunteering for one of the many planned activities, please contact, Marc Cohen: marccohen@cityofsugarhill.com
- **Food urgently needed for the Co-op.** With the holidays almost upon us, the **North Gwinnett Co-op** pantry is nearly bare this time of year and there is even a greater need for canned and non-perishable food. We will be collecting food donations at City Hall as well as the Community Center. The North Gwinnett Co-op supplies many needy families with basic necessities and your donations are greatly appreciated. Food can also be dropped off at the Co-op. Please check for times. Help is also needed to stock and maintain the pantry. For more info: www.northgwinnetcoop.org
- Want to reduce your Stormwater Utility Fee? Property owners with over 1,000 square feet of impervious area can take advantage of credits to lower their Stormwater Utility Fee. Check out the Stormwater Credit Technical Manual on the City of Sugar Hill's webpage. Don't delay; the deadline for Credit applications to apply towards your 2014 Utility Fee is February 1, 2014.
- Planning Director Kaipo Awana, DDA members Taylor Anderson and Brandon Hembree attended the Redevelopment Forum presented by the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce. Sugar Hill participated in the study that was the feature presentation called "The Dollars and Cents of Smart Redevelopment" by Joe Minicozzi, Principal Urban3, LLC. Results of final report will be featured in the Sentinel in January.
- A "Grand Opening" was held for one of Sugar Hill's newest stores. **Mint Juleps** is a unique boutique featuring gourmet foods, women's contemporary clothing, gifts, jewelry and accessories. The perfect shop for unusual Christmas gifts. **Mint Juleps** is located in the new Kroger Shopping Center, 5965 Cumming Hwy. in Suite 760. Their phone: 770-932-2030. Photo L-R: Councilman Marc Cohen, Mayor Elect Steve Edwards, Co-owners Michelle Sullivan & Ashley Glover, Councilman Brandon Hembree, Curtis Northrup.



2013 Meeting Schedule :

December / January 2014

December 2 / January 6
7:00 PM, City Council Work Session - City Hall

December 9 / January 13
7:30 PM, City Council Meeting, City Hall

December 13 / January 17
1:00 PM, City Court Session, City Hall

December 16 / January 20
7:00PM, Planning and Zoning Meeting, City Hall

December 3 (called) January 28
6:30 PM, Downtown Development Authority, City Hall

Everyone is invited to attend Sugar Hill's monthly Council Work Sessions and Council Meetings. All meetings for the City of Sugar Hill will be held in City Hall located at 5039 West Broad Street. Your comments, suggestions and support will help make your city a community to be proud of

Videos of our monthly City Council meetings are shown on Charter Cable channel 19, @ 6:30 pm, every 3rd, 4th and 5th Sunday of each month.

Agendas and meeting minutes can be found on the Sugar Hill website at: www.cityofsugarhill.com.