



## 2012 - The Year in Review

2012 has proven to be a pivotal year in the remaking of Sugar Hill. The new development brings positive change in the transformation of the City – a growing city with a small town feel. The cornerstone is the creation of our City Center. The year began with the first steel framing erected on the poured concrete foundation – quickly followed by the rise of the rest of the framing to reveal the footprint and magnitude of the new City Hall. In August a huge crane lifted the cupola in sections with the clock tower and was capped off when Mayor Gary Pirkle rode in the basket to install the spire at the top of the building. We watched the completion of the retention/amenity pond with the lighted trail, water plantings, landscaping and fountain; and the new amphitheater complete with power, lighting, terraced seating and railings installed. Elsewhere in the City – the Kroger center welcomed a series of new shops, restaurants, training and recreation facilities. Residents and neighbors from the surrounding areas flocked to our yearly events such as the “Touch a Truck” and our ever popular Easter Egg Hunt which seems to bring out every kid and parent in the area. In April, Ashton Gardens broke ground on their newest facility on Peachtree Industrial Blvd. (see accompanying story) What would July be without the “Sparks in the Park” annual fireworks show, and even though the weather did not cooperate it went off and was still enjoyed by a determined crowd. The World Changers crew came back in July with 200 volunteers to fix and repair 12 homes in Sugar Hill. They’ll be back in 2013 thanks to funding from the Sugar Hill Housing Authority. Despite some necessary road closures (we apologize for any inconvenience) we watched the construction for the new streetscape that started at Hwy 20 and continued to PIB which transformed West Broad Street with on street parking and a and traffic circle. Our utilities partners: Georgia Power, AT&T and Charter have relocated their service lines to provide a cleaner look to the downtown area. October brought the annual Fall Festival which with the car show and chili cookoff was again a huge well attended family event. In December families were treated to the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting complete with singing, sleigh rides and a visit from Santa. The piece de resistance was the completion of the new City Hall - this project will anchor our new downtown and is the future of our City. Please join us at a ribbon cutting ceremony on January 13<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm to open the new building and kick-off a fabulous 2013.



**Send your comments on the newsletter, e-mail [dkelemen@cityofsugarhill.com](mailto:dkelemen@cityofsugarhill.com)**

## Construction Watch: Ashton Gardens



Ashton Gardens, a premier wedding and event facility with successful locations in Texas (Dallas and Houston), is quickly nearing completion at 260 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. This is their first venture in Georgia and this location was chosen due to vision of the Mayor and Council, and the demographics of the region. The complex consists of a 4,000 sq. ft. chapel (left photo) and a 17,000 sq. ft. reception / banquet hall that can handle several events simultaneously. The first wedding is planned for March 15th and they'll have 180 events booked by then.

### News Bites:

- Gwinnett County Chairman Charlotte Nash spent an afternoon meeting with Mayor Gary Pirkle and City Manager Bob Hail discussing the direction the County is taking with water and sewer and how it impacts future Sugar Hill developments. They also discussed common interests such as the County parks and new recreational facilities. Afterwards the Mayor, Mr. Hail and Chairwoman Nash toured the new City Hall construction site. She received a tour of the almost finished Council Chamber and the executive offices. In several areas marble tile was being installed that limited access, but she was enthusiastic of what was seen. Chairman Nash was very impressed with the Town Lawn, amenity pond, amphitheater and walking trail.
- Are you in the photo from Sugar Hill Elementary school from 1946? Do you know anyone that is? We are building an enclosed display wall in the new City Hall Community Room and we plan to have artifacts, photos and prints on display. We need your help. Have you or a relative saved any photos, post cards, or documents that may reference Sugar Hill? Photos of the bowling alley, skating rink, grocery store and snack bar would be great! We are continuing our research, but if you can help or point us in the right direction, please contact Don Kelemen at City Hall, 770-945-6716.



#### 2013 Meeting Schedule :

##### January / February

**January 7 / February 4**  
7:00 PM, City Council Work Session - City Hall Annex (Jan.)

**January 14 / February 11**  
7:30 PM, City Council Meeting, City Hall

**January 18 / February 15**  
1:00 PM, City Court Session, City Hall

**January 22 / February 18**  
7:00PM, Planning and Zoning Meeting, City Hall

**January 29 / February 26**  
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](http://www.cityofsugarhill.com).