

the Sweet Life

City of Sugar Hill

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Mark MacKain, of All-In Futbol Club of Sugar Hill

Mark MacKain: All-In Futbol Club

His athletic abilities have earned him spots on Olympic soccer teams and awards worthy of national praise, but there are accolades and accomplishments that make All-In Futbol Club founder, Mark MacKain even more proud.

Growing up in Florida, MacKain played soccer at Winter Park High School. His soccer career began when he was just 14 years old – and a baseball player. MacKain, who is an excellent story-teller, recalls falling from a dead tree branch and hurting his hand on the way down. He remembers standing in front of his baseball coach, who was yelling at him for hurting his hand, and staring at his friends on the field playing soccer. It was then that he realized what he wanted to do with his life and what kind of mentor he eventually wanted to be. One of his mottos that he shares when he teaches new coaches is that “a coach can positively impact more lives in one year than the average person does in a lifetime.” MacKain has done just that.

It is an understatement to say that MacKain has an impressive resume. He began playing professionally as the first high school student drafted to play soccer, more notably, he was only the fifth high school student to be drafted into any sport. He played for Atlanta’s first soccer team, the Atlanta Chiefs, The New Jersey rockets, the Georgia Generals and on Olympic A & B Teams. He played for the National Youth Team, was inducted into the GA Soccer Hall of Fame, and was an executive director for Atlanta Fire for 21 years. MacKain was also elected to the US Club Soccer Board of Directors in 2009.

MacKain rattles through his soccer career fairly quickly saying, “I will tell you about all of this, but let me tell you what I am really proud of.” MacKain points to a large check made out to

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MacKain's Chiefs jersey



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All-In Futbol Club members. MacKain and All-In raised \$325,000 in scholarships. "This is what I'm proud of." This isn't the only charity work MacKain does in the community. In 2014 he and his wife, Gina, established the Nicky MacKain Memorial Fund in honor of their son who passed away at the young age of 23. Nicky had a passion for soccer and a desire to help kids play. Over the past four years, the fund has donated over \$83,000 to families in need which has allowed children in over 350 families an opportunity to play the game Nick loved the most.

All-In Futbol Club was founded in 2014. MacKain credits Sugar Hill Mayor Steve Edwards and City Council for helping him to make it happen. The name was inspired by a church sermon about being "All in with no regrets." The logo, created by MacKain's friend and former Atlanta Chiefs intern Jon Katinsky, features three figures, representing MacKain's three living children; the soccer ball and 23 rays behind it represents his son Nicky. His family and his community are ingrained in his organization and his mission of giving back is evident. MacKain is humble and grateful, "When I see this, kids in All-In jerseys at the mall or wherever, and the Mayor and Council made it happen, that's what I'm proud of, hands down."



All-In Futbol Club gave \$325,000 in scholarships this year



The Edwards Cup is named after Mayor Steve Edwards

Sugar Hill Basketball Jersey Donated To Historic Preservation Society

1960s North Gwinnett High School student Jerry Pealock recently donated an old basketball jersey to the Sugar Hill Historic Preservation Society. A student at the time, Pealock found the jersey stored in a storage room in the high school sometime after Sugar Hill High and Suwanee High merged to form North Gwinnett in 1958. After some research, the society has determined that the jersey is likely from the 1940s due to the material and the manufacturer of the jersey. The number 23 was likely worn by several players as teams tended to use the same uniforms for several years.

If you have any information or historical items that you think would be of interest to the Sugar Hill Historic Preservation Society, please contact city hall at 770-945-6716.



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Peggy Daniels serves the homeless population in Gwinnett County



Peggy Daniels is the founder of Algie's House, which was named after her father who worked hard to provide homes for his daughters.

Algie's House of Refuge Guiding the Homeless in Gwinnett

Gwinnett County has the third largest homeless population in the state of Georgia, with a school system that has approximately 1,943 known homeless students. Peggy Daniels, founder of Algie's House of Refuge, is determined to stop those numbers from rising.

Since 2010, Algie's House of Refuge has offered a variety of need-based services for hundreds of homeless men. The nonprofit focuses on giving shelter, helping with job searches and interviews, and supplying toiletries and clothing.

"They're very appreciative and glad to know that somebody is there to help. It helps with their confidence and their focus," said Peggy Daniels about serving and guiding the Gwinnett County homeless population.

Algie's House is in need of supply donations including toiletry items, clothes, linens, towels, pens and pencils, computers, printers, and copy paper. Monetary donations can also be made through Facebook. With all of these items, a storage facility is also needed to store and organize items. Volunteers are always welcome to give their time, skills, and counseling.

Daniels' vision for Algie's House is to have its own temporary housing facility in the near future. The nonprofit is currently seeking monetary donations to purchase a facility to give the men a home while they seek employment.

Connect with Algie's House of Refuge on Facebook to donate and learn more: <https://www.facebook.com/AlgiesHouse/>

Local Volunter Opportunities

Giving time, tangible donations, and monetary donations this season will help the following organizations as they support our community. Check out some of the Gwinnett organizations below accepting donations and volunteers:

- North Gwinnett Co-op, <http://www.northgwinnetcoop.org>
- CarePointe, a ministry of Cross Pointe Church, <http://www.crosspointechurch.com/>
- Sugar Hill Church, <http://www.sugarhill.church/missions/>
- Gwinnett County Public Schools Foundation, <https://gcps-foundation.org/donation>
- Gwinnett County Animal Shelter, 678.226.7213
- Gwinnett Humane Society, <http://www.gwinnetthumane.com/>
- Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity, <http://habitatgwinnett.org/>
- St. Vincent De Paul, <https://www.svdpgorgia.org/donate>
- Young Life of Suwanee/Buford, <https://suwaneebuford.younglife.org/>

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Sugar Hill Appoints 2018-19 Youth Council

The City of Sugar Hill has named the 2018-2019 Youth Council members. Five of the Youth Council members, Laura Ann Acker (Youth Mayor), Camryn Flores (Youth Mayor Pro Tem), Nida Merchant, Bhaumi Shah and Camden Doker are returning candidates from the previous school year. The three remaining positions were awarded to Khushi Mehta, Hyunwoo (Daniel) Park, and Alexis (Lexi) Ducote. These high school students will represent the city for the duration of the school year.

The newly-appointed Youth Council officials were chosen through a process much like their predecessors. Applications were accepted and reviewed by Youth Council Advisor and former council member Mike Sullivan with recommendation from members of staff. Applicants were then interviewed by Sullivan and a selection board. Each year the program continues to draw from a strong pool of applicants and this year was no different. Sullivan spoke about this year's council saying, "We are very excited about the 2018-19 Youth Council. With a good mix of returning and new council members, we have a great line up of activities and they have selected some great projects both to continue and some new ones as well."

The Sugar Hill Youth Council was sworn in by Mayor Steve Edwards at the City Council meeting on September 10, 2018.



The 2018-19 Youth Council was sworn in on September 10, 2018 by Mayor Steve Edwards. Pictured: (L to R) Council Member Brandon Hembree, Mayor Steve Edwards, Youth Mayor Laura Ann Acker, Council Member Taylor Anderson, Youth Council Member Daniel Park, Youth Council Member Bhaumi Shah, Youth Council Member Alexis Ducote, Youth Council Member Khushi Mehta, Council Member Marc Cohen, Youth Secretary Nida Merchant, Youth Council Advisor, Mike Sullivan, Youth Mayor Pro Tem Camryn Flores, Council Member Susie Gajewski-Walker, Youth Council Member Camden Doker



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NOVEMBER

Nov 2-18		The Importance of Being Earnest
Nov 5	7:00 PM	Council Work Session
Nov 8	5:30 PM	Business Alliance Meeting
Nov 12		City Hall Closed - Veterans Day
Nov 13	7:30 PM	City Council Meeting
Nov 19	7:00 PM	Planning Commission Meeting
Nov 20	6:00 PM	Arts Commission Meeting
Nov 21	7:00 PM	Historic Preservation Society
Nov 22		City Hall Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov 23		City Hall Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov 27	6:30 PM	Downtown Development Authority

*Wednesdays 12:00 PM Toastmasters
5:30 PM Youth Council Meeting

DECEMBER

Dec 1	5:00 PM	Holiday Celebration/Tree Lighting
Dec 3	7:00 PM	Council Work Session
Dec 10	7:30 PM	City Council Meeting
Dec 13	5:30 PM	Business Alliance Meeting
Dec 17	7:00 PM	Planning Commission Meeting
Dec 18	6:00 PM	Arts Commission Meeting
Dec 19	7:00 PM	Historic Preservation Society
Dec 24		City Hall Closed - Christmas Eve Holiday
Dec 25		City Hall Closed - Christmas Holiday
TBD		Downtown Development Authority

*Wednesdays 12:00 PM Toastmasters
5:30 PM Youth Council Meeting



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