

February 2025 Training, Certifications, and Conferences

The City of Sugar Hill's staff participated in a variety of training, conferences, certifications, and webinars in February to further their skills, knowledge, and professional development. This education has provided staff with the tools to improve effectiveness, safety, and community engagement across departments.

1. Public Works:

- Employees **Ethan Couch** and **Alden Pugh** attended a workshop on **B31Q Task #1291 (Locate Underground Pipelines)**. This training improved their skills in pipeline location and compliance with industry standards.
- Several staff members completed computer-based training to Ensure safe excavation, pipe installation, valve operation, leak detection, system integrity, and accurate pipeline location

2. Parks and Recreation:

- Staff participated in a **Defensive Driving Class**.

3. Marketing and Communications:

- **Madison Hanus** and **Alexis Torres** attended the **Cultural Crossroads Conference**, gaining insights into modern marketing strategies, including **code switching** and **experiential marketing**. These techniques will help tailor content to diverse audiences and improve community engagement.
- **Alexis Torres** attended a webinar on **crisis communications**, to develop structured plans for effective communication during emergencies.
- **Victoria Richburg** attended an **EV Charging Funding and Partnerships webinar**, identifying opportunities to expand public electric vehicle infrastructure.

4. Events:

- **Hattie Diaz** and **Lee Morgan** participated in **GYP Journey Leadership Program** for leadership development and team dynamics. Lee currently serves in mentorship role.
- **Katelyn Zeller** and **Alyssa Gonzalez** attended the **Southeastern Festivals and Events Association Conference**, gaining insights into event planning and strategies to enhance community events.

5. Operations:

- **Troy Besseche** attended a webinar on **Natural Gas Heat Pumps**, highlighting cost savings and sustainability benefits for future energy initiatives.

6. Information Technology:

- **Ned Jasarevic** attended a webinar on the **CIS-CAT Pro Dashboard**, improving the ability to monitor and report on system compliance and performance.

7. **Planning and Development:**

- **Nicole Klein** completed the **Local Administered Project (LAP) Certification** through GDOT, ensuring compliance with Federal and State standards for managing Federal-aid projects.
- **Artagus Newell, Kim Landers, and Andera Montufar** participated in **CiviPlus Software Implementation Training**, gaining skills in project scheduling, system management, and training for new software implementation.

8. **Public Safety:**

- Marshals participated in a **Defensive Driving Class**.
- **Andy Smith** attended state-wide safety meetings and law enforcement risk management training, focusing on policy and risk reduction.
- **Diane King** participated in large event security training, modular vehicle barriers, and threat assessment management with the FBI.

9. **Finance:**

- Cindy Pugh reviewed state and local roles in property tax appraisal methods.

Overall Impact

February 2025 training, certifications, conferences, and webinars have contributed to the professional growth of Sugar Hill's staff and an overall improvement of city operations. These activities align with the city's goals of safety, effectiveness, and community engagement. This ensures that staff is well-equipped to meet the needs of residents and stakeholders.

- **Skills:** Staff across departments have developed new technical, leadership, and communication skills, improving their ability to serve the community effectively.
- **Safety:** Trainings like the Defensive Driving Class and B31Q Task #1291 workshop have strengthened safety protocols and operational efficiency.
- **Community Engagement:** Marketing and events staff gained valuable tools to better connect with residents and promote city initiatives.
- **Sustainability:** Webinars on EV charging and natural gas heat pumps have provided insights into sustainable practices and cost-saving opportunities.
- **Professional Growth:** Leadership programs and certifications, such as the GYP Journey Leadership Program and LAP Certification, have fostered professional development and compliance with industry standards.
- **Technology Advancements:** IT and Planning staff improved their technical expertise, ensuring smoother implementation of new systems and better compliance tracking.