



SPLOST : How YOU Benefit!

What is a SPLOST you ask? It is a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. A one penny tax that is used for very specific projects, is approved by voters and is collected from everyone that spends money in Gwinnett County. The County uses the sales tax to fund transportation, roads, parks and recreation, public safety and court facilities. Sugar Hill uses its share of SPLOST Funds to resurface City streets, expand our park system and build recreation facilities, in addition to building our New City Hall. Over the years, our residents have expressed their desires for what Sugar Hill should be; a family-centric quality of life, a recreation city with vibrant parks and activities, a place with a sense of community and a need for a downtown area. With the 2005 approval of SPLOST, the City saved this money to fulfill the desires of the residents and the City. Since 2007, the SPLOST tax dollars were spent in three areas, all approved by voters. They were:

- \$4.7 million for roadway construction and resurfacing.
- \$5.7 million for park expansion and facilities for EE Robinson and Gary Pirkle Park, plus the construction of a 1000 seat amphitheater.
- \$6 million for a new City Hall.

The money collected cannot be spent for operating the City or be placed in the General Fund account. This money is outside of the property taxes the City receives. Prudent financial management has allowed the City to keep the millage rate stable over the past 12 years and with the addition of SPLOST funds, the City continues to have no debt - an even more impressive feat when you consider that the City has doubled in population, has expanded and created new events, festivals and has created the infrastructure and foundation for a downtown.



The “Sugar Wagon” Installed in the Roundabout

Ever wondered how Sugar Hill got its name? Many years ago Buford was a railhead from which freight wagons traveled regularly to Cumming. One story is that during a freight trip a heavily loaded wagon lost a wheel on a high hill and spilled a part of its load, including several large bags of sugar. The broken wheel was repaired and the wagon reloaded - except for the sugar, which had split open and spilled on the hill. The area became known as "The hill where the sugar spilled." It was shortened to "The Sugar Hill" and then just to "Sugar Hill." Sugar Hill existed as a Georgia Militia District since 1886 before it was chartered as a city on March 24, 1939. We have installed a symbolic wagon in the roundabout on West Broad St to commemorate this story of our origins.



Send your comments on the newsletter, e-mail dkelemen@cityofsugarhill.com

Sugar Hill Welcomes Ashton Gardens



Ashton Gardens wedding facility was officially welcomed to Sugar Hill with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Photo: (L-R) Robert Wood, Operations Mgr., Councilman Mike Sullivan, Ron Unruh, Director of Operations, Mayor Gary Pirkle, Councilman Marc Cohen with son Seth, Larry White, Executive Chef, Ann Williams, Dir. of Sales

News Bites:

- The next Sugar Hill movie is **“Hotel Transylvania”** on June 14th. It is rated PG. The movie starts at dusk in the **new amphitheater** behind our new City Hall, 5039 West Broad St. As always the movies are free & open to the public. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, picnics and enjoy.
- **Sugar Hill 75th - Anniversary Logo Design Competition** Your design could be *the* fashion statement at Sugar Hill’s anniversary celebration! The Planning Committee for Sugar Hill’s 75th anniversary is seeking submissions of original artwork or graphic design for use related to marketing and/or commemorating the City’s 2014 anniversary celebration. The designer of the selected work will receive a **\$750** cash prize, and other amenities. The competition is open to all residents, businesses, students and friends of Sugar Hill. **The submission deadline is May 17, 2013.** Go to the Sugar Hill City website for complete rules and an entry form.
- **World Changers** is returning this summer for the fourth year to repair and rebuild residents homes in need of assistance. House painting, handi-cap ramps and other exterior work will again be offered. Applications may be picked up at City Hall or found on our website. Contact Kaipo Awana for more info at 770-945-6716. [<kawana@cityofsugarhill.com>](mailto:kawana@cityofsugarhill.com)
- Sycamore Elementary School held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the installation of swings at the school. Principal Crystal Thompson thanked the help that came from Home Depot, Skyzone and men from the Richland Creek Landfill. In the photo Principal Thompson and PTA President Paula Savite are seen cutting the ribbon to open the swings for the students to enjoy.



2013 Meeting Schedule :

May / June

May 6 / June 3

7:00 PM, City Council Work Session - City Hall

May 13 / June 10

7:30 PM, City Council Meeting, City Hall

May 17 / June 14

1:00 PM, City Court Session, City Hall

May 20 / June 17

7:00PM, Planning and Zoning Meeting, City Hall

May 28 / June 25

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.