

Source: GwinnettHerald.com

## **YEAR IN REVIEW: New offices changing downtown Duluth in 2008**

by Logan Thomas

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A large part of Main Street certainly changed in 2008. Street Smarts, a privately held planning, design and engineering consulting firm, and Mathias Corporation, a privately held construction firm, officially cut the ribbon on new offices in downtown Duluth earlier this year.

Mayor Nancy Harris said the new development "makes a statement about Duluth."

"That statement is about quality," she said. "I'm so proud to have a project like this representing our hometown. This is such a great example of private business working with the public."

Vince DeSilva, VP of Membership Services with the Gwinnett County Chamber of Commerce, said the new building signified hope.

"It's gorgeous," he said. "On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, I'm proud to welcome Mathias and Street Smarts to Duluth and Gwinnett County."

Harris said the building represents a great balancing of old and new.

"I think it's important to balance the old and new," she said, "and take pride in our past. That's what makes Duluth charming."