

DEDICATION CEREMONY & GRAND OPENING

Hinesville ❖ City Hall ❖

Saturday, August 20, 2011 ♦ 11 a.m.



Access

Continued from page 5

hearing impaired so they can follow public meetings.

“The individual will have to leave an identification card to sign out the headset and return the device before the ID card is returned,” Britton explained.

Residents also can contact the city clerk’s office for copies of meeting minutes or to get recordings, she said. Meeting minutes also are on the city of Hinesville’s website at www.cityofhinesville.org.

In addition, residents will find audio and visual capabilities inside the city council chambers have been enhanced, according to Britton.

“The council meeting book will be projected off of a screen in the council chambers for easy viewing as has been done in the past,” she said. “A new feature is the ability to magnify and project additional items brought to a council meeting that may not be in the book.”

She cited such examples as award or video presentations.

“We are no longer constrained to only displaying paper documents from PDF files or PowerPoint presentations,” Britton said. “This is another effort to make city information accessible.”

District 3 Hinesville Councilman David Anderson, a supporter of disabled and senior residents, said the new city hall adheres to government ADA standards, but he stressed more needs to be done overall to accommodate the handicapped in Hinesville. Anderson said he especially is concerned about the inaccessibility of a portion of sidewalk along Highway 84, between Gen. Stewart Way and Gen. Screven.

“Someone in a wheelchair can’t get up (or down) on the sidewalk,” he said.

Anderson added many eateries are located along the 150- to 200-yard stretch of highway.

“We can’t do too much from Hinesville because it’s a state highway,” he said. Anderson said he plans to contact the Georgia Department of Transportation to discuss the issue.



Above: Audio and visual capabilities inside the city council chambers have been enhanced. The council meeting book will be projected on a screen in the room, and officials now have the ability to magnify and project additional items brought to a council meeting that may not be in the book. Left: City hall’s covered archways provide shelter from inclement weather.

Photos by
Aliyah Dastour

New city hall designed to be 'lean and green'

Despite increased size, energy costs will remain the same, officials say

By DENISE ETHERIDGE
detheridge@coastalcourier.com

Hinesville's new 48,000-square-foot, three-story city hall may be twice the size of the old one, but it won't cost the city more to heat or cool, city officials say. The \$7 million brick and balustrade building, which was funded with SPLOST dollars and a loan, was built to maximize energy efficiency, thus saving the city from footing higher electric and water bills.

"We haven't really increased the cost (of energy) at all," Hinesville Mayor Jim Thomas said.

"We feel we should take care that we provide the best service we can and build a structure that will be enduring ... and take us into two or three generations and still be energy efficient," Hinesville Pro Tem Charles Frasier said.

Thomas said city hall's many windows were made to reflect heat away from the building. Also, shades have been installed — such as in the council chambers — to block out glare from the sun, he said.

"The building envelope is completely insulated, and the insulated glazing in the windows incorporates a low-emissivity coating for reducing radiant heat gain," said David Holton, the architectural project manager for the new city hall. Holton is vice president of James W. Buckley & Associates, the firm that designed the city's newest facility. Choate Construction Company, headquartered in Pooler, built the city's flagship building.

Holton said city hall was designed to exceed the Georgia energy code. The

GREEN continues on 12



All of city hall's windows, such as the ones in the mayor's office, were designed to reflect heat away from the building. Also, shades were installed in many rooms to block out glare.

Aliyah Dastour



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Older adults, students get on-the-job experience

By CAITLYN BOZA

Coastal Courier correspondent

The sluggish economy has made it difficult for job seekers of all ages to find employment, and recent college graduates and senior citizens are no exception, which is why the city of Hinesville has implemented two programs to help.

For more than five years, Hinesville City Hall has partnered with Experience Works, a national organization that provides training and job experience to senior citizens, to employ older adults in the city.

“At Hinesville City Hall, our participants get more marketable and visible training,” said Verna Knight, employment and training coordinator with the local Experience Works office. “Our participants do a variety of jobs there that help them become more marketable to other employers in the area.”

There currently are two Experience Works participants employed at city hall. The participants train for 20 hours a week and receive a federally funded stipend.

Barbara Williams, 57, serves as a public relations and administrative assistant at city hall. She first discovered the local Experience Works program in June 2010. The former credit analyst and grandmother of four struggled to find a job after being laid off in 2007.

“It’s so hard to find a job,” Williams said. “I went to the Labor Department every day looking for work, but there was nothing. It’s devastating, really. You never think that you’re going to be 55 and looking for work that just isn’t there.”

Within two months of contacting Experience Works, Williams was assigned a position at city hall. She has been training there since last September and said she is grateful for the experience.

“I’m getting more training that I can put on a resume,” she said. “I feel like I’m worth something there. When people look at me, they don’t see a 57-year-old



Krystal Britton

Public relations and administrative assistant Barbara Williams got involved in the city’s Experience Works program in June 2010.

woman, they see a professional.”

City hall also has implemented an internship program to help college students get experience in their chosen fields and prepare for careers.

Kenna Graham, 38, participated in the internship program three years ago while he was working on his general studies degree at Columbia College. He interned with the inspections and geographical information systems department for a year.

He now is employed by Hinesville’s public works department.

“Today, I’m working in the field, and doing what I learned as an intern every day,” Graham said. “Learning the system then is valuable to me now.”

City hall currently has two interns participating in the program.

The internship experience varies by department in both length and terms of compensation.

Green

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code sets minimum insulation levels for ceilings, walls and floors, and requirements for air sealing a building, according to www.atlantahomeinnovations.com. The code also mandates that half of permanently installed lighting fixtures contain high-efficiency lamps or be controlled with occupancy sensors.

“The city took this a step further and incorporated even more efficient light

fixtures that will reduce lighting loads by approximately 30 percent from previously specified fixtures,” Holton said. “Lighting load is further reduced by maximizing day lighting in office spaces and providing occupancy sensors that automatically shut off lights when areas are not in use. The city also requested infrared sensors on the plumbing fixtures to conserve water, and all the fixtures are high-efficiency, low-flow designs.”

Reducing the building’s heat gain and increasing its lighting efficiency helps city hall’s HVAC system work better, thus keeping city hall comfortably cool dur-

ing South Georgia’s scorching summers, according to Holton.

“The mechanical system is a variable air volume (VAV) system that provides more individual comfort capability at a reduced power demand as compared to traditional packaged rooftop units,” he said. “The reduction of power is a result of being able to vary the fan speeds based on individual needs instead of the units having to run at a constant higher speed. These units are concealed on the roof of the facility, where rainwater is collected and piped into a storage cistern under the parking lot.”

“In the parking lot at city hall and in the parking lot across the street from city hall, we’ve installed 12,000-gallon cisterns,” Thomas said.

These cisterns catch and filter rainwater for onsite irrigation of city landscaping, Holton said. When the cistern is empty, the water is pumped from an existing shallow well onsite, he added.

In addition to energy savings, construction of the new city hall and the renovation made to the police station, which served as an interim city hall, came in under budget and five months ahead of schedule, Holton said.



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City hall houses busy departments, programs



Hinesville City Clerk Sarah Lumpkin has many responsibilities, including managing and supervising the receipt of all municipal funds.

Aliyah Dastour

The new Hinesville City Hall houses many offices, programs and departments. Here's what customers and residents will find:

• Mayor's Office

The mayor and city council exercise the corporate governmental powers of Hinesville in the manner provided by charter. The mayor is the chief executive officer of the city government and oversees enforcement of the laws of the city.

• City Manager's Office

The city manager is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the city and oversees all departments of Hinesville's government. The office serves as a liaison between the city council

and the public, and is responsible for implementing policy decisions made by council members, among other tasks.

• City Clerk's Office

The city clerk is responsible for managing and supervising the receipt of all municipal funds, maintaining city codes, public records, ordinances and resolutions. The office also supervises business license fees, utility bills and other fees.

• Business License Office

The business license office assists in the completion of business license applications and in obtaining other city-required clearances and permits.

The business license office



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also coordinates the processes for transient merchant licenses, peddler licenses and yard sale permits. Permits for solicitation for charitable or religious purposes and for parade or assembly may also be obtained through the business license office.

• Public Relations Office

The public relations office is responsible for disseminating information pertaining to city officials, departments, services and residents. It also develops and distributes publicity for all city activities, including public notices, calendar events, email marketing and general news articles.

• Human Resources Department

The human resources department oversees all human resources functions, such as compensation, benefits, recruitment, transactions, operations, payroll and employee relations in the city.

• Finance Department

The finance department manages the city's financial resources

and safeguards the assets through appropriate controls and accounting practices. The department is responsible for the city's accounting, purchasing, budgeting and annual financial statement preparation.

• Community Development Department

The community development department is responsible for seeking, securing and managing funds from public and private grant sources to help facilitate the strategic goals of the city.

• Inspections and Geographical Information Systems Office

The inspections/GIS office is responsible for providing residents with accurate, up-to-date building code and safety information.

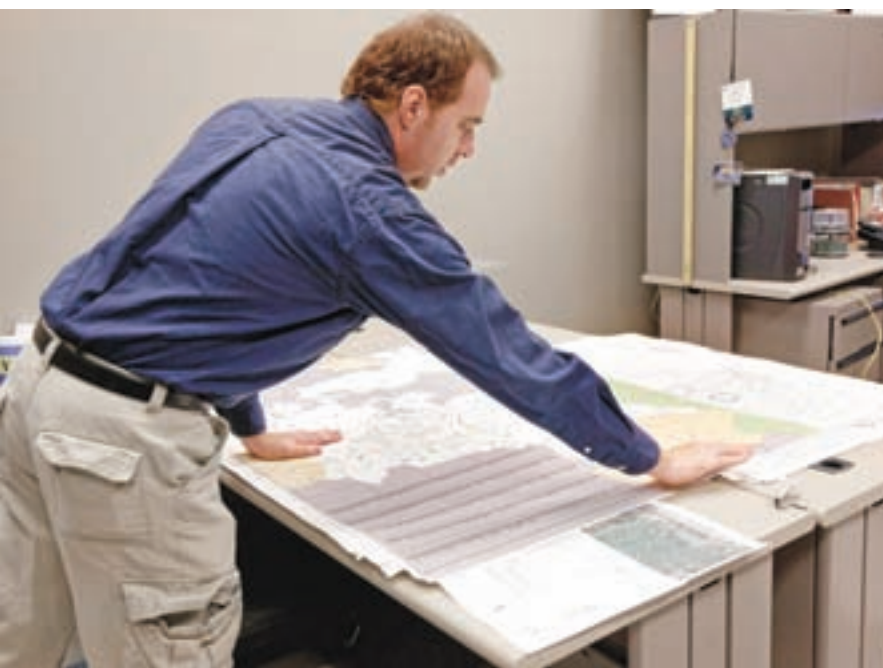
• Water Department

The water department is responsible for services related to water, sewage and garbage disposal in the city. Payment and initiation/disconnection of services can be processed at the city hall office.



Photos by Aliyah Dastour

Above: Assistant City Manager and Community Development Department Director Kenneth Howard and Human Resources Manager Holly Stevens discuss updates to a human resources policy. Below left: GIS department autocad technician Mike Johnson lays out one of the many types of maps the office creates.



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‘Living tribute’ showcases past, present, future

Hinesville Room’s mementos, artifacts to tell area’s story

By DANIELLE HIPPS

dhipps@coastalcourier.com

The city of Hinesville is ushering in a new tradition inside the walls of city hall: a “living tribute to Hinesville and Liberty County.”

“We need to tell our story,” Mayor Jim Thomas said about the room. “Sometimes we think we’re in a small town, but we’re actually in a moderate town that has tremendous history.”

The “Hinesville Room” on the building’s third story will showcase the area’s historic past, demonstrate its present growth and showcase plans for the future, he said.

And city officials hope residents will help spread the word about Hinesville’s history, Thomas said. The city is searching for donations and short-term loaned artifacts that paint a picture of the town’s growth.

Two keepsakes from recent history are slated to be displayed in the Hinesville Room.

Those familiar with the former city hall will find the 81.5-inch by 8-inch wool quilt that 25 women of the Hinesville Methodist Church made as a wedding gift for residents and Bradwell Institute teachers Lolla Smith and Wilbur Harrison, according to Liberty County Historical Society member Margie Love.

The quilt, with 16-inch squares signed in gold silk thread by the women who made the blanket, preserves a slice of history that some residents can recall and many others likely have heard about.

“It’s important to know the people who worked for us and how we got where we are today. We didn’t just happen to get here,” Love said about the need to educate people about history. “If we don’t, nobody in the future is going to know what happened in the past.”

Inside the room, visitors can find an original, vibrant oil painting by local historian Ethelda Darsey Lee that depicts the 1933 Liberty County Fair, the last year the annual event was held.



Aliyah Dastour

The Hinesville Room, on the third floor of the new city hall, will showcase the area’s rich past, demonstrate its present growth and showcase plans for the future. City officials hope residents will donate or loan mementos pertaining to Liberty County and Hinesville history.

“Ethelda’s niece told me that that was Ethelda’s memory of the fair when she was a young woman,” painting donor Judy Shippey said. Lore has it that the fair was a week-long event, with maneuver demonstrations by the Liberty County Troop, rides and contests for baking and quilt-making.

“It was really a week that the whole town looked forward to,” she said. Shippey could not remember how many years the fair ran, but she speculated that it was a long-running event.

“Thinking of the future, I decided that it was a Hinesville treasure — it needed to be where the public could enjoy it,” Shippey said.

Lee, a family friend, gave the painting to Shippey’s parents, the Rev. DeWitt Shippey and Grace Hendry Shippey, as an

anniversary present in 1976.

“That was just a few weeks before my father died in 1976, and it’s always been a family treasure,” she said. “I miss it at my home, but I’m very happy to know that it’s in a place where it can be appreciated by the people of Hinesville and Liberty County.”

Visitors typically will have access to the room during business hours, between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The room also will serve as a venue for city events and banquets and sometimes will be closed for preparations.

“Hinesville and Liberty County are very historic places,” Thomas said. From a long-standing Creek civilization to the influx of Europeans in the 1700s, Georgia’s coast has seen its fair share of settlements and skirmishes.

CITY SEEKS DONORS

Own something interesting?

- Anyone who wants to lend or donate mementos of Liberty County history should call the city’s public relations manager, Krystal Britton at 876-3564.

Formed by the union of the parishes of St. John, St. Andrew and St. James, Liberty County was adopted by Constitution of 1777, and is considered Georgia’s sixth county. Its original county seat, designated in 1784, was in Sunbury. In 1797, the seat was moved inland to what then was Riceborough.

In 1836, Liberty County state Sen. Charlton Hines introduced legislation to

move the seat to an area about 18 miles northwest of Riceborough, about a mile away from the general parade ground, or Zoucks Old Field. The area previously had been used as training for the county militia, according to the "Sweet Land of Liberty" by Robert Long Groover.

In December of the same year, a five-member commission selected sites for construction of a courthouse, jail and administrative buildings for the area, home to plantations that exported rice and indigo. The area, which later would be named Hinesville, was not chartered until after political turmoil tore the nation during the Civil War.

In 1893, Hinesville residents wrote a petition seeking a town charter, according to Groover. Liberty County Superior Court Judge Robert Falligant approved the request and drew a charter, naming Alfred I. Hendry mayor and creating a five-member town council, which took office Jan. 1, 1894. Without a facility of their own, the appointed leaders met in what was the Liberty County Courthouse.

In keeping with the historical theme, pictures of each of the city's mayors will be on display in the third floor lobby outside of the Hinesville Room.

“We want people to see how Hinesville was, how it is, and what it will be in the future.”

Mayor Jim Thomas

During the 1890s, Hinesville residents embarked on a campaign to boost the town's population, using the slogan: "Move to Hinesville and help us make it a city." By 1916, their goal would be realized as the General Assembly incorporated the city of Hinesville, Groover wrote.

It's likely those residents never could have anticipated

the city would become home to more than 30,000 people, Fort Stewart and many public schools.

After operating out of a building on the downtown courthouse square, Hinesville saw the construction of a new city hall building in 1962 under Mayor Glenn E. Bryant on East South Street.

"We want people to see how Hinesville was, how it is, and what it will be in the future," Thomas said.



Aliyah Dastour

This vibrant oil painting by local historian Ethelda Darsey Lee depicts the 1933 Liberty County Fair. Hinesville resident Judy Shippey donated the painting for display in city hall's Hinesville Room.

Hinesville City Hall *Opens Its Doors*



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An old city of Hinesville coin and a wall hanging featuring local landmarks are two of the souvenirs for sale in the new city hall. Souvenirs can be purchased at the water department in the building's first-floor lobby.

Photos by Danielle Hipps



GET YOUR CITY SOUVENIRS

Whether you're a Hinesville native, stationed at Fort Stewart or just passing through, Hinesville City Hall is the official outfitter of area historical gift items, according to public relations manager Krystal Britton.

The items, which will be on display in the future, can be purchased at the water department in the building's first-floor lobby.

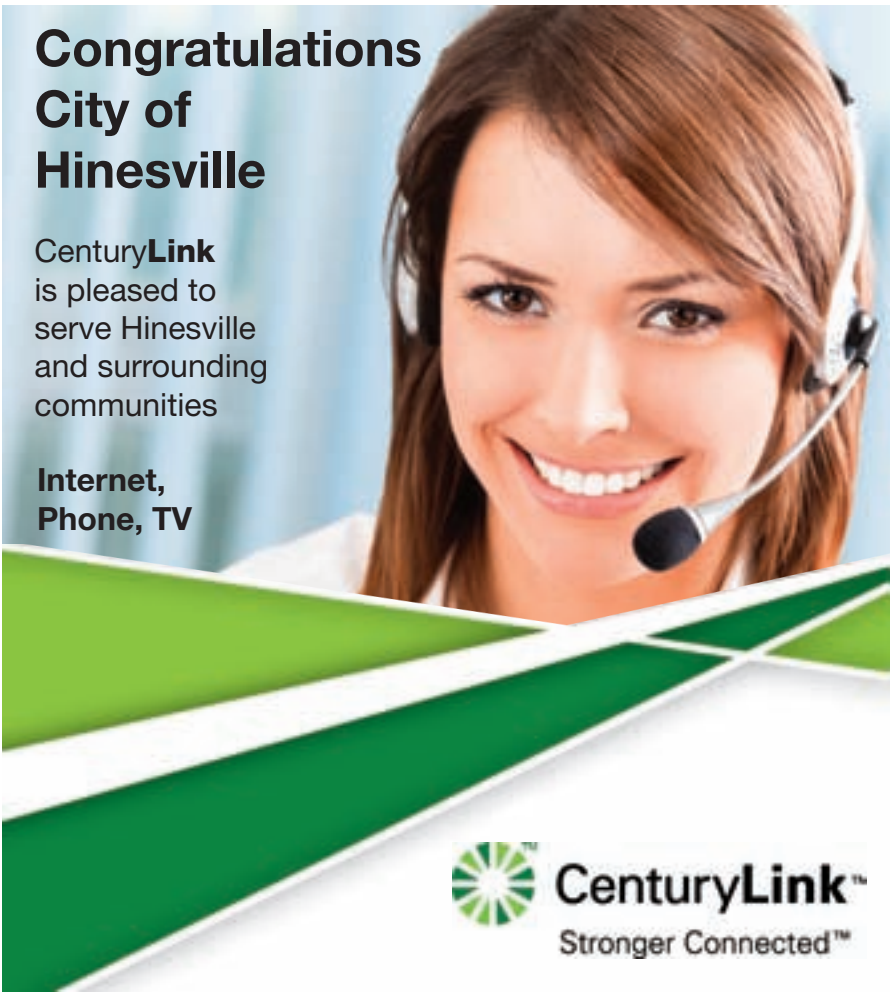
- Wall hangings, 27 inches by 36 inches – \$17
- Bell pulls, 9 inches by 36 inches – \$13
- Afghans, 54 inches by 70 inches – \$25
- Men's Hugo Boss polo shirts with city seal – \$30
- Cotton-poly tote bags – \$13
- Baseball caps with city seal – \$10
- Glass cups with city seal – \$10
- Pens – \$3
- New city coins – \$2
- Old city coins – \$1



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Community Development Dept. enjoys new space

Officials expect improved services, efficient operations

By CAITLYN BOZA

Coastal Courier correspondent

The increased square footage in the new Hinesville City Hall will allow the city's Community Development Department to operate more efficiently and provide improved services to residents.

"It's really a blessing to have a facility like this," Community Development Director and Assistant City Manager Kenneth Howard said. "It allows us to be fully operational and provide citizens with the resources they need."

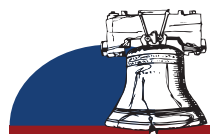
The Homeless Prevention Program, a referral-based program that provides temporary housing and assistance to Hinesville's homeless, is one of the

SPACE continues on 6



Community Development Department staff expect their programs will provide improved services and function more efficiently in the new city hall office.

Hollie Moore Barnidge



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Building a Better Future for Our City

Space

Continued from page 5

Community Development offices that will benefit the most from the new location.

In previous years, Homeless Prevention Program employees were housed in a separate building on Fraser Drive, separate from their colleagues. This made it difficult for both city employees and for those in the community who sought the department's services.

"The new building serves as a 'one-stop-shop' consolidation for the people we help," program coordinator Daisy Jones said. "A lot of them don't have cars and have to walk or rely on public transportation, so it was difficult for them to have to go from one building to another for different services."

Participants in the program are assigned case managers who help them obtain employment, gain life skills and manage their finances. The goal is to help homeless families and individuals reach self-sufficiency.

The new city hall will allow case man-

agers to host mandatory life-skills workshops and conduct private meetings with participants in one place.

In the old facilities, case managers had to have such meetings in various locations around Hinesville, making coordination and transportation difficult.

"The program's value is immeasurable," Jones said. "It touches so many lives and helps the participants realize their value to their families, to themselves and to the community. The new building will make it easier for us to help them accomplish that."

In addition to the Homeless Prevention Program, the Community Development Department offers a number of other services to the residents of Hinesville, including a homebuyer education program for first-time homebuyers, grants for buying a home or obtaining post-secondary education and downtown revitalization efforts.

"We are a broad-spectrum department with the services we provide," Howard said. "We focus our energies and resources on the less fortunate, and in these economic times, it's very important to both our city and to those in need."



Residents who enter the new Hinesville City Hall lobby seeking Homeless Prevention Program information won't have far to go. The program, once housed in a separate building on Fraser Drive, now is based in city hall.

Aliyah
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Hinesville City Hall provides access to all



Aliyah Dastour

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the water department in the new Hinesville City Hall has a window that is easily accessible to customers who use wheelchairs.

State-of-the-art facility touts convenient features, modern design

BY DENISE ETHERIDGE
detheridge@coastalcourier.com

Hinesville officials, in keeping with the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act, are assuring disabled residents access to the new city hall and municipal services and information.

"Certainly we want to accommodate all our citizens," Hinesville Mayor Pro Tem Charles Frasier said. ADA is required by law, Frasier said. Therefore, the city does what it must to provide disabled persons access to civic life, he said.

"The city of Hinesville ensures that all construction meets all federal, state and local ADA requirements, making handicap accessibility a must for all public-used buildings," Hinesville Director of Inspections Steve Welborn said. "This is not limited to new construction, but (also) to existing buildings where restoration is taking place."

Welborn said properties that go through zoning changes, like residential to commercial/office institutional, also would be made handicap accessible.

"From the beginning of the design

process (on city hall) until its acceptance, convenience and accessibility to the building for the public was a priority so every entrance to the building is handicap-accessible, even those areas that are not intended for public access," Welborn said.

Hinesville Mayor Jim Thomas pointed out the new city hall has wheelchair-accessible ramps, and surfaces on the pavement surrounding city hall are corrugated so wheelchair users or people on crutches won't slip.

Thomas added the covered archway along the side of the building provides

all residents shelter from inclement weather and gives them easy access to the building.

"All the hallways are extra-wide so they don't get crowded when they go from office to office," he said. "Our water department has a (low) window for wheelchair users."

City hall's restrooms also have low sinks, the mayor added.

Krystal Britton, Hinesville public relations manager, said the city has four audio amplifier (headsets) to offer the

ACCESS continues on 10

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