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**HINESVILLE**  
 CELEBRATING  
**175**  
 YEARS  
 1837 • 2012

# *A celebration*



**Bradwell Institute 1900**



**Bradwell Institute 2012**

*Then ...*



**Main Street 1975**

*and now*



**Main Street 2012**



**First Baptist Church 1942**



**First Baptist Church 2012**

### **What you'll find inside this section:**

- Interviews with Hinesville's past four mayors
- Features about several community pillars
- Stories of local accomplishments
- The establishment of community groups, such as the Hinesville Area Arts Council and the YMCA
- A city of Hinesville timeline
- Tidbits of history and interesting facts
- Pictures of people, places and things in Hinesville from yesteryear and today
- More online: Go to [coastalcourier.com](http://coastalcourier.com) to see video interviews with Hinesville natives, an elaborate slideshow of historic photos and more stories



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# Hinesville: Celebrating 175 years of challenges, success

BY DEBRA AYERS BROWN

Special to the Courier

From the day it was named for state Sen. Charlton Hines and tapped as the county seat in 1837, Hinesville's history is rich.

To celebrate the city's 175th anniversary, we're creating a capsule of standouts — places, events and people who have touched the lives of Hinesville citizens and made the community what it is today.

Our hope is to remind you of the city's roots, to share the profiles of a few interesting people and to point out some tidbits of history you might have missed.

Census records show we've grown from seven residents in 1837 to 30,302 in 2010, which excludes 9,465 troops who were deployed during the Census.

In the past 25 years, the community has experienced deployments, managed growth and endured challenges. We've welcomed Olympic athletes, Russian generals, sister-city delegations and returning heroes. Leaders have focused on downtown revitalizations with hopes of future private-sector investments.



**Hinesville's new 48,327-square-foot, three-story city hall, built in 2011, features porcelain tile, oak floors and maple wainscoting.**

Debra Ayers Brown

Education and the arts have flourished. The Liberty County Chamber of Commerce membership has doubled to 500 since 2011. We've built a new airport, hospital, police station, trade centers, board of education office, justice center and city hall.

History happened in the 1800s, and it happens every day.

It was no real surprise in our research to come across the names of the city's well-known early settlers, including Ashmore, Bacon, Bradwell, Caswell, Darsey, Floyd, Fraser, Hendry, Hines, Martin, May, Mills, Shaw, Stafford, Way,

Wells and Welborn. Their descendants have served our city for years and continue to do so today. So we would like to dedicate this publication celebrating Hinesville's 175th birthday to these leaders, particularly Hinesville's mayors, who have served the community with tireless dedication:

Mayor James Thomas Jr. (2008-2015)

Mayor Thomas J. Ratcliffe (2000-2007)

Mayor Allen Brown (1992-1999)

Mayor Buddy DeLoach (1987-1991)

Mayor Carl Dykes (1971-1979 and 1983-1987)

Mayor James Brown (1979-1985)

Mayor James W. Watson (1971)

Mayor Glenn E. Bryant (1963-1970)

Mayor Frederick W. Mingledorff Sr. (1956-1962)

Mayor Harold N. Stafford Sr. (1945-1955)

Mayor T. W. Welborn (1937-1942)

Mayor Henry Lowe Sr. (1934-1936)

Mayor Joseph B. Fraser Jr. (1929-1933)

Mayor Wallace F. Mills (1925-1928)

Mayor Joseph B. Fraser Sr. (1916-1924)

Mayor Simon B. Brewton (1910-1915)

Mayor Thomas S. Layton (1896-1905 and 1908-1909)

Mayor Alfred I. Hendry (1894-1895 and 1904-1907)

As you peruse the articles and snippets of history in this section, we invite you to think about what the city of Hinesville means to you. We predict you'll have your own snapshots of important people, places and events that showcase why Hinesville is a place worth celebrating.

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# On the record with Hinesville's living mayors

## BUDDY DELOACH — THE ARMY TOWN

Former Mayor Buddy DeLoach, who served from 1987-1992, took a moment recently to reflect on the relationship between Hinesville and Fort Stewart, something he worked hard to cultivate while in office.

Surrounded by family photos of his wife Linda; son and daughter-in-law, Jeffrey and Mary; and grandchildren, Will and Kathryn, and additional shots of DeLoach posing with decorated generals, the golf and fishing enthusiast said the community worked quickly when the U.S. Army announced a new addition at Fort Stewart.

"It was a major impact when the 24th Infantry Division came to Fort Stewart," DeLoach said. "We had to act fast to create requirements for orderly development."

DeLoach committed to getting to know the 24th Infantry command group. He and his wife were present



when Maj. Gen. Barry McCaffrey cut the nation's birthday cake with a sabre, just before the troops deployed to Desert Storm.

"We pulled together and put personal worries aside, building lasting relationships. I'll never forget a candlelight prayer service at Olvey Field, where Miss Georgia sang God Bless America as thousands waved flags," he said. "But I'm most proud of how groups got together to mow lawns, handle minor repairs and take kids to Little League."

As the conflict's end neared and DeLoach visited troops in Saudi Arabia

*ARMY continues on 6*

## ALLEN BROWN — OMI CONTRACT A GOOD CALL

During Allen Brown's two mayoral terms, from 1992-1999, Hinesville had to replace every department head — Fire Chief Julien Mingledorff, Police Chief Harlon DeLoach, City Clerk Onetha Mingledorff and Bill Downs of the inspections department — due to retirements and DeLoach's death.

Eleven Russian generals visited Hinesville and Washington, D.C. The city continued to deal with growth and deployments.

Change was constant.

On April 1, 1992, Hinesville expanded the scope of its 1984 contract with OMI, now CH2M Hill, for sanitation services, storm-water management, street maintenance, mosquito control and fleet maintenance in addition to the water and wastewater management services it already provided.

The contract, negotiated annually, still is in place today.



The contract came after a decision in the early 1980s to construct a joint wastewater treatment facility with Fort Stewart.

"At the time, Hinesville operated two aerated oxidation lagoons. Fort Stewart had an antiquated system," Hinesville City Manager Billy Edwards explained. "Both Hinesville and Fort Stewart were overtaxed."

The facility had to be on Fort Stewart because of the location of the Canoochee River, the receiving stream. Hinesville agreed to own, operate, maintain and provide services for Fort Stewart and Hinesville. The need for a

*CONTRACT continues on 6*

## TOM RATCLIFFE — LANDING AN AIRPORT

Former Mayor Tom Ratcliffe, who served from 2000-2007, believes preparing a proposal package for Sen. Paul Coverdell in 2000 and a good relationship with Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield secured the MidCoast Regional Airport at Wright Army Airfield for the community.

"The county's general aviation airport on Airport Road, lacking a terminal to welcome visitors, had long been deemed inadequate," Ratcliffe said. "Under an agreement with Fort Stewart, we were able to open the airport and receive a 1,500-foot extension of one of the runways."

Open since November 2007, the joint-use airport on Fort Stewart serves the community's general and corporate aviation needs by providing a state-of-the-art terminal for civilian and military use with hangar space, tie-down areas, crash carts, a tower and access to two 5,000-foot runways with the potential to



expand one runway to 6,500 feet in the future.

"It's a powerful economic development tool," Ratcliffe said.

"We discovered that 98 percent of flights can be

done on a 5,000-foot runway. So the airport can accommodate corporate jets carrying officials searching for new sites with easy access to Tradeport East and Tradeport West, located 12 miles away with only one stoplight."

MidCoast Regional Airport is a cooperative effort between the city of Hinesville, Fort Stewart, the Liberty County Board of Commissioners and the Liberty County Development Authority.

## JAMES THOMAS — A HOPEFUL COMMUNITY

Mayor James Thomas has one word to sum up his administration: hopeful. But the second-term mayor isn't leaving anything to hope alone.

During his term of office, which started in 2008 and will run until 2015, the city has faced many challenges, including losing a promised brigade, advocating for reimbursement and ultimately receiving \$40 million of a \$75 million request with the help of concerned citizens, Rep. Jack Kingston, the late Rep. John Murtha and the Georgia congressional delegation.

Thomas said the experience taught him the importance of pulling together to build relationships.

More than 30 ethnic groups reside in Hinesville, according to the latest Census figures.

"It has been nice to see these groups work together for the common good,"



Thomas said.

The mayor also has come to understand the importance of cooperation and community service through his church, and through participation in the Liberty County Hospital Authority, the Hinesville Metropolitan Planning Organization, Hinesville Architectural Review Board, Hinesville Military Affairs Committee, 11 Black Men of Liberty County and several other local civic organizations.

Though he is a 30-year resident of Hinesville, the former military officer didn't grow up here.

*HOPEFUL continues on 6*

The city of Hinesville employed its first policeman, Richard Allen, in 1939.

American Legion Post No. 168 of Hinesville was created at 8:30 p.m. Oct. 21, 1943, in the courthouse.

Glenn E. Bryant bought the Hinesville Telephone Co. in 1946 and changed its name to Coastal Utilities Inc.



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## CONTRACT

Continued from page 4

relationship between the city of Hinesville and OMI was born.

"After research was conducted by city engineer Paul Simonton with Curtis Boswell of EPD and their project manager for our project, we decided to contract the operations for water and wastewater treatment," Edwards said. "We selected OMI for their technical expertise, advanced certifications, cost efficiency and a proven track record."

Brown added, "So in 1992, when

the city and the needs of public works were growing, we had to make serious decisions about how to move forward. OMI was the logical choice."

Edwards agreed.

"And it has been a relationship that has benefitted both parties," he said.

OMI used its work with Hinesville as an example to market its services nationwide. Bernie Miller and Gary Wood were the first OMI employees on the project. However, many of the original city employees remain and now are in management positions with CH2M Hill.

"The relationship has been a win-win for all involved," Brown said.

## ARMY

Continued from page 4

over Christmas, he hatched an idea for a homecoming celebration.

"The community rallied around the idea," he said.

More than 100,000 people, including then-Gov. Zell Miller, state Rep. Lindsay Thomas, and Forces Command Commander-in-Chief Gen. Edwin Burba witnessed the parade through downtown Hinesville and patriotic ceremonies on May 3, 1991, at Fort Stewart's Cottrell Field.

"Army Chief of Staff Gen. Carl Vuono complimented our deployment efforts and called Hinesville 'the Army town.' It was repeated often as the nation and world focused on our community," DeLoach said with a grin. "Today, we're still the Army town."

## HOPEFUL

Continued from page 4

"So I saw Hinesville in a different way — not as a small town, but one poised for significant progress," he said.

Thomas and the city sought sister-city relationships to kick-start progress and tapped into global partnerships, beginning with Yichun, China, and a recruiting effort with the Chinese Heat Treatment Institute's parts-manufacturing facilities.

Hinesville has begun similar negotiations with a Brazilian city in need of an alternative fuel source and with one in Paraguay.

"As we build relationships with the people of these countries, we also build cultural and economic ties," Thomas said. "It's our hope to attract more business, jobs and residents through our global efforts."

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# Arts council brings culture and variety to Hinesville

HAAC offers classes, exhibits, plays, more

BY DEBRA AYERS BROWN  
Special to the Courier



**Hinesville Area Arts Council class attendees show off their work.**

Brush strokes on canvas, a dip of pen in ink or words etched in time. The senses ignite. Creativity springs to life. Talents are discovered. New passions are explored. It all happens in a place dedicated to the arts — the Hinesville Area Arts Council's downtown Hinesville gallery on South Commerce Street.

Though HAAC was founded in 1989, it has burst onto the arts scene in recent years.

"We're dabbling in music, drama, writing, photography, painting, culinary arts and much more," Chairwoman Leah Poole said. "Participants make

new friends, develop their creative side and have fun."

The HAAC's goal is to further the art and cultural offerings in Liberty County. The gallery provides a central location for exhibits, events, classes and tours. The artist co-op program allows artists to apply for class space and in exchange for every class hour, the artists

donate two hours of their time to keep the HAAC gallery open for the public.

Plenty happens outside the gallery, too.

"We sponsor the annual Blues & BBQ — a crowd favorite. We've hosted photography exhibits and contests along with calligraphy classes, author book signings and cooking with world-

class chefs. We're adding offerings all the time, including a series of writing workshops beginning in October," Poole said.

Vice Chairwoman Jennifer Buehler added, "Our community theater in Liberty County is a wonderful way for residents to enjoy a night out for entertainment without having to travel to Savannah. It is also an excellent way for families on Fort Stewart to get involved in activities off post."

The Hinesville Area Art's Council drums up interest in its new endeavors and provides a place for artists to showcase their work thanks to the efforts of members and sponsors.

HAAC supporters include the Liberty County Commission, the city of Hinesville, Target, the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority and others.

Fire Chief Julian Mingledorff moved the Hinesville Fire Department from a voluntary to a professional fire-fighting organization.

The First Baptist Church of Hinesville was organized on April 1, 1937 with the Rev. Claude L. Phillips.

Former Sheriff Bobby Sikes was born in the Caswell Hotel, which once stood on the site of the current Justice Center, where Sikes' grandson, Sheriff Steve Sikes, now works.

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# Chamber of commerce is cornerstone of community

## Organization recently doubled membership

BY DEBRA AYERS BROWN  
Special to the Courier



**Liberty County Chamber of Commerce Chairwoman Susan McCorkle, AUSA President Joe Ford and Liberty Convention & Visitors Bureau and chamber CEO Leah Poole.**

support new and existing business, trade and industry within Liberty County while increasing the cultural, civic, educational and overall quality of life for citizens.

Chamber/Convention and Visitors Bureau CEO Leah Poole said chamber membership has doubled to 500 members since January 2011.

"The increase is a reflection of efforts by chamber leaders, staff, members and our relationships with government and Fort Stewart-Hunter officials," she said.

The current staff includes a CEO, executive assistant, membership director and operations director.

"We've worked with Southeast Georgia Friends of Fort Stewart and Hunter to help in marketing and public awareness, lobbied legislators and created a membership M2M discount card and insurance program," Poole said. "We're the cornerstone of the community."

The Liberty County Chamber of Commerce was organized Feb. 13, 1930, with H.C. Saunders as president and meetings slated for February of each year. Members made efforts to recover from The Great Depression and bolster the local economy by creating the Liberty County Car Credit Corporation Unit, the Liberty County Truck Growers Association and the Liberty County Livestock Association.

Another chamber president, D.S. Owens, led the 1939 effort to lobby Sen. D.I. Dawson and Rep. C.J. Smiley to pass legislation to support schools in the state

and make permanent a seven-month term. Unlike many Georgia counties, no local public schools closed at that time.

The chamber went into decline during World War II, but was revived in 1945.

In 1976, when the chamber was located in the old jail, then-President George Holtzman reported a membership of 84. Louise Stewart served as executive secre-

tary. During that year, the chamber started the "Progress Through People" meals, which continue today.

The chamber office was in the old Mills House on Oglethorpe Highway before moving to its current location in the Liberty County Development Authority building.

Today, the chamber's mission is to

Liberty County celebrated in 1965 when the Bradwell Institute Tigers won the Georgia Class B football championship.

John E. Pirkle was chairman of the Liberty County Bicentennial Steering Committee in 1976.

Four people worked in Hinesville City Hall in 1974. The Hinesville Police Department, headed by Chief Robert "Bob" Ryon, had 45 members in 1984.

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# HINESVILLE: A TIMELINE



**Sept. 12, 1837**  
County seat for Liberty County moved from Riceboro to Hinesville.

**1861**  
Home Guards organized in Hinesville.



**July 4, 1876**  
Independence Day celebration in Hinesville's courthouse square. The Chatham artillery fired 100 rounds at noon to mark the occasion.

**1893**  
Hinesville Gazette becomes Liberty County Herald after its sold to Robert Moody Martin

Alfred Hendry was elected mayor in December.



**Nov. 11, 1911**  
First meeting of the Citizens and subscribers to stock for a Bank of Hinesville.

**Aug. 9, 1916**  
Hinesville City Court established.

**1920**  
Hinesville Chapter No. 166 Order of the Eastern Star chartered.



**1839**

Hinesville Academy incorporated by General Assembly.

**1871**

The Hinesville Gazette is established by Samuel Dowse Bradwell and published every Monday. Subscriptions cost \$1 per year.

**Oct. 19, 1882**

Hinesville Gazette front page story runs about the completion of the Liberty County Jail in Hinesville.

**1911**

Hinesville telephone company established by Barney and Lonnie Parker.



**Aug. 16, 1916**

Town of Hinesville becomes city of Hinesville.



**1927**

New Liberty County Courthouse completed.



**Feb. 1, 1897**

Pamphlet delineating the first town ordinances of Hinesville was printed in the Liberty County Herald. Thomas Spencer Layton was mayor.



**2010**

Hinesville signs sister city agreement with Yichun, China.

**2011**

New Liberty County Justice Center completed.



**1937**

Hinesville Lions Club established.

**June 1, 1940**

Camp Stewart activated as an anti-aircraft training and firing center.

**1965**

Bradwell Institute won Georgia Class B football championship.



**1979**

Liberty County Herald becomes the Coastal Courier.



**1981**

Georgia Power comes to Hinesville.



Liberty Transit system becomes operational.

**Oct. 28, 1937**

Centennial celebration (first day of Liberty County Fair).



**Dec. 3, 1961**

Liberty Memorial Hospital in Hinesville opened.

**August 1969**

Motion picture theater closed.



**1980**

Hinesville gets the 60th Kmart in Georgia.



**2008**

First African-American mayor, Jim Thomas, elected.



**2011**

New Hinesville City Hall completed.



# Whit Fraser, associates worked to establish YMCA

Facility exists thanks to group's joint effort

BY BARRY WILKES  
Special to the Courier

In 1989, Charlene Godley, Barry Wilkes, Johnny Zoucks, Gary Dodd, Billy Jones and Dr. Whitman Fraser formed an ad hoc committee to establish an organization promoting faith-based programs.

"Rather than trying to recreate the wheel, we sought council from the Young Men's Christian Association," Wilkes said. "We arranged a meeting with Yancey Watkins, then director of the YMCA of Savannah, now Coastal YMCA of Georgia, to explore the possibility of bringing Y programs to Hinesville."



**Dr. Whit Fraser, left, and his wife Mary Lou Snead Fraser were well-known community activists. They helped to establish the Fraser Counseling Center and the YMCA.**

"What's it going to take to build one?" Fraser asked.

Later, Fraser talked of a plan that entailed more than just building a swimming pool. So Zoucks, Jones, Moore, Watkins and Randy Bugos, assistant director of the Savannah YMCA, accompanied Fraser to newly constructed YMCA buildings in the Southeast, all with indoor aquatics facilities.

Soon after, Fraser announced plans to donate funds for a multimillion dollar YMCA complex on Mary Lou Drive in Hinesville. It would include an indoor Olympic-sized pool, jacuzzi, steam rooms, gymnasium and facilities for aerobics, weight training and dance.

The facility was dedicated in 1996, a year after Fraser died.

"But his legacy lives on within the YMCA and in the memories of those blessed to know him," Wilkes said.

During one meeting, the group brainstormed ideas for Liberty County aquatics programs.

"The general consensus was, we'd ask to use area private pools for the

YMCA to teach swimming and to conduct other aquatics programs. We wanted to buy time to determine how to raise funds to build a program," he said.

Mayor Allen Brown, Mayor Buddy DeLoach, and the late Mayor James Brown are descendants of Alfred Iverson Hendry, Hinesville's first mayor

I-95 was completed through Liberty County in 1976.

Thomas H. Bagley (1889-1941) was the Liberty County tax collector for 15 years. Frank Bagley, a high school basketball and football coach in the '60s, was elected tax commissioner and held the position for 16 years.



The Hinesville Downtown Development Authority's mission is to create a sustainable, revitalized, and vibrant downtown that is an economic hub while enhancing the quality of life for the community.

Assistance and incentives are available to business / property owners for revitalization activities within the downtown district.



HDDA Board of Directors

*Happy 175th Birthday, City of Hinesville*

# Pillars of community influence city's history

## NICKY CLARK — A NEWSPAPER MAN THROUGH AND THROUGH

News, music and family have always been important to Nicky Clark. Though he juggled academics, the newspaper and the school band since his youth, he officially joined his family's business, the Liberty County Herald, in 1966, the year his father died.

His mother, Lollie Gill Clark, became publisher, and sister Angie Smiley and Nicky Clark's then-wife, Kim Chapman Clark, handled advertising. Older brother Pete Clark served as editor until 1974, when Nicky became the last editor of the Liberty County Herald.

It had been a family affair since the 1930s when M.F. Clark purchased the newspaper that had once been the Hinesville Gazette, established in 1871 by Samuel Bradwell. The newspaper's name changed when Robert Moody Martin purchased it in 1893.

"I enjoyed working with the family," Clark said. "We were a voice. We argued issues, but we were a family."

News escalated in 1974 with the 24th Infantry Division's activation at Fort Stewart.

"I tried to interview Bo Ginn, Bo Callaway and Sam Nunn at the officers' club," Clark said. "But I



**Nicky Clark, who served as the last editor of the Liberty County Herald before it became the Coastal Courier, also is a music enthusiast.**

got no comment, no comment, no comment."

The family sold the newspaper in 1979 to a group that renamed it the Coastal Courier and named James Winn editor and publisher. It was sold in 1982 to Morris Multimedia Inc.

Clark retired from the Georgia Department of Labor as a field tax audit supervisor in 2004. Today, he is a project manager with the Sikes Group.

The former journalist continues to write and make music with his

band, Approximately Five, occasionally connecting with fans at Jimmy Smith's greenhouse.

He still treasures his newspaper days.

"I loved writing my weekly column, 'There Is Life In The Old Land Yet,' a potpourri of thoughts, eclectic as they were. The title came from the Hinesville Gazette masthead, but it seems relevant today. The times are tough. The tough keep going, and there is life in this old land yet."

## DON CARTER — A KIND SOUL

Hinesville still mourns the death of Don Carter, the former county commissioner and Carter Funeral Home owner who passed away in December 2008.

Friend Bill Goodwin said, "Over the last 25 years I've known him, he's helped every organization and every charity at one time or another."



Carter occupied the District 6 county commission seat, finishing the unexpired term of his late mother, Hazel Bagley Carter, and was re-elected for another term. He served on the Liberty County Hospital Authority, chamber of commerce, Solid Waste Authority and as a library board member.

Carter's brother, Sanford Carter, served as Liberty County's coroner. Don was married to Nila Carter.

"He was instrumental in bringing the Korean Archery Team to Liberty County for pre-Olympic training prior to the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta," former Hinesville Mayor Allen Brown said.

Carter, a lifelong resident of Liberty County, was known for his charitable contributions, including his work with March of Dimes.

In recent years, he devoted time to the Lisa Marie Carter Cardiac Rehabilitation Center at Liberty Regional Medical Center, which is named for Carter's daughter, who was killed in a car accident.

Hinesville Farmers' Market Manager Ray Dent, a retired Army officer who moved here through a corporate relocation with Devon Home Center, was the first YMCA director.

In the early 1980s, Maj. Gen. Norman Schwartzkopf, commander of the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, was named deputy commander of the Joint Task Force in the invasion of Grenada by U.S. troops.

*Congratulations & Happy 175<sup>th</sup> Birthday, City of Hinesville!*

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## MORE LOCAL HEROES



Photo provided

Former Liberty County Commission Chairman M.L. Coffey, Fort Stewart Commanding General H.G. Taylor, Hinesville Mayor Buddy DeLoach, Commissioner Don Carter, Liberty County Chamber of Commerce President Gary Dodd and Bradwell Institute band booster chairman George Holtzman gather around a proclamation declaring March 3, 1990, as Bradwell Institute Band Day.

## Longtime The Heritage Bank president loved community

James Marvin "Jimmy" Floyd Sr., a lifelong resident of Liberty County, dedicated his life to community service, his family and his career at The Hinesville/Heritage Bank, which spanned nearly 40 years.

Floyd graduated from Bradwell Institute in 1949 and the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1956. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving during the Korean conflict.

Floyd was employed for almost four decades by the bank, serving as president and chairman of the board for more than 20 years. He also was chairman of the board of the bank's holding company, Liberty Shares Inc., until his death in March 2006.

For most of his life, Floyd was active in the community, serving as a Fleming-



Floyd

ton city councilor, a Liberty County commissioner — chairman from 1979-1985 — a member of the Coastal Area Planning and Development Commission, chairman of the Liberty County Industrial Authority and many other community and government organizations.

Floyd also dabbled in state politics, serving as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives from 1985-1995. He was a member, elder and trustee of the Flemington Presbyterian Church, where he taught youth and adult Sunday-school classes for more than 40 years.

Floyd and his wife, Carolyn Martin Floyd, were married for 51 years.

## SO MUCH MORE ONLINE

This special section is only part of the Courier's attempt to help Hinesville blow out its 175 birthday candles. Our collaborators on the project, especially Debbie Brown and Margie Love, produced so much material we couldn't fit it all into the section.

So, online, [coastalcourier.com](http://coastalcourier.com) also has celebrations of our past; videos showing natives and others talking about their memories of the city and what the schools meant to the community, as well as a massive slideshow of historic photos and more stories that are not in the section.



# United Methodist Church has place in city's history

BY JUDY SHIPPEY  
Special to the Courier

When the town of Hinesville was laid out in 1837, a plot was reserved for the Methodist Church. This site was adjacent to the courthouse, where Bradwell Park is now. A small frame building was erected on the lot, and it was there that religious life in Hinesville began to grow.

For almost 100 years, First United Methodist Church was the only house of worship in Hinesville, and it was the center of community life.

In 1903, another building was built on the church site and the Methodists worshipped there until 1941. That year, the building and property were sold, and the

church moved to its current location at the corner of Main Street and Memorial Drive.

In December 1980, mindful of the growth of Hinesville and the expansion of Fort Stewart, the congregation planned a new sanctuary and office facility.

On Jan. 23, 1983, the church broke ground on its new building, and the sanctuary and offices were operational in June 1985.

In 1987, the church celebrated its sesquicentennial — 150 years of ministering to the community.

On May 16, 1999, the sanctuary was completely debt-free. It was dedicated and the note was burned.

Today, Pastor Dr. Richard Wright and his congregation are proud of their church's spot in

history.

"For over 175 years, this church has stood as a pillar of spiritual strength for the citizens of Hinesville, Fort Stewart and Liberty County," Wright said. "We continue reaching out to our communities by making and nurturing disciples of Jesus Christ by the transformation pillars of loving, sharing, teaching and practicing.

"We teach Christian values whereby all people are empowered to achieve spiritual growth by practicing these values in our world," Wright continued. "Hinesville First United Methodist Church will journey into the future as a pillar of spiritual strength committed to building up God's kingdom in our city and county."



The first Methodist church sanctuary in Hinesville was built adjacent to the courthouse, where Bradwell Park is now.

Hazel

B. Carter was on the Hinesville City Council for 10 years before she was elected to the county commission in 1959, the first woman in Georgia ever to be elected to such a position.

During

a visit to see Mayor Buddy DeLoach at his Martin Insurance office, a second-grader asked, "Where were you born?" DeLoach answered, "Actually, I was born right here, where we're standing." The girl replied, "Well, you really haven't been very far."

*Happy Birthday,  
City of Hinesville!*

May you grow and prosper for  
the next one hundred  
seventy five more years!

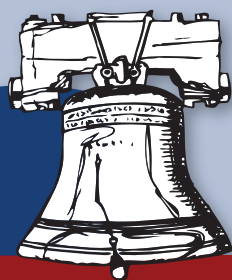
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# Celebrating... 175 Years



# HINESVILLE

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