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SUMMER 2011

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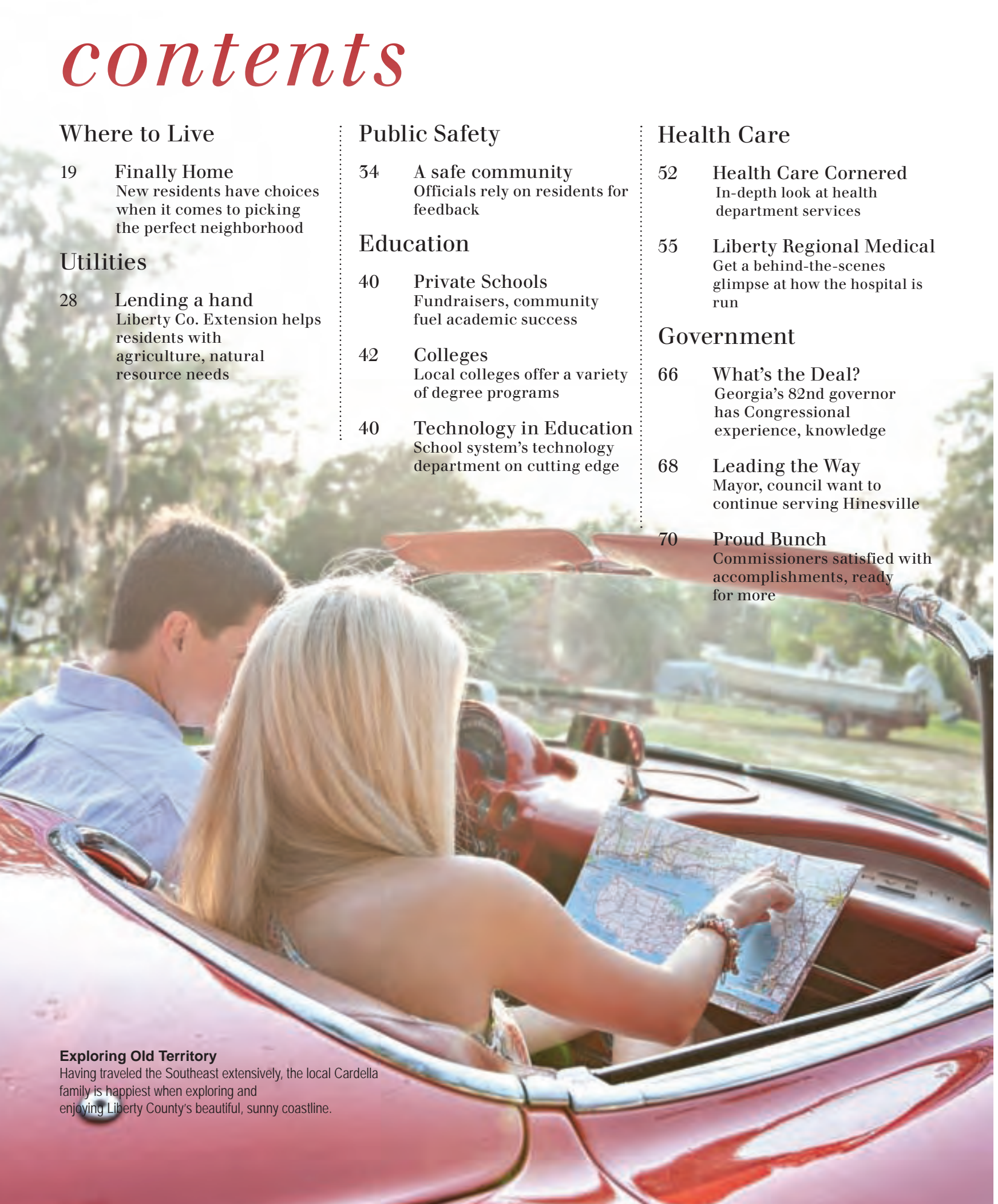
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Exploring Old Territory

Having traveled the Southeast extensively, the local Cardella family is happiest when exploring and enjoying Liberty County's beautiful, sunny coastline.



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Take a Saturday and explore all Liberty County has to offer



Can You Find Hinesville on the Map?
Local resident Jennifer Cardella points to Liberty County on a map as she and her family explore the coastal area.

CAN YOU TELL ^{THE} DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO UNITS?



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One salute to the fallen that has become a pilgrimage to many is Warrior's Walk. An Eastern Red Bud Tree is planted in honor and memory of every 3rd ID soldier who has fallen. This tribute to our Nation's heroes is something that is not to be missed. Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield has an annual payroll of \$1,515,239,100, annual expenditures of \$718,848,000 and a retiree payroll of \$143,525,894. Using a standard Economic Impact of Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield on southeast Georgia is \$7.13 Billion.



Photography Alimond Photography and Megan Born.

LEAH POOLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LIBERTY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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EXPLORE LIBERTY COUNTY...



FAMILY FRIENDLY NATURE

With some of the most seasonal temperatures in the state, Liberty County offers plenty of chances to play outside! With biking, walking, birding and geocaching there is plenty for the family to do together. Visit one of our many nature trails today. Liberty County also plays host to some unique opportunities to view birds, as well as four endangered species, not the least of which is the Flatwoods Salamander. In 2009, Fort Stewart received the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Military Conservation Partner Award recognizing an extraordinary conservation partnership that, among other highlights, has seen the state's largest red-cockaded woodpecker population more than double in 15 years. Fort Stewart has been cited with bold conservation partnerships that feature enhancing growing red-cockaded woodpecker populations, supporting the recovery of nearly two dozen other threatened and endangered species and promoting outdoor recreational opportunities to hunt, fish and watch wildlife



HISTORIC TREASURES

The Liberty Trail offers sightseers and adventurers boundless opportunities to absorb the history of our country into their blood. From places like the Midway Museum to the Dorchester Academy where legendary leaders like Martin Luther King Jr would come to unwind and play baseball while planning his next strategy in the fight for civil rights.



THE AFRICAN INFLUENCE

Professional historians have worked tirelessly alongside volunteers to preserve unmolested elements of African Culture that exist in the Gola-Kissi lands of the Southeastern United States. Geechee Kunda, here in Liberty County, is reflective of the family compounds that exist throughout the Gullah Geechee areas of the Carolinas, Georgia and Northern Florida as well as Africa.



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NEIGHBORS & NEWCOMERS

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Editor's Letter



About the Cover

Jennifer and Matt Cardella explore Liberty County's coast on a warm spring afternoon. The 1961 Corvette was provided by Bill and Edie Pillon of Hinesville, Ga. Thomas Hill Jewelers provided the jewelry worn by the Cardellas.

Photographer: Aliyah Dastour
Creative Director: Katrina Sage
Cover subjects: Jennifer and Matt Cardella.

For more information on the jewelry featured in the cover shot and inside shots, call Thomas Hill Jewelers at 912-876-6036.

Welcome to Liberty County! As the managing editor of Liberty Life magazine and the Neighbors & Newcomers guide, I thank you for picking up our summer issue. We've jam-packed it with information you will need as you get settled into the cozy, relaxing lifestyle of Coastal Georgia.

This guide is filled with information you'll need as you find your way around the area — everything from church locations to recreational opportunities — and directories for the perfect points of contact for everything in between.

History lovers will discover extraordinary treasures throughout the county, including Fort Stewart, the home of the 3rd Infantry Division and the largest Army installation east of the Mississippi River. We're proud of our military, and we're especially proud of the 3rd ID.

County and city officials also would like to welcome you into our patriotic, tight-knit community and thank you for your time — whether long or short — spent here in Liberty County. Here's what they have to say:

"I am delighted to welcome you, our neighbors and newcomers, to Liberty County on behalf of the County Board of Commissioners. As a lifelong citizen and chairman of the Liberty County Board of Commissioners, it gives me great pride to welcome each of you. Liberty County is a great place to reside and call home. We are a very diverse county rich in deep cultural heritage and history. If you are looking for that city or urban lifestyle of living, you can find it here in Liberty County."

— **John McIver, Liberty County Board of Commissioners chairman**

"I take great pride, as county administrator, in welcoming you to Liberty County, a growing community rich in historical significance. An abundance of cultural, recreational and social activities await you here, all of which are delivered with a touch of Southern charm. Our coastal setting allows you access to some of the most beautiful natural settings you could imagine. We are also very happy to be the home of Fort Stewart and the 3rd Infantry Division, which helps to make us one of the most diverse counties in Georgia. At the county government level, we pride ourselves on efficiency and services to our citizens, so please, never hesitate to call on us for assistance."

— **Joey Brown, Liberty County administrator**

"On behalf of the city of Hinesville, I am pleased to welcome you to our community. Whether you are a newcomer to the area or a longtime resident wishing to discover the area in new ways, I welcome you to explore Hinesville and Liberty County. The city of Hinesville is proud to be part of the Liberty County community. We strive to improve the quality of life and provide efficient government services to our residents through smart growth and progressive thinking. Currently, we are making plans to improve services, add amenities and increase activities for all. Our new City Hall building, Public Works facility, Liberty Transit bus system and Bryant Commons redevelopment are a few of the projects planned to better serve you. Please take the time to learn about these projects and use them to your full advantage. We hope Hinesville will continue to be your coastal Southern living destination of choice, and we are glad you decided to make it home whether you're here for a day or a lifetime."

— **Jim Thomas, Hinesville mayor**

From the hearts of those who serve residents here in Liberty County, neighbors and newcomers, we welcome you.

With love and liberty for all,

Seraine Page
Managing editor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S. Page'.

Livin' It Up Downtown!



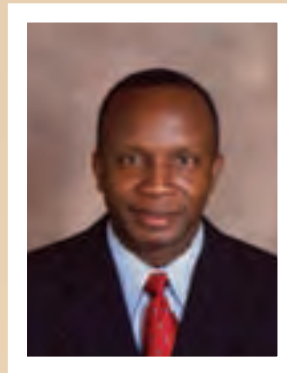
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A Coastal Sunrise
A warm, glowing morning dawns
over the coast of Yellow Bluff.

Where to live

WRITTEN BY KASEY RAY-STOKES, PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALIYAH DASTOUR AND JIM HOLMES

Liberty County has it all when it comes to what potential residents are looking for, such as trails for hiking, creeks for canoeing, a plethora of restaurants for dining and many retail stores for shopping. Whether it's winding country roads or bustling highways you're looking for, we'll get you up to speed on all the cities and towns in this lovely and historic county. Ever since Liberty County was established in 1777, it has withstood rapid growth and change with the grace that only a coastal Georgia county can handle. It has witnessed two major wars on its soil, has cultivated major cash crops and ports, and even produced historically significant men and women, including two signers of the Declaration of Independence and two generals of the American Revolutionary War one of whom was Daniel Stewart. Gen. Stewart had the honor of having the largest military installation east of the Mississippi River named after him — Fort Stewart — which is in Liberty County. Fort Stewart employs more than 14,000 soldiers, and their presence in Liberty County has helped boost the economy and enrich the culture for many decades with a diverse population and customs resulting in a variety of ethnic restaurants and other businesses.

If you're planning to move to Liberty, then check out this quick guide to the county's municipalities:

HINESVILLE

More than 30,000 people call Hinesville, the county seat of Liberty County, home. It has five major highways running through the city, as well as top-notch schools and businesses. Hinesville Mayor James Thomas Jr. said, "It's a progressive city. If a person comes here for just one day, they may just want to live here for a lifetime."

Thanks to Fort Stewart, Hinesville has a significant military retiree population who have chosen to make the city their personal home base for their golden years.

There are many shopping centers, manufacturing companies and other industries moving into the area. The library conveniently is located near Bradwell Institute, a high school that was founded in 1872 by Samuel Bradwell, who also established the Hinesville Gazette that same year. The newspaper was delivered each Monday morning and contained legal and display advertisements for Liberty and the surrounding counties. Subscriptions cost \$1 per year.



FLEMINGTON

Flemington has the best of both worlds — it’s close to the coast, yet adjacent to Hinesville’s bustling streets and shops. It boasts great schools and quiet neighborhoods. There are many hotels and restaurants in the area.

Greg Lewis, a Realtor who sells homes in Flemington, said Flemington is a winner for “people who enjoy living close to the coast.” Living in Flemington gives you the feeling of easy, coastal living while still being close to all of the activities a larger city has to offer.

Lewis said the area schools are another selling point. “People like that Liberty County High School is the designated high school for this town.” LCHS, which was established after Bradwell, has a new football stadium that seats more than 6,000. Since there’s no shortage of pigskin enthusiasts in this town, the stadium usually is packed when autumn rolls around.

MIDWAY

Midway was one of the first settled communities in Liberty County. The coastal waterways made it an ideal hub for shipping and transportation. The city is full of historical relevance; it’s home to the Midway Congregational Church, which was established in 1752, and Fort Morris (now a state park), which was established in 1776 to protect the growing seaport.

Those interested in learning more about the city can visit the Midway Museum and Cemetery or the Dorchester Academy Museum. Dorchester Academy was established in 1870 as one of the earliest educational institutions for freed African Americans in Georgia. Later, it was used as a training ground for civil rights efforts.

However, you don’t have to be a history buff to enjoy Midway. Becky Wilson, who lives in the city and works in Midway

City Hall, said Midway is “fun, quiet and a nice place to live.”

One of the area’s longtime hotspots is Holton’s Seafood Restaurant on East Oglethorpe Highway. Locals and visitors alike drop by to feast on perfectly-prepared seafood and fresh salad.

So, if you’re looking for a quiet town with historical significance and good eats, consider Midway a great place to live.

GUM BRANCH

Gum Branch is a small, quiet municipality nestled on the western side of Liberty County, bordering Long County. The city’s population is around 700 people, who enjoy the area’s tight-knit community. Miriam Arnold, a long-time resident of Gum Branch, said, “Having wonderful neighbors and friends makes it enjoyable to live here.”

The most noteworthy structure in Gum Branch is the Gum Branch Baptist Church, created in 1833 under the name “Gum Branch Primitive Baptist Church” by the members of Beard’s Creek Primitive Baptist Church. Gum Branch Church was a member of the Baptist Union Association until 1908 when it became a member of the New Sunbury Baptist Association. The church began having full-time services in February 1949.

Feel free to open your windows and listen to the sound of pine trees blowing in the wind as you take in that fresh country air. If you are looking to live in a friendly community with great neighbors and quiet surroundings, Gum Branch may be perfect for you.

ALLENHURST

Allenhurst was incorporated in 1965 and has about 900 residents, including Stacey Glandon, a teacher. “Allenhurst is a quiet and peaceful area, close enough to downtown Hinesville to be convenient, but far enough away to have a ‘country’ feel. The children in our district attend Frank Long Elementary



Having it All

Clockwise from bottom left: a house nestled among the trees in Fleming; the historic gates of the Midway cemetery; a quiet day in downtown Hinesville; Hinesville's newest building, the Liberty County Justice Center; Liberty County's oldest historic church, which is in Midway.



school, which is one of the best schools in the county, having made AYP for the last nine years,” Glandon said.

Allenhurst has been a popular housing choice for military personnel for decades. Richard Mansel, the minister of Allenhurst Church of Christ, said, “In Allenhurst, you get the small-town feel on the outskirts of a larger town. You can feel the military’s support of the community and the pride that comes with it.”

Residents of Allenhurst spend most of their free time outside, whether they fish, hunt, hike or ride bikes. It is a family oriented city full of growth potential and ready for new residents.

WALTHOURVILLE

Walthourville may be the newest member of the Liberty County family of municipalities, but its distinguished beginnings are a source of pride for those who set up their homes inside the city limits. Organized by women and supported by men, Walthourville was established by Mayor Lyndol Anderson, the first mayor of the city of Walthourville. She was appointed by Gov. Jimmy Carter in 1974.

In the presence of a few friends, attorney J. Noel Osteen administered the oath of office to the mayor and her city council women, Faye Booth, Maxine Gaskin, Carrie Kent, Ardith Herbert, Celia Davis and the clerk, Molene Burke, at the Walthourville polling office April 10, 1974. In her first act, Mayor Anderson donated her \$150-a-month salary for the betterment of the city and council.

Today, you can feel the city’s motherly spirit as you drive past its beautifully kept lawns and attend the famed, covered-dish suppers at the many churches where faithful Walthourvillians gather on Sundays. The current mayor of Walthourville, Daisy Pray, said the city stays true to its feminist roots and adds that “it’s a quiet, family-oriented city.” This is evident through the Walthourville Youth Organization, which offers mentoring, sports activities and tutoring at Hillery Park. The group’s

basketball team, the Walthourville Blazers, always are on the move. In addition, members of the Walthourville Senior Organization walk together at Hillery Park and assist the city’s youth.

However, most outsiders probably know the town best for the Tea Grove Plantation. Owned by Danny Norman, Tea Grove is home to a swamp, classic cars, tools, machinery, buildings and a poster collection.

RICEBORO

Riceboro is a historic town that maintains its heritage. Nestled southeast of Hinesville, this community is proud of its roots, which have grown as deep as those of its many trees. Resident Victoria Jones of JT’s Barbeque appreciates the city’s laid-back atmosphere. “(Because it) is nice and quiet, that is what makes it a nice place to live,” she said.

Riceboro is home to the county’s first courthouse square, which was laid there Feb. 1, 1797. The land was donated by Matthew McAllister, Esq., Thomas Stevens, Daniel Stewart, Joel Walker and Henry Wood, who were the first commissioners of Liberty County. At the time, Riceboro served as the county seat and many public buildings were constructed in the city.

In addition to its civic heritage, it also is a centerpiece for the faithful of Liberty County. It is home to Liberty’s oldest African-American congregation, The First African Baptist Church. The church has its origins in the North Newport Baptist Church, founded in 1809. It was comprised of white and black members. In 1854 when the North Newport Church moved to Walthourville, the black members in the area continued to use the church that exists today.

With acres of forestland, small-town values and history that runs to the core of Liberty County, Riceboro is an integral part of the proud community.



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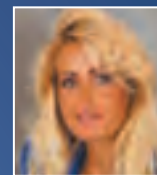
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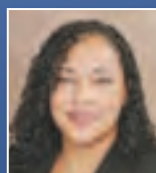
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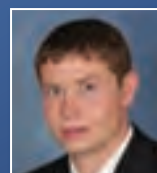
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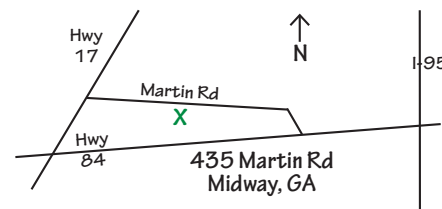
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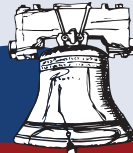
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Need Help with Your Grass?

Robert Bell with the cooperative extension helps locals troubleshoot their lawns.



LENDING A HAND

Written by Angela Hendrix
Photography by Aliyah Dastour

Liberty Co. Extension helps residents with agriculture, natural resource needs

The mission of the Liberty County Extension is to respond to peoples’ needs and interests in agriculture and natural resources, families, 4-H and youth through education and information using unbiased, research-based education.

The Liberty County Extension links the resources of the University of Georgia, Fort Valley State University and Liberty County to provide educational programs, information and assistance to the citizens of Liberty County. The agriculture and natural resources program, which falls under the Liberty County Extension, teaches people how to improve their use of plants, animals and the environment. The agency also assists individuals in making critical decisions concerning their lives, businesses and communities.

County Extension Coordinator Robert Bell said that the agriculture and natural resources program can help people working in agriculture, in business and on residential properties with their agriculture and horticulture needs.

“Part of what we do at the Liberty County Extension is provide the residents of Liberty County with troubleshooting with their lawns, trees and ornamentals,” he said.

The extension offers free information to county residents on the following topics: farming, gardening, lawns, insects,

weed control and help in identifying common turfgrass and landscape diseases.

The staff at Liberty County Extension also can conduct soil and water testing, mineral analysis and bacteria testing at a nominal cost.

With soil testing, for example, the extension can help a homeowner determine the fertility level, which is the first step in planning a sound lime and fertilizer program. Most soil in our area is low in pH and essential nutrients, so lime and fertilizer must be applied to maintain healthy plant growth.

The Liberty County Extension helps the citizens of Liberty County by addressing the following initiatives:

- Alternative agricultural opportunities
- Building human capital
- Competitiveness and profitability of American agriculture
- Conservation and management of natural resources
- Family and economic well-being
- Improving nutrition, diet and health
- Revitalizing rural America
- Water quality
- Youth leadership
- Service learning / citizenship

Bell said that all testing is done through the university system.

“By working with the university system, it allows the extension to tap into the ongoing agriculture and horticulture research being conducted by land-grant universities and offer this information to you without regard to brands or specific companies.” he said

The Liberty County Extension Service also manages the Georgia 4-H program, which is available for Liberty County youth ages 9-19.

The national 4-H club began in the late 1890s as a Boys’ Corn Club and a Girls’ Tomato Canning Club, but today it assists youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills and forming attitudes that will enable

them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. This includes everything from teaching computer skills, recycling, photography, nutrition, violence prevention, teamwork and many other topics.

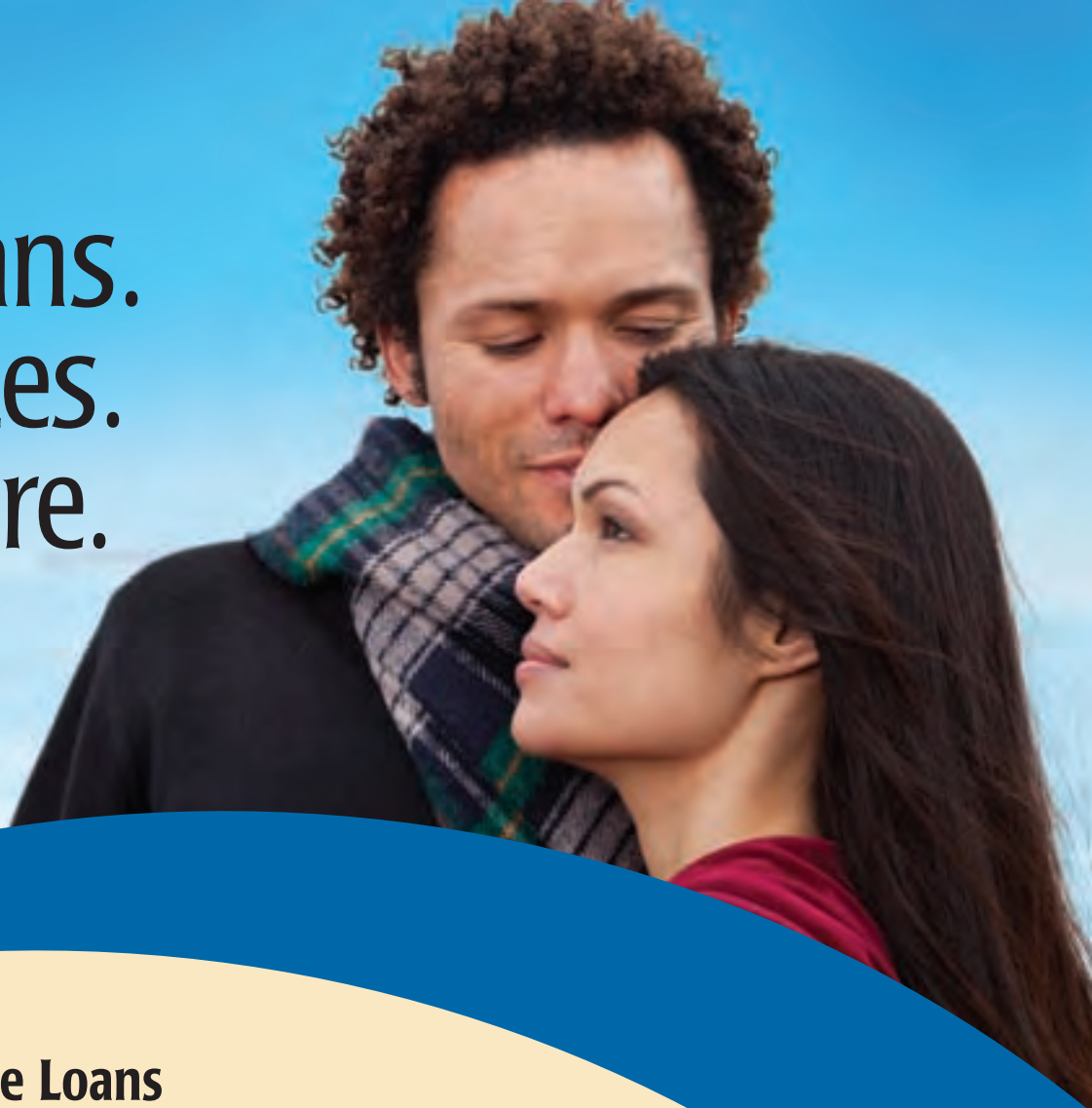
Participants in the Georgia 4-H program experience hands-on learning focused on agricultural and environmental issues, agriculture awareness, leadership, communication skills, foods and nutrition, health, energy conservation and citizenship. The program offers activities, field trips, retreats and 4-H camps, including the Summer Cloverleaf Camp at Eatonton, Junior Camp on Jekyll Island and a Senior Camp at Wahsega.

The Georgia 4-H program, which is offered through the schools, evolves every year. “We try to reinforce what they are learning in the schools by bringing youth and adults together to learn, grow and work together as catalysts for positive change,” Bell said.

Fifth-grade 4-H members meet monthly at school while six- through eighth-graders meet as an after-school club at school. High school students who are 4-H members meet in the evenings at the 4-H office.

For more information on services offered by the Liberty County Extension Office, call 912-876-2133 or go to www.ugaextension.com/liberty.

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The city of Hinesville provides roll-out cart services. The service includes one 90-gallon roll-out cart, weekly pick-up service and repair or replacement of damaged carts. This service is combined with the water service. Hinesville also offers free collection of leaves and other yard debris, which is used for mulching.

Recycling drop-offs:

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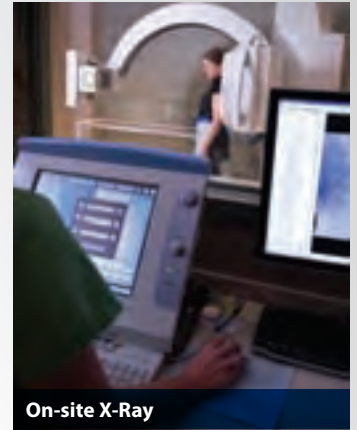
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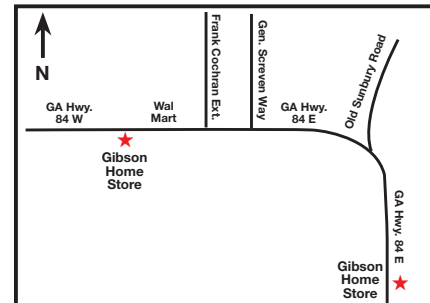
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Quick, Call 911:

Liberty EMS' Ivy Sarvis and Crystal Long prepare to treat a patient during a 911 call.



SAFETY STARTS WITH COMMUNITY

WRITTEN BY JOSELYNN MCKENNA, PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALIYAH DASTOUR

Law-enforcement officials look to involve residents, improve services

Public-safety organizations throughout Liberty County have all come to the same conclusion – no good can be done without community involvement. Police departments, fire departments and emergency-medical personnel all agree that serving and protecting the people of the community is what matters and that it's not possible without help.

Liberty County's new sheriff, Steve Sikes, is turning to the community for feedback and assistance to help make it a place where citizens feel secure, Chief Deputy Keith Moran said.

"Basically, Sheriff Sikes is looking to work closely with citizens of the county to reduce crime," Moran said. "He's had several citizen group meetings in small communities throughout the county to get a feeling from the citizens because he's realized that we've got to have the public's help to be more effective." Moran said the sheriff's office is looking to be more proactive, rather than just reactive.

"Everything nowadays is crime prevention," he said. "We're working on creating a more interactive website where the public can interact with us and on analysis to identify criminal trends to use officers more effectively. Wherever we get the most calls for service is where we concentrate service."

Local police departments seem to be on the same page. Hinesville Police Chief George Stagmeier said they too are looking to the community to better themselves as a department. In fact, he summed up his goal for the department in one sentence. "It will be focusing on trying to get the community to help us," he said.

"In September, we were awarded a grant to hire four new police officers," Stagmeier said. "Those guys are in school, so

they have been hired. We're going to train those officers for community-oriented policing. Those folks will be working pretty close with neighborhood-watch programs."

The Hinesville Police Department will be making other changes over the next year to try to improve the department's performance.

"We're getting computers for our cars," Stagmeier said. "It cuts down on mistakes and it makes it much more efficient. We hope to have 20 or 25 computers in the cars by the end of the year. It will allow us to be able to do a little better job."

Even the county's smaller departments are focusing on betterment through community involvement. Walthourville's 3-year-old police department has been reaching out to residents and even sharing the spirit of community with other departments in the area.

"We've appreciated the support we got from the Liberty County Sheriff's Office," Walthourville Police Chief Terry Harget said. "They've been a great support. We now have a total of five full-time and four part-time officers."

Even with such a small staff, Harget said, they've been able to accomplish quite a bit during the past year and he expects things to improve.

"Some of our accomplishments are neighborhood watches," the chief said. "And the mayor has initiated many community events that we get involved with."

Harget said their department even has been active in some unconventional community work.

"We do senior/elderly checks," Harget said. "Every officer is required to do two or three each shift. We've offered to start delivering the meals on wheels for the United Way program. We also have citizen contact forms my officers fill out, where



Prepared to Protect the Community

From left to right: Jeff Haiungs and Michael Bell with Hinesville Police Department; Crystal Long and Ivy Sarvis with Liberty County EMS; and Robert Kitchings and Jamal Kinney with Hinesville Fire Department, pictured here at the Hinesville Fire Department, all live to serve the community.

they can put down critiques or concerns or compliments. They carry them in their cars.”

Although the Walthourville Police Department is not yet state certified, Harget lists certification among his goals for the upcoming year. He too is hoping for more community participation.

“The only way we’re going to stop crime is if people help,” Harget said. “We need the community. We try to educate people at our neighborhood watch meetings. If it’s out of the ordinary, call us.”

He said people sometimes get the wrong idea about police officers and what it is they’re really about. He hopes to correct those misconceptions.

“The biggest thing is communication,” Harget said. “We’re not out there to write tickets. That’s not a priority of ours. We’re here to serve and protect.”

Midway Police Department Chief Kelli Morningstar has a very specific goal for her police department’s future.

“Just growth,” she said. “We’re looking at getting two new officers. We’re looking at getting more officers so we can provide more coverage for the city. We’re doing our best to give the citizens a sense of security in their homes and in their community.”

Four Liberty County officers were awarded medals of valor in February for their involvement in a Midway shooting. Officers from the Liberty County Sheriff’s Office, the Georgia State Patrol and the Midway Police Department also were involved

and honored.

“Officer [Mark] Rich received the medal of valor,” Morningstar said. “We were involved in a shooting in March of last year in Midway, along with Liberty County and Georgia State Patrol in which the suspect was shooting at us and Officer Rich was able to successfully end the situation, so he was awarded the medal of valor.”

Liberty County Sheriff’s Deputy Cpl. Ralph Dixon Jr., Georgia State Patrol Trooper Eric Wilkes and LCSO Deputy Sgt. Marty Adams also were awarded the medal of valor.

Perhaps the greatest example of community cooperation and participation in recent Liberty County history is that of the action taken in the disastrous Long County fires.

“I was at that fire, just about right after it had started,” Hinesville Fire Department Chief Lamar Cook said. “You know, they were calling for everybody. It was great to see that there were people stopping who weren’t even from that community. Some of my firefighters and myself were trying to keep it from spreading. It was tremendous to see that the public, they helped save their neighbors’ houses.”

Cook said he also was impressed with several area volunteer fire departments’ participation.

“Firefighters came from all over,” he said. “It shows how a community can come together.”

Cook said with the new renovations made to city facilities, making them much taller than before, the Hinesville Fire Department is taking the necessary precautions and doing their

best to prepare for whatever they may have to face in the future.

“We’ve got a ladder truck budgeted this year,” Cook said. “The ladder truck we have is a 1992 model. Finally, we’ve been setting money aside out of our budget for probably the last seven years to purchase this new ladder truck.”

The old ladder truck had a reach of only 75 feet, where the new one has a reach of 100 feet, Cook said.

He also said he’s happy with the fire department’s recent transition to become a testing site for the Georgia Public Safety Center.

Liberty Regional Emergency Medical Services Director Jim Turner said that they’ve also experienced some changes that should positively affect their service.

“The most significant thing is the new headquarters,” Turner said. “It’s a very nice facility. We’re just very glad to be in it. It’s good for the employees to have a good place to be between calls.”

The new facility was finished about two months ago and has been a blessing to the entire staff, Turner said. The facility, along with a new ambulance purchased last July, has made it easier for his staff to focus on other improvements that could be made.

“We’re focusing on looking at our call volume and our response times to determine when we need to maybe put in an additional unit, to know if we need to place another station somewhere,” Turner said.

Throughout all their many changes, the EMS director said their service is one meant for the good of the community.

“We’re a community-based ambulance service,” he said. “We’re always doing things in the community — blood-donation fairs and blood-pressure checks.”

Turner said that he enjoys seeing the community get involved in those kinds of events.

Whether it’s calling in a tip to your local police department, working side-by-side with area fire departments to tame a wildfire or even just participating in community events, there’s one thing residents of Liberty County can be sure of: community matters to the local public safety officials.

Full Force Ahead

Hinesville Fire Department engineer Jason Tompkins and his colleagues are prepared to jump on a fire engine and head out to a call at a moment’s notice.



PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTORY

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912-368-8211

Midway Police Department

10490 E. Oglethorpe Highway
Midway, Ga. 31320
912-880-1000

Walthourville Police Department

192B Talmadge Road
Walthourville, Ga.
912-368-6525

Georgia State Patrol

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912-370-2600

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912-877-4040

Public Safety Communications Office

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Hinesville, Ga. 31313
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Georgia Division of Driver Services

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678-413-8400

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Hinesville Fire Department

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Hinesville, Ga. 31313
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Fleming Volunteer Fire/Rescue

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Flemington, Ga. 31309
912-884-9372

Riceboro Volunteer Fire Department

5689 S. Coastal Highway
Riceboro, Ga. 31323
912-884-5539

Gum Branch Volunteer Fire Department

5334 Highway 196 West
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912-368-8181

Midway Volunteer Fire Department

10490 East Oglethorpe Highway
Midway, Ga. 31320
912-884-3676

Lake George Volunteer Fire/Rescue

912-884-5666

Walthourville Volunteer Fire Department

222 Busbee Road
Walthourville, Ga. 31333
912-368-6260

Eastern District Volunteer Fire/Rescue

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Midway, Ga. 31320
912-884-3950

St. Catherines Island Volunteer Fire Department

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Preparing for Success

FPCA students participate in a classroom science activity.



FUNDING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

WRITTEN BY JEN ALEXANDER MCCALL, PHOTOGRAPH PROVIDED BY FPCA

Community, creativity fuel fundraising for local private schools

They educate and nurture many of Liberty County's best and brightest, but area private schools must put their best ideas to work to keep themselves financially able to provide a quality education.

Liberty County's three private schools are all institutions affiliated with local churches; two are k-12 and one is for preschool and kindergarten students.

First United Methodist Church in downtown Hinesville offers half-day education five days a week for preschoolers and kindergarteners that includes preparatory academic and creative education through classroom instruction and field trips.

FUMC's program "places emphasis

on the child's own experimentation, self-direction and self-expression," according to its website.

Trinity Christian Academy is affiliated with Trinity Missionary Baptist Church in Hinesville. It serves students in kindergarten through 12th grade with a curriculum that approaches academic and life skills in a faith-centered manner.

First Presbyterian Christian Academy is a preschool-through-12th grade campus with a college-preparatory focus that is affiliated with Hinesville's First Presbyterian Church. According to its academic mission, "FPCA is devoted to the encouragement of our students to recognize the

importance of honesty, civility, public service and respect for others."

Because they are not affiliated with the school district, these private schools look to their churches, parents, students and the Liberty County community for help.

"First Presbyterian Christian Academy hosts several fundraisers each year that are open to the community," FPCA educator Maria Reed said.

Fundraisers include a chili cookoff, winter festival and gala, as well as a night dedicated to student science projects.

"The community is welcome to come to the chili cookoff," Reed said. "By purchasing a wristband, they can eat all the chili they want."

The WinterFest and FPCA Pageant fundraiser also are open to the community. One event that appeals to grown-up sensibilities is the school's gala. The event last year featured a 1940s theme.

"Science Night is a showcase of high school student science projects," Reed said.

First Presbyterian Christian Academy

308 E. Court St.
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-876-0441

Headmaster: interim Sammi Hester
www.fpcahinesville.com

First United Methodist

Preschool and Kindergarten
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Director: Marian Letnaunchyn
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Non-Traditional Students

Local students attend college at the AASU Liberty Center.



BACK IN CLASS

WRITTEN BY JEN ALEXANDER MCCALL, PHOTOGRAPH PROVIDED BY AASU

Local colleges cater to nontraditional students

Most adults with steady employment and a firm grip on life after high school don't care to revisit a classroom. But many who desire a career change or an opportunity to earn more money in their chosen fields will turn to higher education to fulfill those goals.

In Liberty County, students can choose from courses offered by Savannah Technical College, Armstrong Atlantic University and the Army Learning Center at Fort Stewart. Each of these institutions provides services that can be beneficial to nontraditional students — most often working adults who need assistance in adjusting to an academic setting as well as the opportunity to learn and study in a time-flexible way.

The Army Learning Center isn't just for military personnel. Civilians also can attend classes offered by several institutions, including Central Texas College, Columbia College, Embry-Riddle Aeronauti-

cal University and Webster University.

Central Texas College at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield offers five eight-week terms as well as accelerated four-week mini sessions. Enrollment in all courses is open to the public.

Columbia College offers online and in-class associate's and bachelor's degrees through eight-week courses that meet once or twice a week, as well as five sessions each year starting in January, March, June, August and October. Students also can take evening and online classes. Degree programs include criminal justice, environmental studies, business administration and human services.

Embry-Riddle's programs train students in aviation sciences, mechanics and business administration. Embry-Riddle offers associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as undergraduate and graduate certificates.

The Liberty campus of Savannah Tech-

Armstrong Atlantic State University - Liberty Center

740 E. Gen. Stewart
Way Suite 210
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-877-1905

Interim Director: Melanie Miranda
www.armstrong.edu

Army Education Center

100 Knowledge Drive, Bldg 100
Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314
912-767-8331

Education Services Officer:
Pamela King

www.stewart.army.mil/services/education/

Savannah Technical College Liberty Campus

100 Technology Drive
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-408-3024

Dean: Terrie O. Sellers

www.savannahtech.edu/cwo/liberty

cal College offers associate's degrees in 19 fields as well as diplomas and technical certificates in dozens of areas.

"The programs that Savannah Technical College offers are attractive to adult students looking to either retool for a different career, advance in their current field or for learning about something they've long been interested in studying," said Gail Eubanks, executive director of Institutional Advancement and Marketing for Savannah Tech.

"We offer daytime, evening and online classes that make it convenient for working adults to attend college. Our average student is a little older than the traditional college-age student, so the returning adults quickly find others of similar age and experience on campus."

Nontraditional students who currently are employed and looking to boost their job skills through continuing education also have resources at Savannah Tech. The campus provides courses in business, computer technology and leadership development, among others.

Armstrong Atlantic's local campus is the Liberty Center. The center boasts two undergraduate degree programs, one in liberal studies and one in criminal justice. Students pursuing degrees in education and nursing also will find supporting programs at the Liberty Center.

At Armstrong Atlantic, nontraditional students also typically are adults, said Andy Clark, interim assistant vice president for enrollment management. Those students include many seniors 62 years old and up, he said. "We do have services here for them and we offer learning support. We begin with a COMPASS test, and offer remedial-math courses to help them gear up" for college-level work.

Clark said many nontraditional students express concerns, such as flexibility in scheduling and taking courses. That challenge is being met by AASU in several ways, one being the adoption of more virtual-education opportunities.

"We are trying to move more courses to online formats," Clark said. Other challenges that are addressed by learning support at AASU are math skills. "Math can be challenging, especially after so many years out of school," he said. "We have lots of tutorial services and lots of resources."

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Rev Your Engine

Eighth-graders at Lewis Frasier Middle School work on real-life technology problems dealing with transportation.



THE CUTTING EDGE

WRITTEN BY SERAINE PAGE AND JEN ALEXANDER MCCALL, PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALIYAH DASTOUR

Liberty schools employ technology in the classroom to equip students

Liberty County School System's technology department works hard to make sure students and staffers are well-equipped to address real-world problems using the latest software and hardware in an academic setting.

In 2010, the department members attended the National School Board Association Technology and Learning Conference in Arizona to be honored for their efforts and to present their work to hundreds of other educators. At the conference, department staffers hosted a workshop titled "TAB Over for Success: Inspire, Lead and Empower!"

LCSS Executive Director of Technology Media Patti Crane and her team of tech gurus spoke with attendees about how to build a professional learning community of administrators who focuses on technology implementation, how to promote positive change and how to discover new strategies and techniques to bridge the technology gap among the schools in their districts. The end goal was to have attendees leave with a clear understanding of how to create a technology advisory board and what steps can be taken to encourage participation from all schools in the district. The LCSS team also offered ideas and strategies other districts can use to design powerful learning communities and transform their own systems.

Crane said in order to equip classrooms with the best technology, the district administration must be invested in the ef-

fort. "We're finding that administrators need to have buy-ins and share the vision," she said. "They need to partner with us to form a support system for those teachers so we can assist them in implementing these tools in the classroom."

Crane said creating a synergy between content and technology truly is a team effort throughout the district. "Teachers know content, but sometimes it's hard to fit technology into the classroom. We are about collaboration and forming a partnership with that school so we become part of that culture," she said.

Superintendent Dr. Judy Scherer also traveled to the conference last fall in Arizona to address attendees. "LCSS is one of three school systems in the nation to be honored and I am so very proud of our efforts," she said. "The technology department is most deserving of this award for their innovative methods of integrating technology into every aspect of the total school environment, and our teachers and administrators who have embraced the concepts and utilize them in their instruction.

"When I came here, I was amazed at the technical skills of even our youngest students who can produce multi-media projects as young as kindergarten," Scherer said.

Even though the technology department is a separate entity, Crane said district administrators have been active and open to learning about new technology such as interactive

whiteboards and podcasts.

The superintendent agreed the technology department's award wouldn't have been possible without encouragement and cooperation. "We appreciate the support of our BoE and the community who have been willing to provide the hardware and personnel to support the extensive use of technology," she said.

Keeping the school system on the cutting edge of technology has been an ongoing, 12-year project for Crane, who said she's noticed a lot of advancement in the five years she has served as the department director.

"It is all about the students and providing them with the resources and opportunities," said Crane of her staff's dedication to enhancing students' learning experiences. To determine the ongoing effectiveness of technologies, the technology advisory board meets four times a year and goes into classrooms to observe technology integration.

Crane said the benefits of teachers using technology include the ability to quickly evaluate whether students understand a lesson and to quickly offer remediation.



Lights, Camera, Action: A technology class at Lewis Frasier works on traditional story boards for television. Once the story boards are complete, students move the project to the computers for layout.

"We've found that a lot of times if the teacher gets the technology to the students, whether it be interactive with the smartboard or with student-response systems (blue remotes) where they key in their own answers, the teacher can pull the results up by looking at the data and see if information was un-

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derstood,” she said. “They can go back and do quick remediation right then and there. It keeps engagement and allows the teacher to facilitate and take ownership as she needs to.”

Exposure to educational technology begins with the youngest students. “Pre-K has state-of-the-art-technology. They have their own computer lab, equipped with three to five computers, so at age 4 when they come into our school system, they have technology all around them,” Crane said. “I think that’s a huge drawing card in that we foster that from age 4 on up.”

This year’s local student media festival, part of the International Student Media Festival circuit, featured 55 projects presented by 178 students in pre-K through 12th grade. Thirty-two projects were scored as winning entries. “The students earned superior scores at their school level, county level and state festival,” Crane said.

Students and teachers from kindergarten through college are honored in a three-day event that includes workshops, screenings of winning entries and an awards ceremony. It now has grown to be one of the oldest and largest events of its kind. ISMF has been sponsored since 1974 by the Association for Educational Communications and Technology, a nonprofit organization improving instruction through technology, according to the ISMF website.

Students worked during class time and after school on the projects, which included sequential stills from PowerPoint and other software programs, live action video and web pages. Button Gwinnett, Frank Long, Jordye Bacon, Liberty, Taylors Creek and Waldo Pafford elementary schools all had winning projects at the ISMF, Crane said.

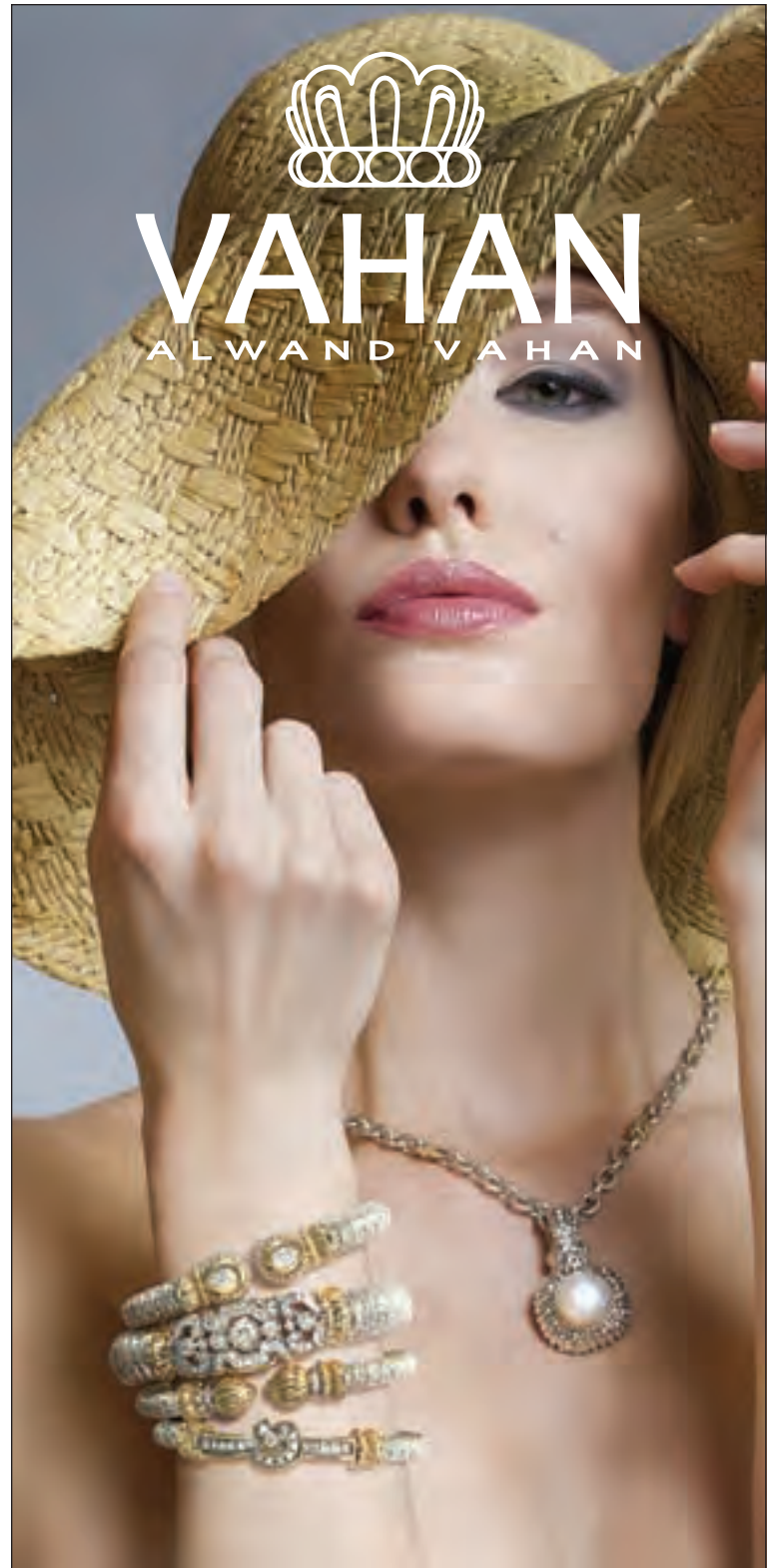
“Each year student projects must earn a superior school at the school, county and then the state media festival to qualify for entry into the ISMF,” she said.

A total of 154 students were named winners; only one student, fourth-grader Nathan Spradley, won “best of festival” for his project, “The Animal Tracks Mystery,” which focused on different animal tracks found outdoors. The award is given to a contestant who meets the highest judging criteria, according to the ISMF website. Fewer than 1 percent of entries win “best of festival.”

“One of the favorite things about doing the project was I got to go outside and take the pictures in the fresh air,” Spradley



Bridging a Gap: A student showcases a bridge built for an end-of-the year project on transportation.



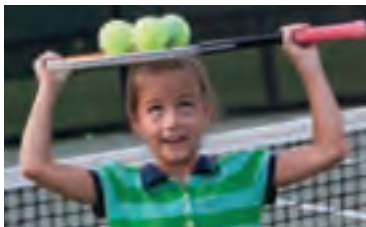
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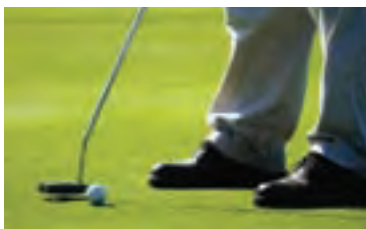
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said. "My absolute favorite overall was that I got to spend a lot of time with my mom doing it."

Melissa Aspinwall, a second-grade teacher at Taylors Creek Elementary, said watching the students learn and get excited about technology was what made the year-long project so worthwhile.

"My favorite part is seeing the excitement the students express when they see their finished project," Aspinwall said. "It is also great to let them think out of the box and use technology to demonstrate what they have learned."

Each year, classroom teachers, school media specialists, computer-lab teachers and instructional-technology specialists work with students to assist in the preparation and instructional process, Crane said.

Only one student and her family attended the conference in Anaheim, but Crane hopes more students, teachers and staff will be able to attend the event next year in Florida.

The technology and media director said students now are working on projects to enter in the upcoming school media festival.

"It is a way for students to show what they have learned or just to show their creative side," Aspinwall said. "By the students being involved, it helps them to carry learning over across the curriculum and out of the classroom. Also, they learn at an early to use technology and not be afraid of it."

Crane said a core segment of the student population is interested in engineering software but most like the creative opportunities such as web design and green-screen technology.

The next step for technology in the classroom involves popular devices like iPads and iPods, Crane said. "We are moving more toward mobile devices. We'll do a couple small pilot groups this upcoming year."

Additionally, the teachers are helping keep parents engaged through blogs, which provide for two-way communication when parents can't be in the classroom.

All this advancement spells better opportunities for students when they exit school and enter college or the workforce.

"It gives them real world skill sets to have," Crane said. "Even in culinary arts,



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where you necessarily wouldn't think of technology being, they are using programs for recipes and measurements and creating projects. In college when they're asked to have higher order-level thinking skills and work collaboratively," technology helps develop those skills, she said.

The technology department's work has garnered the attention of fellow educators and academicians nationwide. "We have been contacted by national magazines. We've presented at conferences. We get asked lots of times what we're doing here. We have counties come visit and it's been a good response," Crane said.

Uniforms

Students in all schools wear khaki or navy blue pants, skirts and shorts that are no shorter than three inches above the knees. Jumpers and skorts also are allowed. Pants may not have pockets or zippers on the legs. In addition to the option of navy and white polo shirts, students can wear their assigned school color. Blouses and button-down shirts are not allowed. No logos except the school insignia are allowed on shirts.

Elementary schools

- Button Gwinnett: Red
- Frank Long: Burgundy
- Jordye Bacon: Hunter green
- Joseph Martin: Red
- Liberty Elementary: Gold
- Lyman Hall: Red
- Taylor Creek: Baby/Light blue
- Waldo Pafford: Gold

Middle schools

- Lewis Frasier: Red
- Midway Middle: Black
- Snelson-Golden: Gold

High schools

- Students can wear white shirts or their school color.
- Bradwell: Royal blue
- LCHS: Black

Middle- and high-schoolers also may wear white button-down shirts and blouses.

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912-876-0146
Principal: Mary Guiendon
Assistant Principal: Delores Crawford

Frank Long Elementary School
920 Long-Frasier Street
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-368-3595
Principal: Judy Hellgren
Assistant Principal: Vivian Gilliard

Jordye Bacon Elementary School
100 Deen Street
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-876-3959
Principal: Dr. Mike Johnson
Assistant Principal: Dr. Debra
Sukaratana

Joseph Martin Elementary School
1000 Joseph Martin Drive
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-368-3114
Principal: Sue Tolley
Assistant Principal: Kathy Moody

Lewis Frasier Middle School
910 Long-Frasier Street
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-877-5367
Principal: Tom Alexander,
Jermaine Williams
Assistant Principal: Kevin Fulghum

Liberty County High School
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Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-876-4316
Principal: Paula Scott
Assistant Principals: Lawrence Butler,
Willie Graham, Warnella Wilder

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Assistant Principal: Rebecca Mock

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912-368-3348
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Assistant Principal: Brenda Clark

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Principal: Debra Frazier
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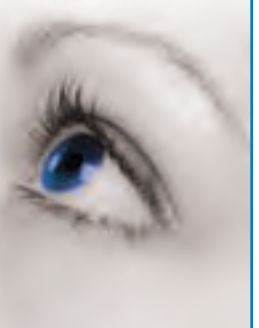
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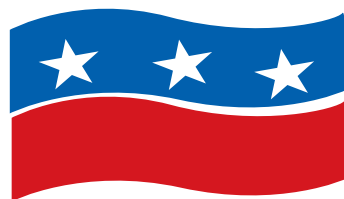
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WRITTEN BY JEN ALEXANDER MCCALL

Whether Liberty residents are looking for preventative care, routine checkups, nutrition counseling, safety tips, help with children's issues, healthy lifestyle guidelines or even pet-health suggestions, the county's health services have them covered.



LIBERTY COUNTY

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health maintenance and prevention options abound at the Coastal Health District's Liberty County Health Department.

"The Liberty County Health Department has programs that can benefit everyone, from newborns to teenagers to adults," Coastal Health District spokeswoman Sally Silbermann said.

The department's \$1.6 million operating budget is supported by funding from the state Office of Public Health, local county funding and patient fees, as well as grants for special programming. The department's clients take advantage of WIC, immunizations, family planning and environmental health services. In 2010, the department served 8,333 patients and recorded 16,860 visits.

One program the department promoted heavily beginning in 2010 is We Can!, a national health initiative that encourages families to live healthier lifestyles.

"The Health Department is very excited about the We Can! Initiative, which is designed to help kids and families become more active together to decrease childhood obesity and the effects of that epidemic," Department Director Deidre Howell said.

The joint effort between the city of Hinesville, Liberty County and Fort Stewart is the first of its kind for We Can! nationally. "We recognize from a clinical standpoint that there are a significant number of kids [locally] who are obese," Howell said. "Fort Stewart pediatricians and local pediatricians are working

on this."

The coastal Georgia region boasts more We Can! programs than any other region in the state, and established on- and off-post will enable the partners to incorporate developed We Can! curriculum into those activities.

THREE HEALTH DEPARTMENT CLINICS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE COUNTY FOR RESIDENTS:

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Fax: 912-368-8033
Hours of operation:
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Monday-Friday

Fort Stewart WIC Clinic
1183 W. Bultman Ave.
P. O. Box 1339
Hinesville, Ga. 31310
Phone: 912-877-3330
Fax: 912-876-3246
Hours of operation:
7:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday-Thursday;
7 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday

Riceboro WIC Clinic
Highway 119,
Head Start Center
Riceboro, Ga. 31323
Phone: 912-876-2173;
912-884-3889
Hours of operation:
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only on the third
Tuesday of each month.

The department also is making preparations for a new WIC Clinic on Fort Stewart. "Fort Stewart's WIC Clinic will be opening this summer to serve military families," the health department director said. "It is located on Bultman Avenue and offers WIC nutritional services to military families and contractors on post. It is a brand-new, larger facility than what used to be there."

During the groundbreaking ceremony in February, Howell described her vision of the new WIC clinic, complete with concrete pavers and shady trees in the clinic's future expanded parking lot.

She said the old WIC clinic was the only drive-through WIC clinic in Georgia years ago. While the old building is taken down, the new modular clinic building will be built, she said. Once completed, the new 3,024-square-foot WIC clinic will house office space, a nutrition education room, a breastfeeding room, a laboratory and two waiting rooms.

Former 3rd Infantry Division deputy commander Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Phillips said the new clinic "is an expression of the community's care for individuals."

The health department also is one of 15 counties in the state that have received Adolescent Health and Youth Development Partnership funding. AHYD programs and services provide a network of community-based support to help adolescents succeed as they move into adulthood by focusing on the "assets" of individual youth and their families. AHYD-sponsored programs reinforce positive attitudes, healthy behaviors and activities, and reduce risk-taking behaviors, such as violence, substance abuse, poor school performance and sexual activity. The program strives to provide all youth ages 10-19 with the skills to be healthy, safe, educated and employable.

"As a public health department, it's our goal to help prevent illness and promote wellness. That's what we do every day," Silbermann said. "We are proud to serve all of the citizens of Liberty County, and we welcome you to your new home."

DEPARTMENT
OF

FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES

“The Liberty County Department of Family and Children Services is a state agency with a local office at 708 N. Main St.,” director Debbie Bennett said. “The agency offers an array of services for individuals and families who meet income standards.”

Primary services at DFCS include food stamps, Medicaid for adults and children and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF. To apply for these services, applications can be faxed or mailed to the customer; they can apply at the DFCS office; or applications can be made online for food stamps via www.compass.gov.

“In the near future applications for TANF and Medicaid will also be available online at the website,” Bennett said. “For customers who have an approved service, they can review the status of their benefits at the website by using their client ID.”

Working with the Department of Human Resources, DFCS also assists families with childcare expenses through the Childcare and Parent Services program (CAPS). DFCS workers meet with families to determine eligibility and then assist them in locating and arranging for childcare.

To be eligible for CAPS, parents or guardians must be employed, in a job-training program or be attending GED or high school courses. Some adults may be eligible while they seek employment. Qualifying families must have limited incomes, and qualifying income is based on family size.

Teen success is another focus of DFCS services. The Georgia TeenWork program allows eligible teenagers ages 16-21 to gain work experience through placement at work sites including local businesses, nonprofit groups and government offices.

Teens who are ages 16-21 by June, live in Geor-

gia have a valid photo ID, are available to work 25-30 hours per week from June 1-July 23 and who participate in the Independent Living Program or who live in a TANF-eligible household may participate in TeenWork.

DFCS is perhaps best known for its work protecting children from abuse and neglect. The efforts of DFCS to keep children safe are bolstered by community support.

“The goal of Child Protective Services is to assure children are safe from abuse or neglect by a care giver and that all children have a safe permanent home,” Bennett said, and added that if anyone in the community suspects a child is being abused or neglected they should make a report to the department.

“A review will be made as to whether the report is assigned for further assessment and services,” she said.



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HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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- Disease testing and treatment
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- Women, Infants and Children (WIC) supplemental nutrition program
- Immunizations for adults and children such as annual flu shots
- Adolescent Health and Youth Development programs (after-school and summer activities for youth)
- Stroke and Heart Attack Prevention Program (SHAPP)
- Mammograms for women with no insurance
- Well-Child checkups for kids up to age 19

Environmental Health

Public-health needs also are covered by programs under the environmental-health umbrella. Howell said services provided include inspections of septic systems, public pools and restaurants.

Food service establishments are inspected four times a year in Liberty County. The purpose of making inspections is to determine compliance with the rules of the Department of Human Resources Public Health.

Water-quality testing is provided through the Coastal Health District's environmental health laboratory facilities.

Both municipal- and well-water testing are made available through the district's lab.

Environmental health addresses public safety through its SAFE Kids and Child Safety Programs, promoting seat-belt use, bicycle helmets, car seat use and pedestrian safety education. Education and recommendations for reducing workplace injuries also are offered.

In conjunction with Liberty County Animal Control, the department also monitors health among the county's pet population by advising residents about illnesses such as rabies and encouraging vaccinations.



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Ready For A New ICU: Liberty Regional Medical Center physicians, Dr. Nizar Eskandar, Dr. Bryan Ristow and Dr. Bobby Herrington (pictured in far middle) prepare the hospital for a new ICU ward.

CARE

COMPASSIONATE

BY JEN ALEXANDER MCCALL, PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALIYAH DASTOUR

Liberty Regional maintains patient-centered approach, expands options

Liberty County's major medical service provider is all about planning for the future by building on the past. Liberty Regional Medical Center is implementing plans to continue expanding services and providing top-notch staff to improve patient care and relationships.

Liberty Regional CEO Scott Kroell said the hospital's goals to date have been driven by a strategic plan, and hospital leaders expect to draw up a new one this year.

"We've accomplished probably 99 percent of our 2010 (goals)," he said. This year also happens to mark the hospital's 50th anniversary operating in Liberty County, which Liberty Regional will celebrate throughout the year.

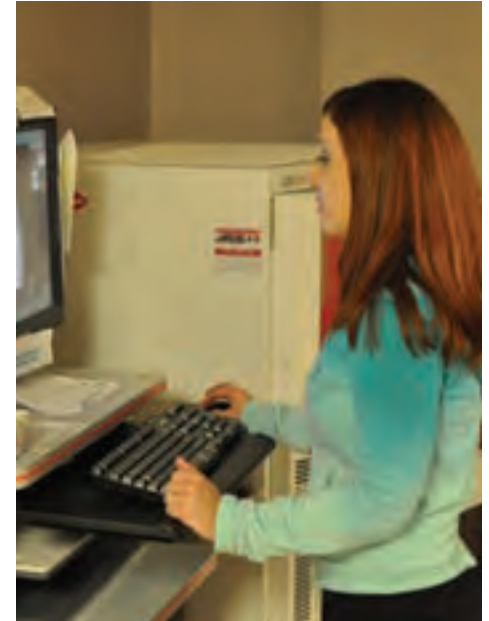
Upcoming and current infrastructure projects include expansion of the hospital's emergency room and the opening of a clinic on the east end of the county near Tradeport East, as well as construction of a new EMS headquarters on South Main Street in Hinesville. One of the biggest projects, Kroell said, was expanding the hospital's orthopedics department.

Hospital leaders were looking at April as the ideal date



Taking Care of Those in Need

From left to right: nurses Mia Natson and Shaneca Williams review a patient's EKG; nurse Jamie Ewig reviews a patient's x-ray.



to open an ICU; the hospital has physicians in place who are board-certified in critical care, he said.

Also in the past year, “one particular focus was expanding our surgical focus and improving our equipment. We lease our scopes, so we’re always upgrading our equipment.”

Liberty Regional has worked to improve the quality and diversity of its physician staff, by recently adding a dedicated ENT (ears, nose and throat specialist), a staffer with training in nephrology and a second surgeon who came out of Memorial Health University Medical Center training program.

The medical center also has a new cardiologist, thanks in part to community input, Kroell said. The hiring of a cardiologist was a “leap of faith,” the CEO said. “Cardiologists are at the top of the food chain, but he’s worked out well for us.”

The hospital’s nursing staff is headed by good leadership and boasts full- and part-time nurses, Kroell said. “We don’t use traveling nurses. We use part-time nurses who may work at another hospital. We have been lucky in recruiting nurses and clinical staff.”

One significant challenge the hospital has faced and continues to address is the need to care for underinsured and uninsured community residents.

“The bad thing is people are hurting in terms of insurance,” Kroell said. “The good thing is we’re a community hospital and we’re able to work with those who don’t have insurance. Because we’re a county hospital, we can use the DCH (Department of Community Health) Indigent Care Trust Fund.”

In working to expand the types of care offered, Liberty Regional is partnering with the Curtis and Elizabeth Anderson

Cancer Institute to bring in a doctor once a week, and related surgeries will be fit into the existing surgery schedule, while chemotherapy treatments will be done in physicians’ offices.

“We have access to all Anderson Cancer Institute services through our office here at the medical office building,” Kroell said.

Another partnership exists in telemedicine. Liberty Regional works with St. Joseph’s/Candler in Savannah to send clinical data to a neurologist with the intended result being more efficient treatment of acute conditions, such as a stroke. Kroell said the benefit is much faster diagnosis and treatment — a critical element in stroke care to avoid brain damage and aid in recovery.

“It’s important to know what medications are most effective in such cases as stroke victims — we’re able to provide that (with telemedicine),” he said.

Because LRMC currently does not have a neurologist on staff, the hospital’s REACH Program is used to assist with the diagnosis of patients who may be experiencing a stroke, Marketing Director Rene’ Harwell said.

When a patient comes into the emergency room with stroke-like symptoms, the ER team will use REACH and its related advanced equipment to link via camera to a neurologist on duty in the St. Joseph’s/Candler Health System. The neurologist is able to see the patient and assist in making the diagnosis.

If the patient is having a stroke, the Liberty Regional team can administer treatment and medication within the critical window of opportunity, Harwell said.

“Having this added technology and capability here in our community hospital is yet another indication of the commitment of Liberty Regional Medical Center to provide access to world-class care right here in our own community,” she said.

The obstetrics and gynecology department has seen an uptick in traffic; Kroell said they delivered more babies in 2010 than ever before. Cardio rehab also is growing, and the hospital is looking to place greater emphasis on preventative care. Access to acute and long-term care provision and home-health agencies are the result of well-established relationships, Kroell said. “We’re able to move people into those areas relatively smoothly.”

The east-end clinic is the hospital’s overarching priority in the near future, and because the emergency department saw 26,000 patients in 2010, Kroell said the hospital expects more of the same in 2011.

In formulating the 2011 strategic plan, Kroell and the board will spend time looking at what’s already been done. They also will continue their affiliation with the Georgia Hospital Association and the Hometown Health Association, which gives the hospital leadership resources and connections to other health-care facilities.

Kroell said the GHA offers a view on health-care issues from the national and global perspective, HHA provides educational opportunities, and information transfers in a virtual fashion. “There’s a lot of information going back and forth,” he



Showing Concern
Trey Murphy and Donna Cochrane discuss patient care in LRMC’s ER.

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said.

The Hometown Health Association recently honored LRMC with its Hospital of The Year designation. Kroell said Liberty Regional was recognized for customer service, clinical skills, services provided and financial health. The hospital is a longtime member of HHA, along with more than 50 other hospitals.

Liberty Regional and its foundation participate in community affairs on a frequent basis, Kroell said. For example, the hospital provided grants to the health department for events like flu-shot drives (Kroell also serves on the health department's board).

Leadership at Liberty Regional maintains its professionalism and dedication to being the eyes and ears of the hospital in the community, Kroell said. "Most of our board members are beginning to understand what's going on. They all fill the requirements to be certified by the Georgia Hospital Association."

He added that board members are encouraged to provide feedback, as they represent the community at different levels. "What I've been able to tell my colleagues is that they need to be the go-to person in the community when there's a health need."

Hospital Authority

The Liberty County Hospital Authority governs Liberty Regional Medical Center. Seven members have voting privileges and are appointed by the county commissioners.

There also are three ex-officio members.

Voting members serve three-year terms.

The authority's meetings are open to the public and are held at 12:45 p.m. the third Tuesday of every month, in a classroom on the hospital's first floor.

Voting members are:

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James Rogers, Vice Chairman

Will Darsey, Treasurer

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Verdell Jones, Board Member

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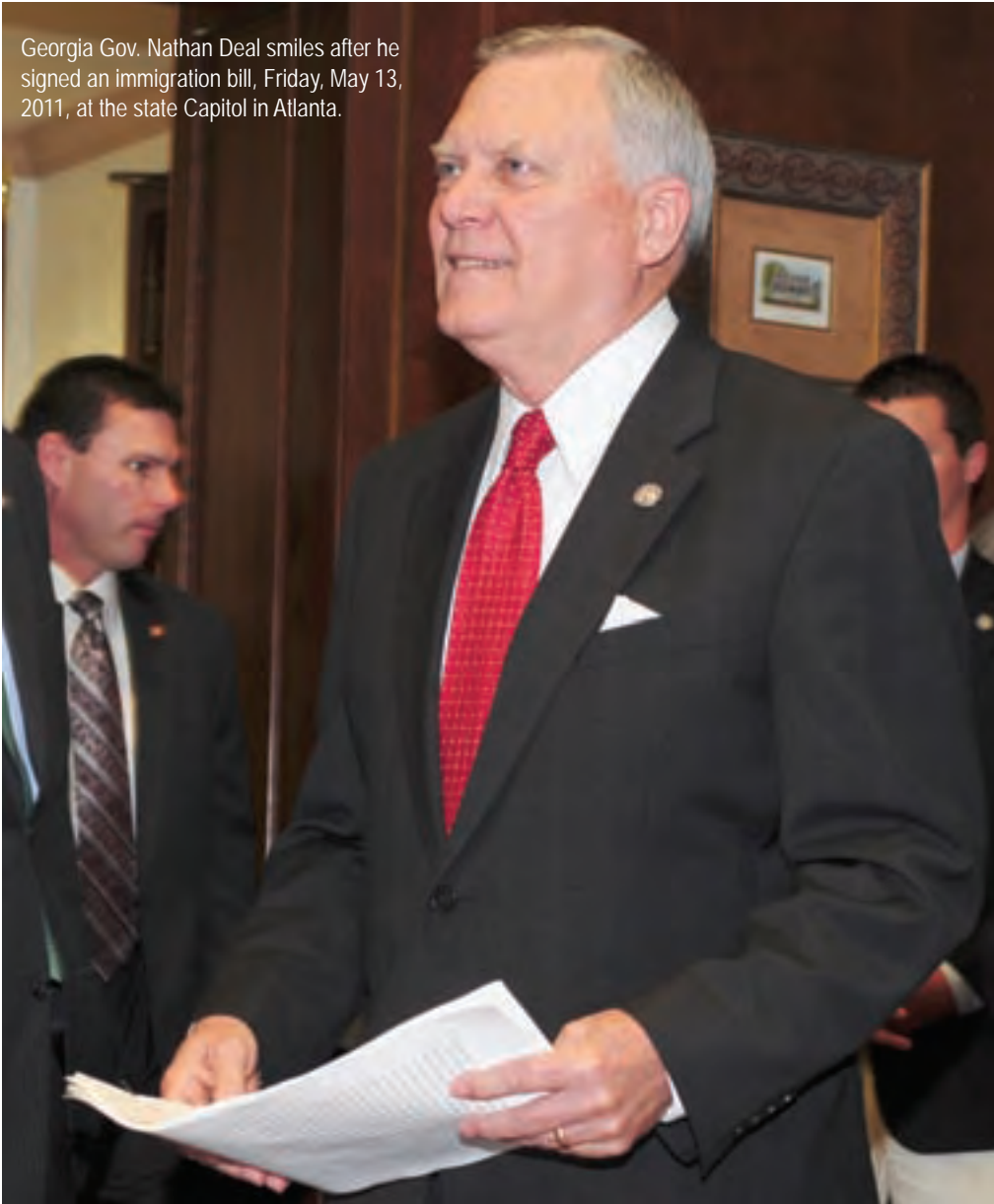
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Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal smiles after he signed an immigration bill, Friday, May 13, 2011, at the state Capitol in Atlanta.



What's the Deal?

COMPILED BY DENISE ETHERIDGE, PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY AP

Georgia's 82nd governor has Congressional experience, knowledge

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal of Gainesville was sworn in as the state's 82nd governor Jan. 10, 2011.

Due to an unusual winter storm, he became the first Georgia governor to be inaugurated inside the Georgia State Capitol since Herman Talmadge in 1956.

Nearly four inches of snow fell on Atlanta the night before Deal's inauguration.

Deal, 69, announced his bid for the 2010 gubernatorial campaign March 1, 2009. He had served nine terms as a congressman and resigned his seat as a U.S. representative for Georgia's 9th District to run for governor. He previously had served 12 years in the Georgia Senate.

According to the state's website, Deal's colleagues in the state Senate elected him president pro tem, the highest-ranking senator.

Deal first was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1992. A former Democrat, Georgia's now-staunch-conservative governor changed parties in 1995, according to the Huffington Post.

In Congress, he served as chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Health, according to the state's website.

"As a leader on immigration reform, he authored the law that required citizenship verification for health-care benefits," states Deal's biography on the state's website.

Deal won the Georgia governor's race handily, despite being plagued by controversy. When the veteran congressman had announced his intent to race for the governor's seat, he was under investigation for an ethics violation.

Following Deal's resignation from Congress on March 8, 2009, the Office of Congressional Ethics concluded Deal "had appeared to have improperly used his office to pressure Georgia officials to continue a vehicle-inspection program that generated hundreds of thousands of dollars a year for his family's auto salvage business," according to a Nov. 7, 2010, story printed in the Gainesville Times.

The Gainesville Times also reported that then-gubernatorial candidate Deal owed millions of dollars, of which \$2.3 million was due to his investment in Wilder Outdoors, a sporting goods store that his daughter and son-in-law, Carrie and Clint Wilder, opened in 2006 in Habersham County. The Wilders' store went out of business in 2009.

Still, the Republican managed to beat his Democratic opponent and former Georgia governor Roy Barnes with 53 percent of the vote in the November 2010 election. Barnes received 43 percent and Libertarian candidate John Monds took 4 percent of the vote.

Deal was one of seven Republicans who ran in the 2010 primary. Deal's predecessor was Republican Gov. Sonny Perdue, who served two terms.

"We're going to make this state great. We're going to show the rest of the country what Georgia can do," Deal was quoted as saying by the Gainesville Times after winning the election. "I will give you a full day's work every day for the next four years."

During his inaugural speech, Deal

said his and other leaders' responsibility was to "concentrate our attention and our resources on the core responsibilities of government."

He named security, education, transportation and health as the government's primary responsibilities to provide its citizens.

"For other offenders who want to change their lives, we will provide the opportunity to do so with day reporting centers; drug, DUI and mental-health courts; and expanded probation and treatment options," Deal said, according to the Georgia Municipal Association website. "As a state, we cannot afford to have so many of our citizens waste their lives because of addictions. It is draining our state treasury and depleting our workforce."

The governor also said he would work with the General Assembly to save the HOPE scholarship "for future generations."

Deal was born in Millen and grew up in Sandersville. He earned undergraduate and law degrees from Mercer University in Macon, graduating with honors, according to the state website. The governor also is a veteran, having served in the United States Army JAG office (Judge Advocate General's Corps) from 1966-1968, according to www.nndb.com.

Deal has been a practicing attorney for more than two decades and has served as a criminal prosecutor and a juvenile court judge, according to the Gainesville Times. The governor met his wife, the former Sandra Dunagan of Gainesville, on a blind date in college, according to georgia.gov. The Deals have been married for 44 years and have four grown children and six grandchildren.

HOPE UPDATE

In mid-March, the governor signed into law changes to the HOPE scholarship, which included raising the GPA requirements. To receive full tuition, high school seniors must earn at least a 3.7 GPA and a combined 1200 SAT score on reading and math. Students who maintain a 3.0 will have 90 percent of their tuition covered by HOPE.

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LEADING THE WAY

BY DENISE ETHERIDGE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALIYAH DASTOUR

*Mayor, council want to
continue serving Hinesville*

Although Hinesville's municipal election will not be held until November 2011, the city's current mayor and council members told the Courier in February 2011 they all planned to run for re-election.

To run for mayor, a candidate must be a resident of Hinesville for at least 12 months before Election Day. To run for city council, a candidate must be a resident of the district for which he or she is running for at least 12 months prior to the election.

The Hinesville mayor may only serve two terms; city council members do not have term limits.

As of press time in June 2011, Hinesville Mayor Jim Thomas was serving his first term. Thomas said in early 2011 he

Charles Frasier has served on the council for nearly 24 years, and he also planned to run again.

Frasier said he would work to keep taxes from being raised.

He also said the council's recent goals included a list of capital improvements, such as the new city hall construction, the Memorial Drive enhancement, the Bryant Commons project and improving Fort Stewart's wastewater treatment plant.

"And of course, we've got to work on Frank Cochran," he said. Frasier said Hinesville is happy to have soldiers back from deployment, but he conceded that more people means more traffic.

Frasier admitted that the salary raise — voted on in 2010 for the mayor and council's salaries — was "a point of concern"

"I'D LIKE TO CONTINUE THE GROWTH OF THE CITY, THE REVITALIZATION OF DOWNTOWN AND THE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING A CIVIC CENTER FOR THE COMMUNITY." -MAYOR JIM THOMAS

Setting an Example

From left: Councilman Keith Jenkins, Councilman David Anderson, Mayor Jim Thomas, Mayor Pro-Tem Charles Frasier and Councilman Jason Floyd are dedicated to bettering the city and improving residents' quality of life. Councilman Ken Shaw is not pictured.

wants to run again.

"I'd like to continue the growth of the city, the revitalization of downtown and the possibility of getting a civic center for the community," he said. "A city our size needs a center of that sort."

Hinesville Mayor Pro Tem (District 1)

He pointed out he eventually pushed for and voted for a reduction in the raise amounts.

"I think the real issue was the amount of the increase," Frasier said. He said he initially had suggested an incremental increase. Still, Frasier said the council had



not had a raise in years.

“(The job) requires a good portion of our time. We’re out in our communities, listening to our constituents ... that’s what we’re there for,” he said.

The newest council member, Jason Floyd, also plans to run again. Floyd was elected in a special election in September 2010 to fill the District 2 seat left vacant by Bobby Ryon, who stepped down to run for sheriff.

“I’m fiscally conservative,” Floyd said. “During these economically challenging times, I’d like to see us analyze our spending and offer the taxpayer the most bang for their buck.”

District 3 city council member David Anderson is serving his third term.

“We’ve reached a lot of small goals,” Anderson said. “Keeping taxes down and keeping the water bill as low as possible, although not as low as some people may want it.”

Anderson said the city’s Liberty Transit bus system benefits the community, and the city’s ongoing capital projects will improve residents’ quality of life.

“We want to continue to develop the Bryant Commons property and find a place for a civic center and maybe a small mall. If Brunswick can have one, we can afford one, too,” he said.

Anderson also wants to provide youth with more recreational activities, to “keep them entertained, off the streets and out of trouble.”

As for the raise controversy, Anderson said the council salaries had not been increased in at least a decade. He added that the first time the council voted on the raise, the amount of the raise should have

been questioned.

Anderson said Hinesville has been recognized as a city of ethics and has not laid off employees or implemented furloughs.

“I know we can’t satisfy everybody. But I think we have been good stewards over this city’s revenue,” he said.

District 4 city council member Keith Jenkins has served one term and also plans to run again.

Jenkins said the industrial area on Airport Road is not being utilized to its full potential.

“I would like to bring more industry into that industrial park to provide more jobs to people in Liberty County,” he said.

On the raise issue, he said the council should have considered a greater reduction in the increase amount.

Jenkins said the council must balance providing residents’ services while avoiding unnecessary expenditures.

District 5 council member Ken Shaw has served three terms and said in early 2011 he intended to run for a fourth term.

“There are a lot of projects we’ve started I’d like to see finished,” Shaw said, referring to Bryant Commons, Frank Cochran and various other street-improvement projects.

“I also would like to continue my efforts to attract more businesses and jobs to Hinesville,” he said.

Shaw said he will work to keep the millage rate down and find other sources of revenue to pay for city projects, such as grants and SPLOST.

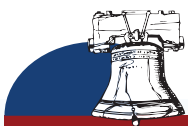
He also was the only council member to vote against raising the mayor and council’s salaries.



CITY MANAGER
PLAYS A BIG ROLE

Hinesville City Manager Billy Edwards has more than 30 years of experience in all phases of general management for the city. After graduating from Auburn University in 1978, Edwards began working for the city of Hinesville as deputy city clerk. Today he manages Hinesville’s day-to-day operations, serves as liaison between the city council and public, develops materials for council meetings and implements the council’s policy decisions. Edwards also is responsible for the preparation and administration of the city’s budget.

The city manager operates under the philosophy that every resident makes Hinesville what it is. Under Edwards’ leadership, Hinesville continues to uphold the principles of excellence, responsiveness and efficiency.



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Left to right: Commissioners Gary Gilliard, Eddie Walden, John McIver, Pat Bowen, Donald Lovette and Connie Thrift stand on the new justice center steps. Marion Stevens Sr. is not pictured.

PROUD BUNCH

Commissioners satisfied with accomplishments, ready for more

BY DENISE ETHERIDGE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALIYAH DASTOUR

The seven members of the Liberty County Board of Commissioners agree Liberty County is a place of Southern charm and hospitality, home to Fort Stewart and the 3rd Infantry Division, a place that mixes tradition and progress.

For this issue, commissioners gave us brief summaries of what they believe are accomplishments to be proud of and goals they still would like to reach.

Liberty County Commission Chairman John McIver has served on the commission for eight years, beginning in 2002.

"I am in the process of completing my third term on the BOC and have completed 21 years serving as the mayor of Riceboro," McIver said. "I will not be running for re-election in 2012."

"I would like to see the necessary fund-

ing approval by the USDA for the construction of the county rural community water system, the implementation of a countywide fire-protection service and the improvement to the library facility in Midway," he said.

McIver has been married to Gloria McIver for 43 years. The couple has six children, 15 grandchildren and one foster child.

The commissioner retired from Interstate Paper LLC in Riceboro after 39 years of employment. He graduated from Liberty County High School in 1959.

District 1 Commissioner Marion Stevens, Sr. currently is serving his fourth term. Stevens was re-elected in November 2010.

"I have served on the commission for 13 years," he said. "My first term began in 1999." Stevens said he intends to run

again in 2014.

Stevens said he would like to see "the first county water system to be put into place" and the planned DFCS facility built. He also promised to continue working toward the completion of the East End Community Complex in Midway.

"The east end project includes in its design a library, swimming pool, pavilion and walking trail and gym renovation," he said.

The District 1 commissioner is widowed. Stevens and his late wife, Carolyn, were married for 37 years before her death in July 2009. He attended Liberty County Elementary and Liberty High School in Midway and Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service in Decatur. Stevens said he enjoys gardening in his spare time.

District 2 Commissioner Donald Lovette, a Liberty County native and local

historian and playwright, is serving his third term on the commission.

"I ran because of my love and interest for one of the most progressive counties in Georgia," Lovette said. "I wanted to help our county fulfill its full potential. I strongly felt that good people deserved good government."

He counts as the commission's accomplishments "good, sound and fiscal government, an excellent staff, good working conditions" and SPLOST-funded capital improvements.

Included in these capital projects are the new justice center, expanded recreational facilities, the purchase of public land for a county marina, enhanced fire services and the new EMS, he said.

Lovette said he still hopes to accomplish more efficient delivery of services to citizens. He added that he wants to see completed the East End Community Complex in Midway, a water and sewage system for unincorporated Liberty County citizens, a new DFCS facility, a new library and a new county marina.

Lovette is employed as the director of services for the laboratory at Liberty Regional Medical Center.

Lovette also serves as chairman of the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority. He is a board member of the Fraser Counseling Center; chairman of the Savannah Technical College Advisory Council, Liberty County Campus; and first vice president of the Liberty County Martin Luther King Association. "I am the father of two and the grandfather of five," he said.

Lovette attended North Georgia Technical College, earning a diploma as a medical laboratory assistant and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Brewton-Parker College.

District 3 Commissioner Connie Thrift's first term on the commission began in 2005, and she was re-elected to her third term in November 2010.

Thrift said she enjoys serving the citi-

zens of Liberty County and has a list of goals to achieve.

"I'd like to see countywide fire protection with manned, paid staff at our fire stations," Thrift said.

She added that countywide fire service would help improve county ISO ratings. "Overall, I think that would be well worth the money and savings to homeowners' insurance if we had across-the-county fire protection," Thrift said.

She grew up in Liberty County and graduated from Bradwell Institute. She said she takes seriously her ongoing training as a commissioner through the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG).

"With all the changes in the law that's initiated in Atlanta, by going to these classes, we learn more about the changes that affect our county government," Thrift said.

She and her husband, John, have been married for 32 years and own Thrift Auto Repair. The couple has two sons, Johnathan and Justin.

District 4 Commissioner Pat Bowen has served on the commission for 15 years. Bowen graduated from Bradwell Institute and is a tree surgeon.

District 5 Commissioner Gary Gilliard has served on the commission since January 2009. He said he intends to run for re-election.

"I'm most proud of the relationships I've developed with the citizens of District 5 and all of Liberty County," Gilliard said. "I'm pleased to have a good working relationship with the county department heads and the mayors and council members in the cities that I represent."

Gilliard graduated from Bradwell Institute in 1974 and has taken a number of college business-management courses.

Gilliard is employed as a project manager at CH2M Hill OMI. He is married and has two grown children.

District 6 Commissioner Eddie Walden, 56, has served about 15 years on the commission. Also a Bradwell Institute graduate, he is employed as a supervisor with Georgia Power.

**"I RAN BECAUSE OF MY LOVE AND INTEREST FOR ONE OF THE MOST PROGRESSIVE COUNTIES IN GEORGIA. I WANTED TO HELP OUR COUNTY FULFILL ITS FULL POTENTIAL. I STRONGLY FELT THAT GOOD PEOPLE DESERVED GOOD GOVERNMENT."
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Mayor Jim Thomas poses in front of the new city hall.

All About ADVANCEMENT

BY DENISE ETHERIDGE, PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALIYAH DASTOUR

Liberty County's local mayors are committed to serving constituents, moving their cities forward

Liberty County is home to seven incorporated city governments. Hinesville, with a population of 33,437, according to the 2010 Census, is the county seat and the largest municipality in the county.

Hinesville Mayor James (Jim) Thomas Jr. is serving his first term and said he likely will run again.

"The greatest legacy that we as human beings leave on this earth is our individual effect on other people," Thomas said. "I believe that we must serve our nation and humanity as a whole, therefore the people we mentor and the people we interact with on a positive basis helps to leave the world a better place because of our service."

Thomas, a retired military officer who moved to Hinesville in 1977, earned a bachelor's degree in business management and administration from Saint Leo University. He completed graduate studies in business management at Central Michigan University and took an executive housing management course at the University of Maryland. He is a trained and experienced engineering project manager.

Thomas and his wife, Claudia L. Thomas, have four children.

Since taking office, the mayor has worked on many projects, including the Memorial Drive realignment, the Liberty Transit system, the Frank Cochran Drive reconstruction, Chinese sister-city initiatives, the creation of Hines-

ville's skate park, a new public works facility and several other projects.

In the future, Thomas said, he'd "like to continue the growth of the city, the revitalization of downtown and the possibility of getting a civic center for the community. A city our size needs a center of that sort."

The Hinesville mayor may only serve two terms.

Six other municipalities — Allenhurst, Flemington, Gum Branch, Midway, Riceboro and Walthourville — also are home to many Liberty County residents. Each community has a unique character and each city's mayor shares a common cause: to serve.

Allenhurst Mayor Thomas Hines was elected in November 2003 and again in 2007. He plans to run for his third term this November.

The mayor said Allenhurst has made progress in recent years, specifically with the permanent repair of the railroad crossing on Dunlevie. Hines also listed as accomplishments the designation of the city's historic district on Dunlevie, which includes the town's six remaining original homes. Still, there are projects he'd like to see come to fruition.

"I would still like to see Allenhurst be able to offer all of our citizens city water and sewage, sidewalks down Dunlevie and a small park built on a site next to town hall," Hines said.

The mayor, like most of his constituents, works fulltime to earn a living.

"I am employed at SNF Chemtall in Riceboro, as a chemical plant operator," he said. Hines was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio.

"I joined the U.S. Army in 1982 and after serving a tour in Germany, I was stationed at Fort Stewart," he said. "I met my wife Debbie in 1984 and we have been married for 25 years."

Flemington Mayor Sandra Martin served on the Flemington City Council before running for mayor.

Martin originally was appointed to the Flemington City Council in March 1981 to fill the unexpired term of Wallace F. Martin. She was re-elected to the council in succeeding municipal elections. Martin first was elected mayor in November 1997. Per Flemington's charter, there are no term limitations for mayor and council.

Martin was raised in Randolph County. She graduated from Randolph Southern High School, and from there went on to Southwest Georgia Tech in Americus. She earned her associate's degree in accounting and business and is employed by The Heritage Bank.

Martin has been married to Liberty County native John Martin for more than 30 years. They have two grown sons, John Fleming Martin of Dacula and Paul Martin of Flemington, and two young grandchildren.

Gum Branch is "a quiet county town," according to Mayor Richard Strickland. Strickland was elected mayor in 2008 after he served two years on the city council.

The Brunswick native has lived in Gum Branch for 21 years and owns Gum Branch Bait & Tackle.

Strickland said his goal as mayor is to lower Gum Branch's ISO rating. The city has a volunteer fire department of 20-25 people, he said.

Midway, a city steeped in history, is served by Mayor Dr. Clementine Washington. Washington was elected in November 2009. She served on the Midway City Council for eight and a half years before running for mayor.

Washington said she wants to improve Midway's infrastructure, revise key documents, develop tourism and partnerships, and offer more city services and activities.

"I am proud of the progress made in upgrading the utility and police depart-

ments," Washington said.

The Midway native has been married for 40 years. She has one son and four grandchildren.

Washington is a retired educator. She earned a bachelor's of science in health, physical education and recreation from Savannah State College in 1966, a master's in physical education from the University of Iowa in 1972, an educational specialist degree from Georgia Southern College in 1990 and her doctorate in educational leadership from Nova Southeastern University in 1999.

Riceboro Mayor Bill Austin began his term in January 2008. Austin said he plans to "ask the people of our great city for four more years" as mayor.

Austin said he is proud Riceboro officials are united in their efforts to move the city forward.

"We've had great success with our summer program for our youth and our adult-education program," he said. "We've made structural improvements in our city's operations, our fire safety facilities and infrastructure. Additionally, we have secured sufficient funding to complete an upgrade of our waste-treatment facilities so as to provide service to our entire city."

Austin was born and raised in Riceboro. He attended Liberty County Training School in Riceboro and graduated from Liberty County High in 1960 and from Tuskegee University in 1966. Austin earned a master's of science in management from Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla., in 1980. He retired in 1999 from Lockheed Martin Missiles System Division in Orlando, Fla.

Walthourville Mayor Daisy Pray also began her term in January 2008 and intends to run for re-election.

The Liberty County native includes as her city's accomplishments its senior organization and police department, the city's sewer project, a new well, a newsletter and website and making the payment of water bills available to residents online.

"I would like to get a full-time fire department and offer more activities for Walthourville youth," she said.

Pray is a paralegal for the JAG office on Fort Stewart. The mayor attended Armstrong Atlantic State University.



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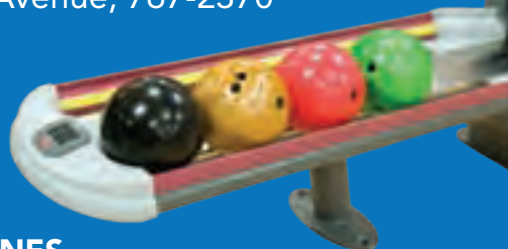
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54 Steele Ave, Building 402, 767-4866

County / City Government Directory:

Liberty County Sheriff Steve Sikes
Sheriff's Office
P.O. Box 439
Hinesville, Ga. 31310
912-876-2131

Atlantic Judicial Circuit
Public Defender
Steven J. Messinger
P.O. Box 948
Hinesville, Ga. 31310
912-369-6338
Also serves Bryan, Evans, Long,
McIntosh and Tattnall counties

Office of the Clerk of Courts:
Superior Court, State Court, Juvenile
Court and Magistrate Court
Clerk and Court Administrator
F. Barry Wilkes
P.O. Box 50
Hinesville, Ga. 31310
912-876-3625
clerkofcourts@libertyco.com

State Court
Judge Leon M. Braun Jr.
Solicitor: Jeff Osteen
912-876-7228

**Liberty County Crime
Victims Assistance**
Coordinator: Kerrie Brinkley
912-876-2196

Superior Court Judges' office
Judge David L. Cavender
912-368-2250

Probate Court
Judge Nancy Aspinwall
912-876-3635
nancy.aspinwall@gsccca.org

Magistrate Court
Judge Melinda Anderson
912-876-2343
melinda.anderson@gsccca.org

Law Library
912-368-5111

Who's in the courthouse annex:

Tax Commissioner Virgil Jones
Room 106, first floor
912-876-3389
virgil.jones@libertycountyga.com

Building and Licensing Department
Paul Zechman
912-876-8454
paul.zechman@libertycountyga.com

**Liberty Consolidated
Planning Commission**
LCPC Director Sonny Timmerman
912-408-2030

Tax Assessor
Chief Appraiser Glenda Roberts
912-876-2823
glendaroberts@libertycountyga.com

County Commission Office
Liberty County Administrator
Joey Brown
Assistant Administrator Bob Sprinkel
912-876-2164

County services outside the courthouse:

Coroner Reginald L. Pierce
P.O. Box 223
Hinesville, Ga. 31310
912-884-4490

County Attorney Kelly Davis
206 E. Court Street
912-876-0111

Voter Registration Office
Supervisor of Elections Ella Golden
204 E. Memorial Drive
P.O. Box 557
Hinesville, Ga. 31310
912-876-3310

Mosquito Control
Supervisor: Jack Vereen
P.O. Box 829
Hinesville, Ga. 31310
836 Limerick Road
912-884-2065

Public Works
Supervisor: Clenton Wells
912-884-3310

Road Department

Operations supervisor: Chris Beasley
1079 Bacontown Road
Midway, Ga. 31320
912-884-3310
libcoroad@clds.net

Solid Waste Department

Operations supervisor: Johnny Schaadt
625 Rogers Pasture
Fleming, Ga. 31309
912-884-5353
lcswa@coastalhow.net

State offices in county:

Georgia Forestry Commission

Georgia Forestry Ranger II
David Duke
Highway 17 South
Midway, Ga. 31320
912-884-3331

The Department of Family and Children Services

DFCS Director Debbie Bennett
508 N. Main Street
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-370-2555

District Attorney Office

J. Thomas Durden, District Attorney
945 E.G. Miles Parkway
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-876-4151

Office of Child Support Services

877-423-4746

The Victims Witness Program

945 E.G. Miles Parkway
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-876-4151

Hinesville Probation Office

104A Commerce Street
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-370-2571

Georgia State Patrol

912-370-2600

Drivers License Information

912-370-2604

Governor's Office of Consumer Protection

1-800-869-1123

Georgia Department of Labor

Hinesville Career Center
740 Gen. Stewart Way, Suite 202
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-370-2595

Senators

Saxby Chambliss, R-Moultrie

Washington office: 416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-3521
Fax: 202-224-0103
Coastal Georgia office:
2 E. Bryan Street, Suite 620,
Savannah, Ga. 31401
Phone: 912-232-3657
Fax: 912-233-0115
www.Chambliss.senate.gov
Committees: Senate Intelligence Committee vice chairman; agriculture, nutrition and forestry; armed services; rules and administration and aging

Johnny Isakson, R-Marietta

Washington office: 131 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C., 20510
Phone: 202-224-3643
Fax: 202-228-0724
Georgia office: One Overton Park,
3625 Cumberland Blvd., Suite 970,
Atlanta, Ga. 30339
Phone: 770-661-0999
Fax: 770-661-0768
Committees: health; education; labor and pensions; environment and public works; foreign relations; veterans' affairs and ethics

Representative

U.S. Rep. Jack Kingston, R-Savannah

Congressman, 1st District
Washington D.C. Office: 2372
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202-225-5831
Savannah Office: 1 Diamond
Causeway, Suite 7
Savannah, Ga. 31406
Phone: 912-352-0101
Fax: 912-352-0105
Committees: chairman, subcommittee on agriculture, rural development, food and drug administration and related agencies. member, subcommittee on defense; member, health and human services

Meet our 2 senators, 3 representatives

Note: The following information is current as of May 2011.

Sen. Buddy Carter (R-Pooler)

District 1
Legislative service: Elected to Georgia House in 2005, elected to Georgia Senate in 2009 to fill Eric Johnson's unexpired term, and again to the Senate for a full term in 2010
Capitol office: Room 302-B,
Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, Ga. 30334
Phone: 404-656-5109
Fax: 404-657-3217
District office:
406 Purple Finch Drive
Pooler, Ga. 31322
Phone: 912-748-1414
Fax: 912-748-4029
bcarter331@aol.com
Committees: government oversight, public safety, regulated industries and utilities, special judiciary and state and local governmental operations

Sen. Tommie Williams (R-Lyons)

District 19 (Includes extreme western Liberty County)
Legislative service: First elected to Georgia Senate in 1998, elected majority leader in 2005, elected pro tempore in 2009
Capitol office: 321 State Capitol
Atlanta, Ga. 30334
Phone: 404-656-0089
Fax: 404-463-5220
District office: 148 Williams Avenue
Lyons, Ga. 30436
Phone: 912-526-7444
Fax: 912-526-8730
Committees: assignments, chair of appropriations, education and youth, health and human services, reapportionment and redistricting and rules

Rep. Al Williams, (D-Midway)

District 165 (includes most of Liberty County, except Fleming and far western portion)
Legislative service: Elected to Georgia House in 2002, re-elected in 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010
Capitol office: 511 Coverdell Building
Atlanta, Ga. 30334
404-656-6372
District office:
9041 E. Oglethorpe Hwy
Midway, Ga. 31320
Phone: 912-977-5600
Fax: 912-368-4982
Committees: state institutions and property, game, fish and parks, economic development and tourism.

Rep. Delvis Dutton, (R-Glenville)

District 166 (Represents extreme western portion of Liberty County)
Legislative service: Elected to Georgia House in 2010
Capitol office: 504 Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, Ga. 30334
Phone: 404-656-0188
District office: P.O. Box 928
Glenville, Ga. 30427
Phone: 912-271-9092
delvis.dutton@house.ga.gov
Committees: banks and banking, children and youth, natural resources and environment

Rep. Ron Stephens, (R-Garden City)

District 164 (includes northern Liberty County, Fleming area)
Legislative service: First elected to Georgia House in 1997
Capitol office: 228 State Capitol
Atlanta, Ga. 30334
Phone: 404-656-5099
District office: 45 Cove Drive
Savannah, Ga. 31419
Phone: 912-966-5665
Fax: 912-964-9699
E-mail: quickrxdrugs@yahoo.com
Committees: chairman Economic Development and Tourism, Appropriations, Rules, and Ways and Means.



Finally Home

From top to bottom: Soldiers pose for a photo during a homecoming ceremony on Fort Stewart. A military wife waves a flag as she awaits her husband's return.



A TASTE OF ARMY LIFE

BY JOSELYNN MCKENNA

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALIYAH DASTOUR

Fort Stewart's storied history, variety of entertainment and dining venues, and the welcoming soldiers who call it home make the installation a great place to explore and visit. With bowling alleys, a movie theater, eateries and shops, those who step on post will be anything but bored.

Guarded gates and fences may seem a little intimidating to the average civilian rolling up to Fort Stewart for the first — or even second or third — time. But this well-secured place so rich with history and patriotism certainly is worth the hassle of getting on post.

What's hiding behind all of that camouflage is more than newcomers might expect. Home of the 3rd Infantry Division and stretching over nearly 280,000 acres, Fort Stewart is a large source of economic stimulation in Liberty County, employing more than 3,000 civilians.

With a long-reaching proud history and a long list of modern-day amenities, the installation has earned the Army Community of Excellence Award four times in recent years. Bob Matthews, Stewart-Hunter Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation marketing publicity specialist, said Fort Stewart invites its civilian neighbors to explore what the installation has to offer.

"Fort Stewart welcomes our friends and neighbors in surrounding civilian communities to a number of special events during the year, such as the 'Worth Fighting For' Independence Day weekend celebration coming up soon," Matthews said. "The entertainment portion of the Independence Day weekend celebration at Fort Stewart on July 4 this year will feature the Grammy-winning Zac Brown Band. The show will begin with a performance by Fantasia."

Matthews said the celebration will close with a fireworks dis-

play and civilian guests are welcome to stay for that event as well.

In addition to the July 4 festivities, Fort Stewart officials invite community members to join them on post for the Great MWR Yard Sale, where post-wide yard sales offer bargain hunters deals twice annually — once in the spring and again in the fall.

Fort Stewart also is home to businesses and destinations that welcome civilians anytime, not just on special occasions.

"Hunting and fishing opportunities abound at Fort Stewart, and civilians are invited to be a part of outdoor fun through the Pass and Permit Office," Matthews said. "Golf at Taylors Creek Golf Course is one of the main attractions for civilians in surrounding communities. Annual memberships available to civilians trim costs for regular golfers."

For entertainment of the indoor variety, two bowling alleys on post, Marne Lanes and Stewart Lanes Bowling Center, are often for civilian

guests to stay and enjoy a few frames. Matthews said neighbors also are encouraged to check out Fort Stewart's dining services and facilities.

"If you are looking to stage an event involving good food, Club's Stewart's catering team can take all of the worry out of your planning," Matthews said. "Fort Stewart's newest restaurant, Thunder Run, located in the Club Stewart building, opens its doors to civilian guests each day for lunch. And on Wednesdays, the highly praised pasta nights are open to civilians."

Fort Stewart is the reason for much of the growth in the area — in population, economic development and community — be it from soldiers and their families, civilians or military retirees. Although many Fort Stewart activities are designed for soldiers and their families, the community is frequently included.

"Most special events and activities for soldiers and families at Fort Stewart are planned and offered by the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation," Matthews said. "Civilians are welcome at a number of these events during the year." And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

A walk through the Fort Stewart Museum is educational and interesting to the history buff or just the curious citizen. Perhaps the best way to get up-to-date on Fort Stewart's impressive history, the museum offers interactive displays and a fine collection of historic military uniforms and weaponry.

For more information on what Fort Stewart has to offer or an updated calendar of events, visit the MWR website at www.stewartmwr.com or look for the Family and MWR insert in the Coastal Courier.

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Fort Stewart's helpful contacts

Pass and Permit – 912-435-8061
Marne Lanes – 912-767-4866
Club Stewart (includes information about catering, Thunder Run) – 912-368-2212
Taylors Creek Golf Course – 912-767-2370
Fort Stewart Museum – 912-767-7885
For a list of activities sponsored by MWR, visit www.stewartmwr.com.

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CROSS

(Clothing and Food Bank Ministry)

SOA

(Sons of Allen Men's Ministry)

SOAM

(Singles On a Mission)

Usher Ministries

(Adult and Youth)

WMS

(Women's Missionary Society
for Ladies 40+)

YPD

(Young People's Department
for Persons 25 & below)

YWI

(Young Women's Initiative
for Young Ladies 18-40)

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Fleming Presbyterian church on Old Sunbury Road.

FINDING FAITH

BY SERAINE PAGE, PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALIYAH DASTOUR
Churchgoers have many options for worship and fellowship

There is no shortage of churches in Liberty County. People of all faiths easily can find somewhere to belong as the area faithful invite longtime residents and newcomers alike to worship and enjoy fellowship. Liberty County is full of people willing to lend a helping hand and, oftentimes, you needn't look any further than the family sitting in the pew next to you on Sunday morning.

Newcomers who are looking for a church but aren't sure where to start can consult members of the United Ministerial Alliance of Liberty County. They're always willing to help out.

"There are a lot of very good churches throughout this community. Some rich in culture and tradition; others that are very new and progressive," United Ministerial Alliance of Liberty County President Richard D. Hayes said. "You also have a lot of wonderful pastors who are committed to God's people, so my suggestion would be to attend the

church that you feel God is leading you to and then pray for confirmation from God. Find a church where you can be of service, not one that you're looking to be served.

"These events allow the people of Liberty County to see churches and spiritual leaders come together united in fellowship for the greater good of this community," Hayes said. "We believe we can accomplish more by working together. Our scriptural theme is, 'Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!' from Psalms 133:1. Liberty County is a progressive community with a diverse cultural and spiritual history. The UMA is a part of that rich history, providing a ministerial bond that reaches throughout the fabric of Hinesville and Liberty County Georgia."

With so many options and welcoming hearts, there's little doubt faith-seekers of all backgrounds will find what they're looking for in Liberty County.

Getting Involved

The UMA supports several groups and activities in Liberty County throughout the year, something that Hayes believes keeps the community together and actively involved with one another. Activities and events include:

- Anytime there are five Sundays in a month, the UMA invites all churches and residents to a service on the fifth Sunday called Fifth Sunday Fellowship.
- Each year on the first Thursday in May, the UMA leads Liberty County's National Day of Prayer event, during which community members gather on the courthouse steps to pray for the United States.
- Every November, the UMA coordinates the Mayor's Thanksgiving Service, where community members enjoy fellowship with military leaders and local elected officials.
- The UMA's Youth Extravaganza program, which is held every fall, celebrates the community's youth.
- The Community Collaboration Choir draws singers from churches throughout Liberty County and hosts several events throughout the year.
- The Kingdom Builders Connection organizes training and events to help develop the social and spiritual needs of the community's youth.
- The Alliance of Administrators organizes events and conferences to help train business and church administrators in Liberty County
- To get involved, email presidentofuma@yahoo.com

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Editor's note: Liberty Life magazine made several attempts to verify the addresses of all the churches included in this directory. When phone calls were not returned and/or churches had no answering service, the addresses could not be confirmed.

African AME Episcopalian

Bethel AME Church
233 Gause St.
Hinesville Ga. 31313
912-369-2417

Bethel AME Church parsonage
213 Gause 5th
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-876-5647

Pleasant Grove AME
1450 Oglethorpe Hwy.
Hinesville Ga. 31313
912-368-3266

St. Peter's AME
5394 E. Oglethorpe Hwy
P.O. Box 267
Midway, Ga. 31320
912-876-6874

Thebes AME
714 Dave Williams Rd.
Midway, Ga. 31320
912-884-9116

Apostolic

Calvary Apostolic Temple
912-884-4073

Cathedral of Faith Church
1437 E.G. Miles Pkwy.
Hinesville Ga. 31313
912-876-9857

**Last Days Full Gospel
Apostolic Ministry**
306 Fennell St.
Hinesville Ga. 31313
912-876-3543

Pillar in Zion Apostolic Church
90 Sanders Rd.
Allenhurst, Ga.
912-368-5146

Power Of Faith Ministry Inc
115 W. M L King Jr. Dr.
Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314
912-368-3088

**Progressive Church of Our
Lord Jesus Christ**
901 Pipkin Rd.
Hinesville Ga. 31313
912-368-5153

Assemblies of God

Victory Assembly of God
612 E. Gen. Stewart Way
Hinesville Ga. 31313
912-876-8231

Baptist

Beach Hill Baptist
P.O. Box 793 Hwy 84
Midway, Ga. 31320
912-884-2858

Friendship Baptist
12199 E. Oglethorpe Hwy
Midway, Ga. 31320
912-884-3231

First Calvary Baptist Church
124 Rebecca St.
Hinesville Ga. 31313
912-876-3911

First Anderson Baptist Church
Riceboro, Ga.
912-884-2838

Liberty Baptist Church
1110 Hodges Rd
Hinesville Ga. 31313
912-368-6142

New Sunbury Baptist Association
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912-816-4275

St. Luke's Baptist Church
Hinesville Ga. 31313
912-876-9888

Midway First Baptist
10471 E. Oglethorpe Hwy
Midway, Ga. 31320
912-884-5446

Fleming Baptist Church
3526 Coastal Hwy 17
Fleming, Ga.
912-884-5759

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Vigil: 7:00 pm
Holy Day: 12:05 pm, 7:00 pm
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Saturday: 4:00-4:30 pm

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sscc399@clds.net • 912-876-4364

Wilderness Baptist Church
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Full Gospel Tabernacle
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Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-368-3044

Korean First Baptist
1094 Hwy 196 West
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-369-7500

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist
1370 Shaw Rd.
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-876-6464

South Main Baptist
1166 S. Main St.
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-368-4008

Good Shepherd Baptist Church
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Allenhurst, Ga.
912-368-7305

Trinity Missionary Baptist Temple
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912-876-7600

Baconton Missionary Baptist
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912-368-9154

Gum Branch Baptist Church
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Military Christian Servicemen
2031 Talmadge Rd.
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912-876-2881

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist
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912-368-2696

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Temple
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912-877-3122

First African Baptist Church
1709 Barrington Ferry Rd.
Riceboro, Ga.
912-884-2838

New Zion Missionary Baptist
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Riceboro, Ga.
912-884-2454

First Zion Baptist Church
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912-884-2947

New Anderson Grove Baptist
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Riceboro, Ga.
912-884-3587

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912-876-4364

Church of Christ

Church of Christ
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912-876-9211

Church of God

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912-876-8769

Holy Church of God
128 Clay St.
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-876-2718

Living Word Church of God
Midway, Ga.
912-884-9673

Riceboro Church of God
P.O. Box 190 Highway 17
Riceboro, Ga.
912-884-5749

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Abundant Life Worship Center
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-876-7552

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
220 Sandy Run Dr.
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-368-3910

St. Philip's Episcopal Church
302 Gen. Stewart Way
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-876-2744

Church of Christ in Unity Mission
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Midway, Ga. 31320
912-884-9799

Junior Church of Christ
Retreat Road
Riceboro, Ga.
912-884-3985

Miracle Deliverance Temple
P.O. Box 303
Riceboro, Ga.
912-884-2978

Solomon Temple Church of Christ
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912-884-5478

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Trinity Outreach Ministries
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Midway, Ga. 31320
912-884-6058

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Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witness
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912-876-8896

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Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-369-6683

Nazarene

New Hope Church of the Nazarene
150 Sandy Run Dr.
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-368-5457

Non-denominational

Christ the Rock Ministries
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Church of Deliverance
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912-368-4448

Life United Pentecostal
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Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-368-4660

Presbyterian

Flemington Presbyterian Church
750 Old Sunbury Rd.
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-876-2706

Allenhurst Presbyterian
30 Church St.
Allenhurst, Ga.
912-369-8999

First Presbyterian Church of Hinesville
320 Memorial Dr.
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-876-3670

Midway First Presbyterian
672 N. Coastal Hwy
Midway, Ga.
912-884-5967

Korean Presbyterian
1010 Beatie Blvd
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-877-5588

United Church of Christ

Midway Congregational
8815 Oglethorpe Hwy
Midway, Ga.
912-884-2037

United Methodist

Hinesville First United Methodist
203 N. Main St.
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-368-2200

Midway United Methodist
215 Martin Rd.
Midway, Ga.
912-884-2329

Mt. Olivet United Methodist
667 Mt. Olivet Church Rd.
Fleming, Ga.
912-884-3536

Christian

Destiny Christian Center
321 Memorial Dr.
Hinesville, Ga. 31313
912-368-8038

Faith Bible Chapel
1603 Seabrook Island Dr.
Midway, Ga.
912-884-3697

Fellowship of Love Outreach
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House of Prayer Christian Church
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912-767-8801

Hunter AAF Chapel
Bldg 145
368 Haley Ave.
912-315-5440/5515

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Fun in the Sun[☀]

BY ANGELA HENDRIX
PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY READERS

Many residents choose Liberty County for its wonderful warm weather and typically sunny skies. The climate is semitropical, which means lovely springs and falls with generally balmy winter weather. Know what to expect as the seasons change:

WINTER

average high: 61.5 degrees
average low: 41 degrees

Liberty County typically has mild winters, although it does get cold and overnight temperatures on occasion drop to the low 20s or teens. The lows normally occur in January and February each year.

Snow is rare, but not unheard of, especially during the past several years, which have been peppered with light snowfalls. Before 2010, the last measurable snowfall was in December 1989.

Most winter days are sunny and mild, allowing residents to enjoy the outdoors.

SUMMER

average high: 92 degrees
average low: 72 degrees

During summer, temperatures reach the upper 90s and the humidity, which means the amount of water vapor in the air, can make it feel as if it is 120 degrees. Heat-related illnesses are a danger, especially for residents who are sick, elderly, not accustomed to the weather or who are exposed for a long time.

One of the most common and dangerous diagnoses is heat stroke. Heat stroke happens when the body is exposed to excessive amounts of heat and is unable to dissipate the heat through sweating. When this happens, body temperatures rise rapidly and cool down is nearly impossible. If emergency treatment is not provided, a heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability in humans as well as animals. According to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, the best tips for avoiding heat stroke are to drink plenty of nonalcoholic fluids throughout the day, stay indoors during peak heat hours, wear light-colored and loose-fitting clothing and never leave anyone alone in a closed, parked vehicle.

If you must be out in the heat, try to limit your time, cut back on exercise, rest in shady areas and make sure you wear a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen.

SPRING AND FALL

Average high: 71 degrees
Average low: 47 degrees

Spring and fall usher in the kind of weather Liberty Countians cherish most. With average temperatures ranging from the low 60s to high 70s, it's an ideal time to get out and enjoy all the area has to offer, including fishing, swimming, observing native wildlife or enjoying the blooming plants of the season. This is also a time when many of the county's festivals and outdoor events are held.

Often during this time of year, sand gnats or "no-see-ums" strike at sunrise or sunset. The small, annoying gnat is part of the "biting midge" family and one bite makes it clear why residents spend countless dollars and time trying to avoid the pests. Most people use bug spray, fans or rub down their skin with fabric-softener sheets, but your best bet is to wear lightweight, long-sleeved shirts and long pants. Button your shirt collar or wear a bandanna to protect your neck. You also might want to wear a hat or cap to keep the gnats out of your hair.

Rains and Drought and more

Liberty County's semitropical environment means the area experiences somewhat of an above-average rainfall throughout the year, especially in the summer months of July and August. The past several years, however, have brought moderate drought conditions mostly due to the warm overnight temperatures. While earthquakes are a very low probability in Liberty County, in 2005, a 5.6-magnitude earthquake did occur 47 miles away from Hinesville.



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STORMS A-BREWIN’

WRITTEN BY ANGELA HENDRIX

Liberty County’s weather, much to residents’ delight, typically is warm, sunny and clear. However, hurricane season and other climate-related issues do pose occasional threats and should not be taken lightly. It’s a good idea to be prepared for whatever rolls in.

Most Coastal Georgia residents are all too familiar with hurricanes and the destruction they cause when they strike. Amazingly though, history has shown that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparedness frequently factor into storm disasters.

Each year, the Colorado State University Tropical Meteorology Project releases a hurricane forecast that predicts hurricane activity for the year and land-strike probability for the season, which runs June 1 through Nov. 30. And while coastal Georgia is the most susceptible part of the state to high winds and storm surges from the smallest of hurricanes or tropical storms, the entire state can be affected by damaging inland winds, tornados, heavy rains and floods that storms can cause.

When it comes to protecting coastal residents’ families, homes and belongings, preparedness is key. That means assembling a

hurricane kit ahead of time, making a family emergency plan and maintaining a state of awareness.

Mike Hodges, Liberty County’s Emergency Management Agency director, said he cannot overemphasize the importance of being prepared. “Each year, we make it a top priority to educate people in Liberty County about hurricanes and what residents of Liberty County should do to be prepared. The more we educate, the better they will react when a hurricane or storm strikes,” he said.

“EACH YEAR, WE MAKE IT A TOP PRIORITY TO EDUCATE PEOPLE IN LIBERTY COUNTY ABOUT HURRICANES AND WHAT RESIDENTS OF LIBERTY COUNTY SHOULD DO TO BE PREPARED. THE MORE WE EDUCATE, THE BETTER THEY WILL REACT WHEN A HURRICANE OR STORM STRIKES.” - MIKE HODGES, LIBERTY EMA DIRECTOR

The first step is to have a ready kit, which includes mostly inexpensive and simple items that can be found at a grocery store. The kit should include enough provisions to last each member of you family or group for three days. Necessities include bottled water, food that does not require cooking or refrigeration, a non-electric can opener, changes of clothes, sleeping bags, a flashlight, a portable radio and extra batteries,

personal-hygiene items and prescription drugs. Special items for infants, elderly or disabled members of your group also should be included, along with a list of emergency phone numbers.

Next, develop a communications and evacuation plan. It's possible that all members of a family will not be together when an evacuation call comes so make sure to have contact information handy.

And if there is an evacuation order given, the EMA directory strongly recommends following the experts' advice. "Liberty County Emergency Management Agency is in close contact with the National Hurricane Center in Miami and we work together to make sure the community is informed about conditions in our area so when an issue is ordered, we are pretty certain we'll have activity in that area," he said.

Area resident Aimee Yarber wishes she had paid more attention when Hurricane Floyd threatened the Georgia coast in 1999. Yarber didn't think much of the approaching storm and didn't learn of the impending evacuation until the morning the order was issued. "I didn't have a plan, a kit or an idea of where I would be going which led to more stress in trying to evacuate," she said.

As part of smart planning, Coastal Georgia residents should be sure that their homes can structurally withstand hurricane-force winds and that yards and areas around the homes are free of debris and other items. Homeowners should ask their insurance agents about homeowner's or renter's insurance and flood insurance since most homeowner's policies do not cover flood damage.

Yarber at first was not sure where she would evacuate to, but after a discussion with her husband, they decided to head to Columbia, S.C. While Yarber was able to leave earlier than most people, she still found herself stuck in traffic that made the trip several hours longer than normal. "Now we have a plan, and the next time an evacuation order is issued, we will know what to do and will be able to execute the plan immediately," she said.

When evacuating, most people go to relatives or friends' homes, hotels or emergency shelters. Those who choose shelters should find out ahead of time where the nearest one is.

Evacuees with pets should find out whether their destination accepts pets.

Also, make sure to have pets' vaccinations up-to-date.

Veterinarian Dr. Karen O'Connor at Coastal Georgia Veterinary Care said evacuating can be as stressful for animals as it is for their owners. "Remember to bring pets' vaccination records, leashes, carriers, food, ID tags and even a favorite toy to help them keep calm," she said.

And the final step is to be aware of your surroundings. "Turn on the radio or the TV or purchase a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio," Hodges said. "Staying aware, because conditions can change rapidly, is so key to your experience when you evacuate."

.....
For more information on hurricanes and other severe weather, go to the Get Ready Georgia website at www.ready.ga.gov or call the Georgia Emergency Management Agency toll-free at 1-800-TRY-GEMA. Another source of information is the National Hurricane Center website at www.nhc.noaa.gov. Click on "hurricane awareness."



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Helping You Succeed

From left to right: Traci Holton, Angela Parrish, Leah Poole, Kirsten Pratt, and Beth Stevens



The Liberty County Chamber of Commerce's ambassador program recognizes the entity's most active and committed members. Each month, the chamber tallies up the score sheets turned in by its 21 ambassadors. The ambassador who accumulates the most points during the month by participating in activities, volunteering and assuming an active role in business-related matters is named ambassador of the month. The chamber also names an ambassador of the year at its annual meeting in January.

The ambassadors serve year-round as customer-service representatives. They act as a conduit between the chamber and its existing and new members. Ambassadors work on membership retention, encourage members to become more involved, help members learn more about the chamber and facilitate communication between members and the chamber's board of directors.



Ambassadors also serve as greeters and participate in ribbon cuttings, grand

openings and special events such as Business After Hours, new member receptions, the Illuminated Christmas Parade, Christmas in the Park, the annual Lowcountry boil and golf tournaments.

GET DOWN TO BUSINESS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALIYAH DASTOUR

The Liberty County Chamber of Commerce is a good resource for entrepreneurs, professionals, business owners

The Liberty County Chamber of Commerce supports new and existing business, trade and industry within the county while increasing the cultural, civic, educational and overall quality of life of its citizens.

Chamber members strive to exemplify diversity, professionalism and ethics through their willingness to collaborate with various cultural, civic and governmental entities to achieve quality results. The chamber is known for its advocacy for business, excellent staff and financial stability as a result of the programs it provides.

In the past year, the chamber has coordinated 10 Business After Hours networking events, co-hosted 26 ribbon-cutting ceremonies and open houses, participated in three groundbreaking ceremonies, celebrated one business anniversary and hosted five Progress Through People luncheons.

In addition, the chamber puts on several annual events that have become a hit with local residents and visitors alike. The events include the Illuminated Christmas Parade, Christmas in the Park, the annual dinner and banquet, STAR luncheon, Liberty Ball, LibertyFest, Lowcountry boil and oyster roast and the annual Chamber Golf Classic.

The chamber's Leadership Liberty program is an eight-month adult leadership course for those living or working in Liberty County. Leadership Liberty's goal is to shape and mold future county leaders by informing them and educating them about the various resources available throughout the area. The program is designed to inspire positive change in Liberty County by educating participants on the value of public service. Those who enroll in the course focus on economic and community development and are taught to appreciate the county's rich, cultural heritage.

BECOMING A MEMBER...

When it comes to setting up shop in Liberty County, the chamber of commerce is prepared to assist potential business owners and operators by providing guidance, tips and resources. If you're ready to establish a business in Liberty County and become a chamber member, here are some suggestions to get you started:

- Do homework and research
- Participate in business counseling with the chamber
- Create a business plan
- Obtain the proper permits and licenses from the city, county and state if applicable
- Review the chamber's "How to Business in Liberty County" workbook and take self-assessments included in workbook
- Meet with chamber membership director Kirsten Pratt to discuss chamber benefits and how the chamber can help businesses
- Complete an application and invest in chamber membership
- Schedule a ribbon-cutting ceremony and grand opening for a new business
- Use membership to promote a business or organization and develop relationships
- Visit www.libertycounty.org for more information.



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Midway offers a variety of single and two story homes that are strategically located throughout the City. The educational needs of children are met through several privately owned daycare centers, **Liberty Elementary** and **Midway Middle Schools**. The two schools are within walking distance of four planned communities located in a quiet, safe environment that assures uninterrupted learning. Students may complete after school projects by using the facilities of the **Midway/Riceboro Library Branch**.

For spiritual edification, seven worship centers (five denominations) are opened to all who will come.

The **Midway Industrial Park**, along with Trade Port East which is located just outside the city limits, provides excellent opportunities for those who are seeking employment.

Shopping in Midway is fun! A grocery store, retail shops, quick marts, and auto businesses offer an array of items to meet your every need.

Financial services are available and are provided by two financial institutions. Financial services can also be secured through four tax businesses or that are located throughout the city.

This unusual historic city has a dentist, an Internal Medicine Specialist, a health care center and a pharmacy to serve your medical needs.

Unlike many small towns, Midway has a wide variety of dine-in or take-out establishments that offers a variety of selections that include seafood, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, sandwiches and home cooked breakfast and lunch.

The safety of our citizens is of utmost concern to the **Midway City Council**. The **Midway Police Department** is staffed with a chief and four highly trained officers who are consistently visible and provides twenty-four hour protection throughout the City. The City's **Municipal Court** is under the auspices of the police department.

The **Midway Volunteer Fire Department** responds to more than twenty calls per month. All of the firemen are certified and several are trained as first responders.

During leisure time, the entire family can tour the grounds of the **Historical Old Midway Congregational Church**; or take a quantum leap back in time and ease through the **Midway Colonial Museum and Cemetery**; or picnic at **Cay Creek Wetlands and Interpretive Center** and take a nature stroll down the board walk to view the marshlands, beavers, turtles, and species of birds and snakes.

Use our city to connect to all of Liberty County and all it has to offer. Think of us when considering a new home location or starting a new business.

*Dr. Clemontine Washington,
Mayor of Midway*



Q's to the Rescue

BY CHRISTIE SCHROEDER

Through hard work, fundraising and camaraderie, these sisters in pink are making their mark on the war against breast cancer. Since the group formed in 2009, they've participated in and coordinated numerous events and formed special bonds, all while providing support for friends and community members battling breast cancer.

The Suzie Q's, a local breast-health awareness group, are known for using things like decorated bras and pink pancakes to get its message across. Though not a formalized club, the Liberty County group was established in 2009 when a group of six women decided to participate in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in honor of a friend of theirs who had breast cancer.

"We thought it was a good idea that we provided her some support while she was going through her treatment and see what we could do to help other women in the community," club co-founder Deidre Howell said. "We picked that name (the Suzie Q's) because our friend who had just been diagnosed with breast cancers is named Suzanne. She's now a two-year survivor."

In the meantime, Howell said she began writing grants to the Komen foundation so the group could receive funds to provide clinical breast care and mammograms.

"It just evolved to where we meet about once a month — not on any particular date — and we always have some kind of breast-health education in our meetings, but mostly it's just fun," said Howell, who also is the administrator of the Liberty County Health Department. "Sometimes we play Bunco, we have raffles and just support each other."

She said the meetings last about an hour to an hour and a half and usually are scheduled during after-work hours.

Howell emphasized the importance having some sort of education during each meeting. They've had representatives visit from the American Cancer Society and local hospitals to speak about breast health and new digital machinery.

The group also sets aside time every few months to educate

members on the importance of routine breast self-exams.

"We always have new people so we always want to make sure they know how to do it right," Howell said.

In addition to participating in the annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, the group has gained notoriety from fundraisers such as the Art Your Bra contest, a pink-pancake dinner and a used-book sale.

The Art Your Bra contest is held in the fall in conjunction with October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

"People take an unused bra and decorate it into some sort of piece of art," Howell said. "And you can do it in a cute little theme if you want."

Participants pay small entry fees to enter their art into the contest, and then it's judged and winners get prizes. Howell said the group made about \$500 from the fundraiser last year.

Before the contest in 2010, however, some of the sample bras were stolen from the Mills House, where the group meets.

"WTOC (a local TV station) picked up on the story and we got news coverage on that," Howell said. "Once that happened, we became the Suzie Q's from Liberty County. That was kind of the kickoff for us to become well known."

She said the group's used-book sale last year provided its biggest turnout.

"The book sale was a huge success," Howell said. "We made over \$1,000 selling used books. We did it in June of last year, so that's definitely on the plan for this year."

The club also received a lot of positive feedback from its pink-pancake fundraiser.

The pancake supper was held in conjunction with the Pink

Heals Tour, which is a foundation dedicated to supporting young women who are recovering from cancer treatment. The main attraction was the visit from the Pink Fire Truck Tour, a group of firefighters, police officers and leaders in the community who call themselves the “Guardians of the Ribbon.” The group travels all over the country to show support for the women in their lives who have cancer. Each pink fire truck is named after someone who died, Howell said.

“Our truck is named Carolyn after Liberty County Commissioner Marion Stevens’ wife, who died from cancer,” she said. “At the front of the truck you can see her name and there’s a picture and her story. It’s really moving. (The Carolyn truck) is here (in Liberty County) all the time unless she’s gone somewhere for the tour.”

Howell said the money the Suzie Q’s raise goes to the Coastal Georgia affiliate of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The group then writes a grant to get funded, so the money comes right back to them, she said.

“Last year, we screened 75 women with free mammograms and we provided diagnostic services to 60 women for problematic issues,” Howell said. “Our outreach this year is going to be to the Hispanic women in Long County who live in the Sand Hill area who don’t have insurance. We’re going to do some mobile mammography events up there.”

The Suzie Q’s have helped members in many ways, including taking a woman to her treatment and paying for a woman’s house to be cleaned while she was going through treatment.

In April, the group organized a spaghetti lunch fundraiser to benefit the family of Roxanne Mosley, a Hinesville resident and single mother of three who lost her battle with breast cancer. Proceeds from the lunch were used to pay for Mosley’s funeral.

“And that’s when the closet Suzie Q’s come out — when we have something big like when Roxanne died. The goal was \$2,400,” Howell said. “I had people calling me who hadn’t come to any meetings but they really wanted to help ... They sold meals to people in their office. So that makes them a Suzie Q (because) they were helping.”

Howell also said the group is known for its upbeat approach to raising awareness and providing support.

“I think the key thing about the Suzie Q’s is we sort of make light of breast cancer. We try not to take it too seriously, even though it’s very serious and very deadly,” she said. “We always try to keep things really fun and bordering on risqué sometimes just to keep people engaged — mainly for the ladies going through breast cancer.”

“Just because they’re clear right now doesn’t mean they’ll stay clear forever,” Howell continued. “That’s what a lot of people don’t realize is that there’s not a cure for breast cancer. We just want to be that fun support network that lets people know we’re there for them.”

Howell said anyone interested in the Suzie Q’s can call 912-432-8577 or just show up at the meetings, which are announced in an email distribution list and through the Coastal Courier.

“We’ll make them feel completely at home and they’ll be more than welcome,” she said. “They’ll feel like they’re a part of something.”



“Last year,
we screened”

75

women
with free
mammograms
and we
provided
diagnostic
services to

60

women for
problematic
issues,”
- Deidre Howell,
Suzie Q’s co-founder

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is made of
walls and beams;*

*a HOME
is built with
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DREAMS.*



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CLUB DIRECTORY

CIVIC

Al Sarrar Shrine (PHA)
912-572-4823

Hinesville Lions Club
912-877-2083

Hinesville Rotary
912-432-8577

Hinesville/Fort Stewart Shrine Club
912-369-0998

Liberty Coastal Lions
912-876-8324
gbruce2006@yahoo.com
www.libertycoastallions.org/index.html

Liberty County Kiwanis
912-876-3549
libertykiwanis@gmail.com

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Liberty County Department of Family
and Children Services
912-370-2555

Liberty County Library
Hinesville: 912-368-4003
Midway: 912-884-5742

Liberty County Manna House
912-368-3660

Long County Department of Family
and Children Services
912-545-2177

Long County Library
912-545-2521

Tri-County Protective Agency
912-368-9200
1-800-334-2836
Crisis hotline: 912-368-9200

Liberty County
Chamber of Commerce
912-368-4445

FUNDRAISERS

American Cancer Society/Relay for
Life of Liberty County
912-355-5196

March of Dimes
912-354-5900

United Way of The Coastal Empire,
Liberty
912-368-4282

HEALTH CARE

Alcoholics Anonymous Liberty County
912-876-8380 or 912-356-3688

Alcohol and Drug Treatment,
Fraser Counseling Center
912-369-7777

Counseling, Individual,
Marital and Family
Fraser Counseling Center
912-369-7777

American Heart Association
678-224-2000

Coastal Medical Assistance Clinic
Liberty County Health Department
912-876-2173 ext. 236

Gateway Mental Health/Liberty
368-3502

Hospice Savannah
912-355-2289

HOBBIES

Fort Morris Historic Site
912-884-5999

Liberty County Historical Society
912-876-3564

Morning Glory Garden Club
912-369-3307

Second Georgia Artillery
Re-enactors Group
912-877-4447
fourthga@yahoo.com
www.4thga.homestead.com

Arts on the Coast Arts Association
912-884-3726

Hinesville Area Arts Council
912-408-6150
secretary@hinesvillearts.com

HORTICULTURE

Liberty County Extension Office
912-876-2133

Long County Extension Office
912-545-9549

MASONIC

Button Gwinnett Chapter
912-368-8076

Hinesville Masonic Lodge #271
912-876-9161

Hour Glass Masonic Lodge 113
912-660-0244

Knights Templar No. 28 (PHA)
912-660-0244

XL Neal Chapter Holy Royal Arch
Masons (PHA)
912-572-4823

Baxley Consistory Chapter 209
912-572-4823

Laurel Growth Chapter 118 Order of
Eastern Stars
912-977-4838

MILITARY

American Legion Post
168 and Auxiliary
912-876-0168

Army Community Services
912-767-5058

Association of the U.S. Army
912-876-4331

Disabled American
Veterans and Auxiliary
912-977-6665

Fred L. Ginter American
Legion Post #168
912-876-0168

Club Stewart
912-368-2212

Liberty County Veterans
912-876-4331

Military Order of the Cootie
912-271-6768

Veterans Council of Liberty
912-884-2870

Veterans of Foreign Wars
912-876-6602

Vietnam Veterans of America
800-VVA-1316

POLITICAL

Concerned Taxpayers of Liberty
County
912-368-6676

Liberty County Democratic Party
912-884-2304
www.campaignwindow.com/liberty-dems/index.cfm

Liberty County Republican Party
912-977-1955

Long County Republican Party
912-545-9706

PROFESSIONAL

Hinesville Area Board of Realtors
912-368-HABR (4227)

Liberty County
Chamber of Commerce
912-368-4445

Liberty County
Development Authority
912-368-3356

Liberty/Long Retired
Educators Association
912-368-6319

Long County Chamber of Commerce
912-545-2101

Long County Development Authority
912-545-2678

RELIGIOUS

Knights of Columbus
912-369-2023 or 912-271-1126

SCHOOLS

Bradwell Institute Band Spirit Club
912-368-5888 or 912-876-6121

Bradwell Institute Junior ROTC
912-876-7682 or 912-876-6121

Georgia Learning Resources System
912-877-2088

Harvey Overton Bradwell Booster
Club for Bradwell athletics
912-368-6123

SERVICE

American Red Cross of Savannah
Headquarters
912-651-5300

Dorchester Improvement Association
912-884-2347

Geechee Kunda
912-884-4440

Keep Liberty County Beautiful
912-880-4888

Liberty Humane Shelter, Inc.
912-876-DOGS (3647)

Safe Hollow Animal Sanctuary
912-545-9743

NAACP, Liberty County Chapter
912-877-3210

SORORITIES

Nu Rho Omega Chapter of
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
www.nurhoomega.org

Hinesville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta
Sorority
912-884-2024

YOUTH

Boy Scouts of America
912-927-7272

Family Consumer Science
Liberty County Extension Service
912-876-2133

Girl Scouts of the United States
478-935-2221

Liberty County 4H
912-876-2133

Long County 4H
912-545-9549

Liberty County Rec Department
876-5359 or 448-ICRD (5273)

Liberty County YMCA
912-368-9622

Long County Rec Department
912-545-9112

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Army Emergency Relief	767-5058	315-6816	Tominac Fitness Center		315-2019
Army Lodging	368-4184	315-5910	Newman Fitness Center	767-3031	
Auto Crafts Center	767-3521	315-6244	Leisure Activities Center	767-2841	
Bingo	368-3930	351-0044	Library	767-2828	
Bowling Centers:			Marketing	767-5117	
Hunter Lanes		315-6279	Outdoor Recreation:		
Stewart Lanes	767-4273		Equipment Checkout Center	435-8209/8205	315-9554
Marne Lanes	767-4866		Holbrook Recreation Area	435-8209/8205	
Child & Youth Services:			Lotts Island		315-9554
Registration	767-2312	315-5425	Pass & Permit	435-8601	315-5163
Child Development Center	767-3202	315-6115	Rifle / Pistol Range	435-8209/8205	
Family Child Care	767-2311	315-6064	Skeet / Trap Range	435-8209/8205	315-9250
Youth Center	767-4491/4493	315-5708	Pet Boarding	435-8052	
Jordan Youth Gym	767-5079		Pools:		
School Age Services	767-2635		Bryan Village	767-2701	
Clubs:			Corkan Pool	767-8575	
Club Stewart	368-2212		Hunter Pool		315-5786
Thunder Run	368-2212		Newman Pool (Indoor)	767-3034	
Hunter Club		459-7923	Rocky's Zone	767-8715	
Corkan Family Recreation Area	767-4273		Solicitation Office	767-5139	
Golf Course	767-2370	315-9115	Sports Office	767-8326/8238	315-4160

www.stewartmwr.com



STAY SPORTY

WRITTEN BY PATTY LEON

Liberty County Recreation Department, YMCA and the St. James Sports Center keep local fitness followers busy

Between the Liberty County Recreation Department, the YMCA and the St. James Sports Center, athletes of all ages, sizes and skill levels will find plenty of organized, team and individual sports and activities to stay fit and healthy. Don't just sit there, get moving!

LCRD has programs for all ages

The Liberty County Recreation Department offers sports and activities for children and adults of all ages throughout the year. It also conducts summer programs and boasts many recreational parks and facilities.

The LCRD office is at 607 Oglethorpe Highway, next to the National Guard Armory, in Hinesville. It is open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Jimmy Martin is the director; for more information or to contact him, call 912-448-LCRD (5273) or 912-876-5559, e-mail lcrd@coastalnow.net or go to www.lcrd2.homestead.com.

SPORTS PROGRAMS: The LCRD offers age-level competition in football, soccer, basketball, track, volleyball softball, baseball and T-ball. There is cheerleading for girls during football season.

SUMMER PROGRAMS: The LCRD offers a variety of programs during the summer, including day camp, sports camps, taekwon do and swimming lessons.

RECREATIONAL PARKS AND FACILITIES: Liberty Independent Troop complex includes the Stafford Pavilion, basketball courts, swimming pool (summer only), playground, a quarter-mile track, Long-Bell football/track and field stadium, a skate park and four baseball fields. It is on Highway 84 behind the LCRD administrative office. Stafford Pavilion is available for private parties at \$50 for a half day or \$100 all day.

JAMES A. BROWN PARK on Patriots Trail in Hinesville has four softball fields, three soccer fields, playground, a bike/

walk trail, a Frisbee golf course and batting cages. The Charles M. Shuman Recreation Center is in James A. Brown Park and offers a variety of activity rooms, two full courts for basketball, and other programs. There also is a weight room next to the center, which is free and open to the public.

GUM BRANCH PARK on Highway 196, 5 miles west of Hinesville; includes a playground, picnic pavilion with kitchen, restrooms, basketball/tennis court and softball field. The park recently added a quarter-mile walking trail and a workout station. Half-day rentals cost \$25 and full-day rentals cost \$50.

JOSEPH MILLER PARK on Highway 84 near Midway includes a playground, picnic pavilion with sheltered seating for 25, restrooms, basketball court, a quarter-mile walking trail and softball field. No rental fee is required.

EVE PARK AT HALF MOON, beside the Colonel's Island Marina on the east end of the county, offers screened picnic tables with seating for 40, restrooms, a kitchen and a large charcoal grill. There is an adjacent playground. Half-day rentals cost \$25 and full-day rentals cost \$50.

BRIAR BAY PARK on Barrington Ferry Road near Riceboro features a playground, picnic pavilion with kitchen, restrooms, basketball court, volleyball court, a workout station, lighted ball field and a half-mile walking track. Half-day rentals cost \$25 and full-day rentals cost \$50.

JONES CREEK PARK on Isle of Wight Road in Midway has a public landing for small boats, fishing area, restrooms, picnic pavilion with sheltered seating for 20 and a playground. No rental fee is required.

SUNBURY DOCK is a public boat landing with direct access to the Inter-Coastal Waterway. It is at end of Sunbury Road off Highway 38. No rental fee is required.

The Riceboro Fishing Area is on Highway 17 near Riceboro. The old abandoned bridge makes an excellent fishing pier on Peacock Canal. No rental fee is required.

Riceboro Dock is a public boat ramp with a large fishing pier off Highway 17 South on Interstate Paper Road in Riceboro. No rental fee is required.

HILLERY PARK is on Carter Road in Walthourville and has picnic table seating for 50, restrooms, kitchen, large charcoal grill, a playground walking trail and softball field. Half-day rentals cost \$25 and full-day rentals cost \$50.

JESSE STEVENS PARK is on Highway 84 East at Dorchester Academy. It has an adjacent playground and ball field, picnic table seating for 50, restrooms, kitchen and large charcoal grill. Half-day rentals cost \$25 and full-day rentals cost \$50.

HOLMESTOWN PARK is on Westfield Road in Holmestown. It has an adjacent playground and basketball court, picnic table seating for 50, restrooms, kitchen and large charcoal grill. Half-day rentals cost \$25 and full-day rentals cost \$50.

IRENE B. THOMAS PARK is on Highway 196 in Hinesville. There is a pond for fishing, picnic table seating for 50, restrooms, kitchen and charcoal grill. Half-day rentals cost \$25 and full-day rentals cost \$50.

All playgrounds are open to the public year-round. The LCRD recreation fields are open to the public when not in use for organized LCRD programs.

*YMCA develops character,
athleticism*

The mission of the Liberty County/ Armed Services YMCA is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirits, minds and bodies for all. It is one of the finest community program centers in the Coastal Empire, serving individuals and families in Liberty County and Fort Stewart.

The Liberty Y, at 201 Mary Lou Drive in Hinesville, is a branch of the YMCA of Coastal Georgia, based in Savannah. This association has served the Coastal Empire for more than 150 years.

Through that century and a half of growth, the YMCA has celebrated diversity, welcoming people of all faiths, races, ages, abilities and income levels. Thanks to local donors and the United Way, the YMCA provides scholarships to individuals and families who cannot afford the full cost of programs and membership.

The 44,000-square-foot, full-service facility houses a state-of-the-art, indoor aquatics center with a 25-yard heated pool — which is ideal for all aquatic programs — full-court gym, racquetball courts and a gymnastics center. Before- and after-school child care is offered as part of the Y's PrYme TYme program.

Richard Somerville is the interim director of the Liberty County YMCA. Call him at 912-368-9622 or go to www.ymcaofcoastalga.org. The Liberty Y is open from 5 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; and from 1-6 p.m. Sunday.

St. James Sports Center

The St. James Sports Center offers children on the east end of the county a variety of sports and academic programs ranging from Coastal Crew AAU and YBOA basketball to day camps and after-school programs. The center is at 1140 Holmestown Road between Midway and Hinesville. St. James also provides adults with recreational opportunities.

The center has a weight room, game rooms, concessions, a full kitchen and a basketball court. The center recently added a new baseball field and soccer field and expects to expand the gym with a second basketball court and sporting area for wrestling, taekwondo and music venues. For information, call 912-884-5016 or 912-980-4559 or go to www.coastalcrewrebels.com.

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Living the Coastal Life

Written by Patty Leon

While you're here, enjoy our gorgeous Georgia coast. From kayaking to fishing, jet skiing to swimming, we've got it all right here in our backyard. Go a little coastal.

WATER SPORTS

Whether you're looking to cut the waves on a jet ski or take a leisure boat ride, Liberty County and coastal Georgia provides ample opportunities to enjoy pristine miles of ocean front, rivers and marsh access.

Recreational boats, fishing charters and canoes and kayaks are available for rent along the coast of Southeast Georgia with many locations providing guided tours to the barrier islands that surround the areas' coastline. For residents and visitors with their own water vessels, several public access ramps are located throughout the county for easy water access.

For fun family getaways there are two water parks nearby – open from May to September – featuring plenty of water slides and lazy rivers to keep children and adults entertained for hours. In Hinesville, the Liberty County Recreation Department also has a swimming pool open during the summer from 2-6 p.m. daily. Admission is \$2 and family and season passes are available. The pool's shallow end is 3.5 feet deep and the

deep end is 10.5 feet deep and is equipped with a diving board. The adjacent kiddy pool has a mushroom waterfall and ranges from half an inch to 1.5 inches deep. The pool facility is available to rent for private parties.

With easy access to the beach and ocean, water enthusiasts can bring their own equipment and snorkel the reefs along the coast or charter a guide and explore Gray's Reef, one of the largest near-shore live-bottom reefs in the Southeastern United States.

BOATING

A popular pastime in Liberty County, hundreds of boaters head to our local rivers, reservoirs and the Atlantic Ocean during the peak season, which runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Most boats are required by the Department of Natural Resources to be registered. Costs vary depending on the size of the boat, and the registration is good for three years. Vessels may be registered online by visiting www.goboatgeorgia.com. The form also may be down-

loaded and mailed in or you can register by phone at 1-800-366-2661.

In Liberty County, public boat ramps are available at the following locations:

Jones Creek Park - On Isle of Wight Road in Midway at Jones Creek; includes public landing for small boats.

Riceboro Dock - Public boat landing with a large fishing pier, located off Highway 17 South on Interstate Paper Road in Riceboro.

Sunbury Dock - Public landing with direct access to the Inter-Coastal Waterway. The large public ramp is at end of Sunbury Road off Highway 38. Statewide boat ramp locations are listed online at www.Ga.dnr.org.

FISHING

From pristine trout streams winding its way through the state parks, to bass fishing on one of the state's reservoirs, to casting a line in pursuit of redfish on Georgia's coast, Georgia has plenty to offer both beginning and experienced anglers.

Anglers ages 16 and older are required to

have a current Georgia fishing license in their possession while fishing in fresh or salt water in Georgia. A variety of license options are available – some include hunting options as well. Licenses are available to residents and non-residents and are available for purchase at most sporting good stores and marinas. They may be purchased online at www.Ga.dnr.org, www.gofishgeorgia.com or www.active.com/outdoors. A Social Security number is required for the purchase of all licenses bought online. A picture ID is required for store purchase. You also can purchase a license by calling 1-800-366-2661.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources' website is a valuable tool for anglers and provides a variety of downloadable guides and brochures with guidelines of species of fish as well as the daily limit catch and season. Statewide maps showing boat ramp locations are also available online.

KAYAKING/CANOEING

Dunham Farms is a privately-owned, nature-based hideaway in east Liberty County. This gorgeous, pristine part of the Georgia coast offers sweeping river views, mysterious wetlands and majestic moss-draped ancient oaks. It offers private and guided tours on kayaks on the pristine marshes surrounding the facility. For more information call 880-4500.

The Altamaha Coastal Tour Company is approximately 40 minutes south of Liberty County and provides biking, fishing, canoe and kayak trips on the Altamaha River. For more information call 912-437-6010 or visit www.altamaha.com.

See the boating section for a list of local ramps to launch your kayak. Statewide boat ramp locations are listed online at www.Ga.dnr.org.

HUNTING

With an abundance of wildlife, Liberty County offers a range of wild game open for hunt throughout the year. As with fishing, hunters in Liberty County and Georgia are required to have a hunting license. A hunters' education course, which can be taken online, must be completed before purchasing a license. A variety of licenses are available for purchase at www.Ga.dnr.org, www.gofishgeorgia.com or www.active.com/outdoors. You can also purchase a license by calling 1-800-366-2661.

In Liberty County, hunters can visit the Dorchester Shooting Preserve in Midway. The preserve offers continental pheasant shooting, quail, duck, and white-tailed deer hunting and sporting clays. The lodge at Dorchester Shooting Preserve has deluxe accommodations and a dining facility. For more information and directions call 912- 884-6999 or visit www.huntdsp.com/index.html.

FORT STEWART

Fort Stewart has been open to public hunting and fishing since 1959 and provides some of the finest recreation in Southeast Georgia. Fort Stewart is the second largest single public hunting and fishing entity in the state.

All hunters on the installation must possess a hunter safety course certificate, a valid Georgia hunting license and the appropriate Fort Stewart hunting permit. Annual and daily permits are available through the pass and permit office.

The permit office is in front of the gun and archery ranges. After purchasing a permit from this office, remember to get an instruction package. This package will guide you through the automated check-in process. Once you've purchased your permit, call one of the numbers below to check in. Anglers are not required to checkout. The hours of operation for pass and permit are as follows:

- Monday-Friday:
11 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Holidays, Saturday and Sunday (and training holidays): 7 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Using the automated system, fishing and hunting check-in lines: 912-767-0202 (primary), 912-767-6121 (alternate).

For information on hunting and fishing at Fort Stewart visit: <http://www.stewart.army.mil/dpw/EN.asp> or <http://www.stewart.army.mil/dpw/fish/default.htm>

GOLF

Liberty County is home to a semi-private, 18-hole golf course, the Cherokee Rose Country Club. Cherokee Rose is a regulation course located right in the heart of Hinesville. From the longest tees it offers 6,101 yards of golf for a par of 71.

With a course rating of 69.4 and a slope rating of 125, Cherokee Rose is a daily fee golf course with a 'Call for Playing Privileges' guest policy. It's located

at 225 Cherokee Trail. For more information call 912-876-5503.

Taylor's Creek Golf Course is an 18-hole public course located at 2150 Gulick Avenue on Fort Stewart. The par 72 course includes a pro shop, clubhouse and driving range and offers daily, monthly or yearly fee charges.

RACING

If you feel the need for speed, residents and visitors of Liberty County can take a quick jaunt to nearby Pooler and visit the Oglethorpe Speedway Park. The speedway is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year and has entertained race fans since it started with the championship motorcycle series. Shortly after its first year in business stock car races took over the historic half mile track, which hosted its first NASCAR race in 1954.

#1 Boating Tip

It is legal to have an open container on a Georgia registered boat. However, the driver must be alcohol-free.



Oglethorpe Speedway has sprouted careers and entertained hundreds of drivers for the past half century in the late models, street stocks, hobby stocks, mini stocks, pure stocks, go-karts, enduro series, powder puff, 440 series and queen bees. The speedway is at 200 Jesup Road in Pooler. For race times and information, call 912- 964-9501.

HORSEBACK RIDING

There are two stables in Liberty County where folks can saddle up for a leisure ride or train for shows.

On the east end of the county, located on more than 100 acres of fields and pastures in the gated community of Bluff Creek on Colonel's Island is Bluff Creek Stables. The stable offers riding lessons from beginners to advanced as well as an academy riding ring program, which introduces riders to the show ring. The facility offers boarding and runs a yearly summer camp program, which includes riding lessons in the morning and swimming and arts and crafts each day.

Bluff Creek Stables is at 189 Bluff Creek Road, Colonel's Island, Midway. For hours of operation call 912-884-9462 or visit www.bluff-creekstables.com.

Just south of Hinesville in the city of Allenhurst is Dixie Stables. Dixie Stables has offered boarding and riding lessons since 1972. The stable is located on 16 acres of pastures with turnout areas, a lighted show ring and can provide riders with gentle lesson horses for beginners. They are a member of the Southeast Georgia Horse Show Association and host several shows at their facility.

Dixie Stables is located at 504 Dunleive Road, Allenhurst, Ga. For more information call 912-368-9377 or visit www.home.coastalnow.net/~dixiestables/index.html.

BIRDING

Each site along the Colonial Coast Birding Trail is unique. Many sites offer visitors an opportunity to watch birds and visit 18th and 19th century historic places. Of the spots along the trail, two are in Liberty County and 12 others stretch from Savannah to Brunswick. A visit to one or more sites along the trail provides visitors with the opportunity to see and enjoy the beauty of a kaleidoscope of birds and glimpse the fascinating history of this land and its residents.

More than 300 species of birds – 75 percent of the total species of birds seen in Georgia – have been spotted at sites along the birding trail.

Melon Bluff Nature and Heritage Reserve is at 2999 Islands Highway in Midway. This 2,200-acre privately-owned nature preserve is located on lands that once were part of an old rice plantation. The area offers opportunities to view birds in salt marsh, woodland and creek swamp habitats.

Various types of birds on the trail include songbirds, wading birds, waterfowl, shorebirds, birds of prey, marsh birds, wild turkey, wood stork, clapper rail, roseate spoonbill and painted bun-

#2 Birding Tip

Join a group of other birders. Birders are very friendly and helpful. They are always willing to share their knowledge.



ting. Look for warblers during spring and fall migrations. Listen for marsh wrens and clapper rails.

Tours are available by appointment only and for groups of six or more people.

For more information, call 912-884-5779 or 912-880-4500.

#3 Kayak Tip

Kayaking up to 30 minutes a day provides one of the best upper body workouts



STATE PARKS

There are countless local and state parks in and surrounding Liberty County, providing miles of pristine scenery, marsh views and wildlife landscapes for hikers and cyclists.

For those looking to incorporate a little walking into their fitness routines, **James A. Brown Park** in Hinesville, **Gum Branch Park** in Gum Branch and **Joseph Miller Park** near Midway all have a one-and-a-quarter-mile walking trails. **Briar Bay Park** near Riceboro and **Hillary Park** in Walthourville both boast half-mile walking trails.

Recently re-opened, the **Cay Creek Wetlands Interpretive Center** allows visitors to enjoy a peaceful stroll on an elevated boardwalk through wetlands while being able to see the transition into a salt water marsh. A new 15-foot tower is ideal for bird watching and photography.

The **LeConte-Woodmanston Plantation** and **Botanical Gardens**, an 18th-19th century rice plantation, is located just west of Riceboro in Liberty County. The plantation, originally 3,300 acres in size, includes an interpretive nature trail that winds through the original rice fields and a cypress swamp. LeConte-Woodmanston has achieved recognition as part of the Coastal Birding, Bartram and Historic Liberty Trails. It is also on the American Heritage Trail portion of the Coastal Georgia Greenway. The LeConte-Woodmanston Plantation currently is open by appointment only. Call 912-884-6500.

Located in McIntosh County, **The Harris Neck Wildlife** refuge serves as an important link in the chain of refuges along the Atlantic seaboard, and is the inland base for two neighboring barrier island refuges – Blackbeard Island and Wolf Island refuges, both located southeast of Harris Neck. More than 15 miles of paved roads and trails provide visitors easy access to the many different habitats. Chosen for its accessibility and bird diversity, Harris Neck is one of 18 sites forming the Colonial Coast Birding Trail, inaugurated in 2000.

Harris Neck NWR is in McIntosh County, Ga., five miles north of Eulonia and 50 air miles south of the port city of Savannah. To reach Harris Neck, take exit 67 off I-95 and travel south on U.S. 17 for approximately one mile, then east on Harris Neck Road for seven miles to the main entrance gate.

Georgia's state parks offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities. For cyclists looking for an extreme challenge and a free T-shirt, opportunities abound by joining the Muddy Spokes club. For information, visit www.Ga.stateparks.org/outdoors

In Savannah there are several companies that provide guided walking and biking trails.

#4 State Parks

The LeConte-Woodmanston Plantation and Botanical Gardens, an 18th -19th century rice plantation, is located just west of Riceboro in Liberty County.



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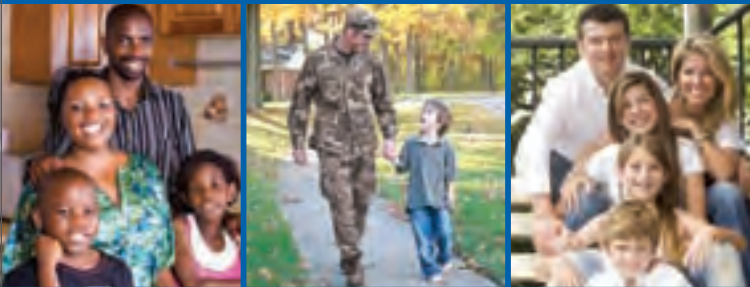
With WIC you can get checks for healthy foods each month, plus help getting other services like Medicaid.

Call the Liberty County Health Department
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Main Clinic
or
912-877-3330
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SEAFOOD

Sunbury Crab Company

Enjoy a real taste of the Georgia Coast at this laid-back restaurant and marina, where the seafood is caught fresh daily, the views of Sunbury Harbor are serene, and dining is a pleasure. This family-owned-and-operated restaurant serves up home-cooked favorites, including fresh steamed blue crabs, wild Georgia shrimp, local oysters and more. Relax by the full-service bar or take in a meal with family and friends.

WHAT'S ON the MENU

Nothing but the freshest local seafood graces the menu at Sunbury Crab Company. Try your favorites steamed, grilled, or fried. Look for the fresh catch of the day or try a delicious hand-cut steak to delight your palate.



Wednesday - Friday 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Saturday 12:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Sunday 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM

541 Brigantine-Dunmore Road, Sunbury, GA 31320
www.sunburycrabco.com
912-884-8640



BARBECUE

Shane's Rib Shack

Traditional barbecue flavors are yours to savor at Shane's Rib Shack. Satisfy your cravings with slow-smoked chicken, ribs, pulled pork, wings, sandwiches, platters with all the fixin's and down-home desserts like their prize-winning peach cobbler. Health food options and a gluten-free menu also are available. Having a party? Shane's can cater for groups of any size. Choose from party platters, boxed lunches or full-catered meals tailored to suit the needs of your special occasion.



EVERYONE'S FAVORITE

Shaniac Sausage Dog: Shane's takes barbecue to a whole new level with their signature sausage dog. A large smoked sausage is served on a large bratwurst bun, topped with pulled pork and coleslaw, then finished off with a sweet and spicy barbecue mustard.

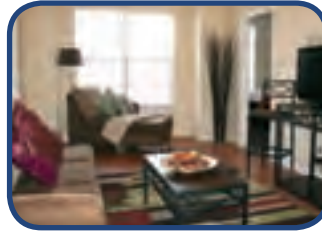
Sunday-Thursday 10:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Friday-Saturday 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

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Call 876-0156

STEAK HOUSE

Hinesville Steak House

- In-House Humidor • Bar
- Lunch Specials

Sit down for a real meal where the steaks and beef are all 100 percent Certified Angus and aged a minimum of 30 days. Enjoy the full-service bar, in-house humidor, and 33 TVs, covering all of the games, during your visit. If it's seafood you're looking for, Hinesville Steak House has you covered, with a live lobster tank and choices like Alaskan king crab, calamari, snow crab and more. A full children's menu is also available. Once you try any of the tender, juicy steaks from this clean, family-friendly establishment, you'll agree that it's the best beef in South Georgia.



Try the prime rib special, available after 4pm every Friday through Sunday, served the way you want it with your choice of two sides and salad — or choose a decadent open-faced sandwich piled high with roast beef made from prime rib — all day, every day. You've never tasted anything like it.

**EVERYONE'S
FAVORITE**



Hinesville Steak House offers an in-house humidor complete with choices such as the Montecristo White- enjoy one while watching the game or savoring a smooth, single malt scotch. For all of our guests enjoyment, Hinesville Steak House does offer a non-smoking section with separate entrance, as well as banquet facilities for Hail and Farewells, receptions and larger events.



135 W. Hendry Street, Hinesville, GA, 31313
Located in Liberty Square Shopping Plaza
behind Goody's
912-877-8325

www.HinesvilleSteakHouse.com

PIZZA

Marco's Pizza

- Food Court • Delivery
- Lunch Specials

This Fort Stewart pizzeria offers a variety of authentic Italian-style pizzas baked with fresh ingredients, like dough made from scratch every day. Enjoy your meal in Marco's "living room" area, a relaxing nook with couches, recliners and a TV, or bring your group meeting, party or function of up to 250 people to their large dining area. Delivery is available on post, lunch specials are featured daily, and beer is available.



EVERYONE'S FAVORITE

Marco's White Cheezy specialty pizza is an award-winner and it's easy to see (and taste!) why: creamy garlic sauce lays the foundation for a delicious blend of four cheeses, bacon, onions and freshly-sliced tomatoes



Marco's Pizza offers their customers the freshest ingredients they can find. From pepperoni to a variety of different toppings to choose from.



WHAT'S ON the MENU



Want something different then pizza? Marco's has subs, fresh salads, desserts and even chicken wings.

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Food court next to the Furniture store
912-349-6960

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SUBS

Baldinos Giant Subs



You'll never leave hungry from Baldino's, where all of the ingredients from produce to meats are sliced fresh to order, the bread is baked in house each day, and the portions are generous. At this sub shop, you will never see a microwave - all hot ingredients are grilled to order and sandwiches are made before your eyes. Finish each sub exactly as you like it with traditional garnishes. One taste and you'll see why Baldino's has been in the sandwich business for over 35 years.

456 West General Screven Way • Hinesville, GA 31313
912-368-8093

PIZZA

Papa Murphy's



The whole family is in for a unique pizza experience when it comes to Papa Murphy's. The freshest ingredients, including natural cheeses, flavorful sauce and traditional toppings, are made into a pizza prepared to your liking while you watch. Bring it home on a convenient bake-and-serve tray, bake it up fresh in your own oven and serve it piping hot. Each pizza comes with baking instructions so that you can have a gourmet pizza experience at home. Zagat has rated Papa Murphy's as the number one pizza chain in America for quality, value and service.

755 West Oglethorpe Hwy • Hinesville, GA 31313
912-368-7272

AMERICAN

Vann's Bar and Grill

This local landmark serves up a variety of fresh, delicious menu items in a comfortable and friendly atmosphere. There's something for everyone at Vann's, where the steaks are hand-cut daily and specials abound. Come on in from 4-6 p.m. for the Early Bird Special or bring the kids from 4-7 p.m., when they'll eat free (with purchase of one full-priced entrée). Active duty military enjoy a 15 percent discount every day. On weekends, join Vann's for the best live entertainment in town. Check out the full menu and event schedule online at www.vannsbarandgrill.com.



EVERYONE'S FAVORITE

Off the Hook (for "everyone's favorite" area): You'll find only the freshest seafood at Vann's - everything comes to the restaurant straight from the coast. Indulge in favorites like wild Georgia shrimp, cold water oysters, salmon, mahi mahi, scallops, crab legs, grouper and the fresh catch of the day.



726 East Oglethorpe Hwy • Hinesville, GA 31313 • 912-369-8266



You Should Always Eat Your Veggies
Vendors at the local farmers market sell fresh veggies every Thursday from May through October.



CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES

WRITTEN BY HOLLIE MOORE BARNIDGE, PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALIYAH DASTOUR

Liberty County hosts a variety of public events and festivals every year. The celebrations, which draw big crowds and tourists from around Georgia and even neighboring states, offer activities and attractions for attendees of all ages and backgrounds. Newcomers and longtime residents alike won't want to miss these events:

Martin Luther King Jr. Parade

The annual procession, which begins in the morning on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, winds its way through Hinesville and is followed by a commemorative ceremony at Bradwell Institute. Any group who enters a float is required to pay an entry fee, which goes to support scholarship funds and future MLK Jr. Day celebrations. The event is coordinated by the Liberty County Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Association.

Friends of Shellman Bluff St. Patrick's Day Parade:

Friends of Shellman Bluff, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the quality of life for residents of Shellman Bluff and the surrounding communities, sponsors the annual parade, which serves as the group's main fundraiser. The procession features Shriners, marching bands, floats, decorated

golf carts, fire trucks and marchers from various organizations. Attendees also can expect family activities, live entertainment, car shows and food vendors. Shellman Bluff is in neighboring McIntosh County. For information or directions, go to www.thefriendsofshellmanbluff.org.

Lunchtime Concert in the Park Series

This year's summer concert series, which is coordinated by the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority, began in April. The series includes four to six musical performances each year in downtown Hinesville's Bradwell Park. The two-hour concerts begin at 11:30 a.m. and typically are held the third Friday in April, May, June, September and October. Vendors sell food and attendees are encouraged to bring picnic lunches and lawn chairs. For information, go to www.hinesvilledowntown.com.

Midway Arts Festival

The annual event, which marked its sixth year this spring, typically is held on a Saturday in April at the Midway Gallery, 70 Martin Road. The festival features coastal artists' work, fine arts demonstrations, traditional crafts and cultural arts. For information, go to www.midwaygallery.com.

The Hinesville Farmers Market

The market is held from 4-8 p.m. each Thursday from May 5 through Oct. 27 in Bradwell Park and along Commerce Street in downtown Hinesville. Fresh produce, baked goods, specialty foods, plants, crafts, prepared food, live entertainment and restrooms are available throughout the market season. The market also usually coincides with a free, Thursday night outdoor concert in Bradwell Park from 6-8 p.m. For information, go to www.hinesvilledowntown.com.

Small World Festival

The annual festival, hosted by the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority, usually takes place on a Saturday in mid-May. Representatives of the multicultural community come out to entertain festival attendees and celebrate diversity with performers, a world marketplace to showcase vendor crafts, artwork, demonstrations, children's activities and food from around the globe. The event is held in downtown Hinesville's Bradwell Park. For information, go to www.hinesvilledowntown.com.

Fort Stewart's "Worth Fighting For" July 4 celebration

The Army installation's Independence Day festivities include an outdoor concert, carnival rides, a food court, interactive game area, petting zoo, entertainers and more. The celebration is open to the community and concertgoers may bring folding chairs and blankets, but coolers, alcohol and pets are not allowed. For information, go to www.stewart.army.mil.

Blues & BBQ

This annual saucy celebration draws grilling enthusiasts from around the region to downtown Hinesville's Bradwell Park. Blues & BBQ, which usually is held on a Saturday in mid-September, is a family-oriented event that features blues musicians and performers, food booths selling barbecue, snacks, sides and desserts, vendors and a competition between backyard barbecue chefs, restaurants and businesses. Admission is \$4. The contest entry fee is \$25. This year's festival is Sept. 17. For information, go to www.hinesvilledowntown.com.

OktoberFest

Hinesville's two-day version of the 200-year-old German festival drew 10,000 people last year and organizers only expect it to grow. The celebration typically is held the second weekend of October in downtown Hinesville's Bradwell Park area. It features entertainers, live music, beer tent, marketplace, kinder play area and vendors offering German food and other cuisine. This year's Oktoberfest is Oct. 7-8.

Scarecrow Stroll & Beggars Night

The Hinesville Downtown Partners usually present this evening of family-friendly fun the Friday before Halloween. Residents are encouraged to bring their children downtown, where businesses



Grilled to Perfection: A Blues & BBQ contestant grills a mean Boston butt during the barbecue competition.

offer a variety of treats. Trick-or-treaters and their families also can tour the historic and "haunted" old Liberty County Jail, decorate pumpkins and participate in many other activities. This year's Scarecrow Stroll & Beggars Night is at 4:30 p.m. Oct. 28.

Veterans Day Parade

East Liberty County American Legion Post 321 sponsors the parade, which usually is held a few days before Veterans Day in early November. The procession winds its way around Hinesville and features 3rd ID troops, high-ranking Fort Stewart officials, local law enforcement officers, supporting businesses, churches and many other community groups and organizations. For information, go to <http://eastlibertyalp321.tripod.com>.

Holiday Open Houses

Downtown Hinesville-area businesses usually host a couple open houses each holiday season. On those evenings, participating retailers offer extended hours, holiday promotions, activities, free gifts, refreshments, special deals, prize drawings and more. One lucky customer also will win a grand prize downtown shopping spree. This year's holiday open houses are planned for Nov. 18 and Dec. 6.

Liberty Cultural & Historic Association Silent Auction

The fundraiser at the old Liberty County Jail in downtown Hinesville begins at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 18. The catered auction will feature books, jewelry, art, handmade chocolates, cakes, gift baskets, ornamentals and crafts. Proceeds go to support historic preservation efforts in Liberty County.

Christmas in the Park

Santa lands his sleigh annually at this holiday celebration in downtown Hinesville's Bradwell Park. The Liberty County Chamber of Commerce and Hinesville Downtown Development Authority host the event, which starts at 5 p.m. Dec. 6. Attendees will enjoy a tree-lighting ceremony, photos with Santa, arts and crafts, Christmas cookie decorating, caroling and plenty of food, including popcorn, hot chocolate and cider. This year's event coincides with the Hinesville Downtown Partners' Holiday Open House.

Illuminated Christmas Parade

This holiday-themed procession drew more than 10,000 spectators last year and about 70 groups entered floats in the parade, marched, passed out promotional items and candy or participated in other ways. The parade weaves its way through much of the downtown business district and although vendors do not sell goods or food, businesses along the route typically do stay open late.

A Little Piece of History
A cozy cottage behind the Midway Museum



LIBERTY COUNTY HISTORIC SITES

Liberty County seems to have a knack for influencing history. In 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009, Liberty County influenced world events by sending our 3rd Infantry Division troops to the Middle East to oust a regime in Iraq, help rebuild the country and assist the new government and security forces.

Fort Stewart was home to the 24th Infantry Division when it was the “tip of the spear” in the allied cause that pushed Iraqi forces out of Kuwait after they had invaded in the 1990s.

But the area’s history-making tradition started long before those significant events. It runs back to a time before Europeans explored the New World, though most of our records and relics come from later European settlement, as evidenced by a Spanish mission on St. Catherines Island.

Immerse yourself in the county’s rich history and culture by visiting one of these legendary attractions:

Historic Liberty Trail

Several of the county’s historic sites are linked by the Liberty Trail. These unique sites offer visitors the opportunity to experience nature, culture and American history. Brochures that detail the trail’s

destinations with brief descriptions of the sites are available at the Liberty County Chamber of Commerce, www.discoverlibertyga.com for information.

Dorchester Academy and Museum of African-American History

Where: 8787 East Oglethorpe Highway, Midway

When: The academy is open year-round.

Contact: 912-884-2347

Admission: No fee; donations welcome

The lowdown: The former school, which was founded by the American Missionary Society soon after the Civil War to educate African-Americans, was named one of America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Sites by the National Trust for Historic Preservation a few years ago. The academy operated until 1940 and then became a cooperative to help area residents with farming,

economic and household issues. Its most recent historical role was as a site for civil rights movements. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. planned his campaign to integrate Birmingham during meetings there in the mid-1960s.

The Dorchester Improvement Association is spearheading the effort to restore Dorchester Academy to its past glory and conducts annual fundraisers, the biggest of which is the annual Walk to Dorchester, usually held in mid-June. The walk retraces the average distance students had to walk to attend the school.

Dorchester Village Civic Center

Where: 1804 Islands Highway, Midway

When: Available year-round for rental on occasions such as banquets, weddings and/or receptions, family reunions, business and club meetings, birthday parties, conferences and other events.

Contact: 912-884-3342

Cost: Rental fees vary

The lowdown: This recently restored 1938 schoolhouse is located off of I-95. It features 7,400 square feet, including an auditorium, five classrooms, a full kitchen and an outdoor pavilion.

The schoolhouse, originally built in 1927, consolidated the schools at Sunbury, Colonels Island, Riceboro, and Jackson Chapel. That building burned and the school was rebuilt in 1938. It served grades one through seven until 1951, when it was closed. On Feb. 4, 1958, the Liberty County Board of Education sold the property for \$10 to the nonprofit Dorchester Civic Center, Inc. Over the years the building fell into a state of disrepair and was closed due to the hazardous conditions.

In 2008, Dorchester Civic Center, Inc. reactivated and began an effort to restore the historic building so it could again become a vital part of community. The renovation was completed in 2010.

Seabrook Village

Where: 660 Trade Hill Road, Sunbury

When: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Contact: 912-884-7008

The lowdown: Seabrook Village is an African-American living history museum. The Seabrook community was established through federal land grants made possible by Gen. William T. Sherman’s Field Order 15 in 1865, a policy that came to be known as “40 acres and a mule.”

The village, which features eight turn-of-the-century buildings, is dedicated to the authentic portrayal of rural African-American culture from 1865-1930. The interactive historic site includes a one-room schoolhouse and demonstrations of meal grinding, hand-hewn furniture and washing

clothes on a scrub board. The village is run by a foundation of community members.

Fort Morris

Where: 2559 Fort Morris Road, Midway

When: Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Contact: 912-884-5999

Admission: \$2.75-\$4 per person; group rates are available with advance notice

The lowdown: When the Continental Congress convened in 1776, the

delegates recognized the importance of a fort to protect Georgia's coast from the English navy. A low bluff on the Medway River near the seaport of Sunbury was fortified and garrisoned by 200 patriots. The fort protected Georgia during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

Today, visitors can stand within earthworks from the War of 1812 and view scenic St. Catherine's Sound. In the museum, exhibits describe the once bustling colonial port at Sunbury that was larger than Savannah.

LeConte-Woodmanston Rice Plantation and Botanical Gardens

Where: 4918 Barrington Ferry Road, Riceboro

When: Tours are by appointment, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday

Contact: 912-884-6500,

www.leconte-woodmanston.org

Admission: \$2 per person, \$5 per family; special group rates available

The lowdown: Woodmanston Plantation was established by John Eatton LeConte in 1760 and by 1774, it was the largest rice plantation in Liberty County. Now, 63 acres of the former 3,356-acre LeConte-Woodmanston Plantation have sprouted into a restored version of the colonial operation. While none of the plantation's buildings remain, the site in Bulltown Swamp is a natural wonder with interpretive signs marking trails and the restored formal garden.

In July 2010, portions of LeConte were closed due to a lack of funds, and the site's hours of operation now are by appointment only.

Those who set up tours still can meander down the nature trail along the ridge of one of the many dams built by slave labor in the 1770s. The dams were used for rice cultivation and many of the trunks, necessary to control the movement of water, have been rebuilt and replaced.

Melon Bluff Nature and Heritage Preserve

Where: 2999 Islands Highway, Midway

When: Open only by appointment for horseback riders or day-users in groups of six or more.

Contact: 912-880-4500,
www.melonbluff.com

Admission: Day-use park entry \$3 per person, \$15 per horse

The lowdown: This 5,000-acre stretch of land has a rich history and a bounty of historic treasures. Once the home of Native Americans, Spanish settlers sailed up the tidal creeks in 1526 – 39 years before they founded St. Augustine. With the Spaniards came African slaves, making this the entry port for some of the first slaves in America. The English occupied the area in the 1730s, creating several plantations including Melon Bluff. Remnants of this culture are still present in Melon Bluff's abandoned rice fields and old ferry road.

Along with a forest of native plants, Melon Bluff is home to 309 species of birds, including wild turkeys, owls, woodpeckers, marsh birds, pelicans, painted buntings, hummingbirds, osprey and cardinals. The nature center also hosts a number of interactive education programs and day events.

Fort Stewart Museum

Where: 2022 Frank Cochran Drive, building T904, 2

When: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday; closed

Sundays, Mondays and federal holidays.

Contact: 767-7885

Admission: free

The lowdown: The military history of Coastal Georgia comes alive at the Fort Stewart Museum, which chronicles the stories of Fort Stewart and the 3rd Infantry Division from their origins to the present.

In addition to showcasing the artifacts and service of the 3rd Infantry Division – the famed "Rock of the Marne" – the museum also highlights the early days of Camp Stewart. Furthermore, it offers a look at the towns absorbed when the federal government bought the land that became the sprawling base in 1940.

The museum pays tribute to the 24th Infantry Division that called Stewart home from 1974 to 1996. Information about the base's change from the Taro Leaf to the Rock of the Marne also is provided

There is an exhibit of the 3rd ID's march to Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Special exhibits focus on 1st Lt. Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier of WWII, and Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith, who was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for action in Iraq in 2003. Smith is the division's most recent Medal of Honor recipient.

Midway Museum

Where: Martin Road and Route 17 South

When: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday

Contact: 912-884-5837, www.themidwaymuseum.org

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Camellia flowers are in full bloom at the botanical gardens and around Liberty County during the winter season.





Lavender Hill
SPASALON



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AVEDA
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Admission: \$7 adults, \$6 seniors (62 and above), \$3 students (K-12th grade), preschool children free, prearranged group rates available, military \$1 off discount

The lowdown: Patterned after a raised, cottage-style house typical in the 18th century, the museum is a replica but holds authentic pieces and a wealth of information.

The museum was built in 1957 and has been gathering artifacts, documents, pictures and furnishings since then. Several special days are held at the museum each year including the annual Christmas tea.

In late 2009, a new collection opened featuring documents and household items from the Charles Colcock Jones family, whose letters became the basis for "The Children of Pride," a compilation about life on Southern plantations in the mid-1800s.

Next door to the museum is the Midway Congregational Church, built in 1792. The church is a classic example of a colonial house of worship with neither electricity nor plumbing.

The nearby cemetery was established in the 1700s by Puritan settlers. Many famous Liberty Countians are buried there. About 300 of the 1,200 graves still bear their original markers, while others crumbled or were destroyed by Northern troops who used the cemetery as a cattle pen during the Civil War.

Geechee Kunda Cultural Arts Center and Museum

Where: 622 Ways Temple Road, Riceboro

When: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday

Contact: 912-884-4440, jim@bacote.com

Admission: No fee; donations accepted

The lowdown: Geechee Kunda is located on lands where the rice, cotton and indigo producing Retreat Plantation once stood. The center was created as a means of contributing to efforts to preserve and perpetuate the knowledge of important African cultural elements in the United States.

In addition to permanent and rotating exhibits, the center's year-round activities include classes, workshops, demonstrations and lectures covering a broad spectrum of subjects that allow visitors to explore various aspects of continental and diaspora African culture. Exhibits feature artifacts from Africa and this area, some dating back to the 1700s, including authentic slavery artifacts, Geechee relics and Jim Crow-era memorabilia. The center also has a gallery and gift shop that stocks merchandise such as books, textile, artifacts and crafts.

WELCOME

to Liberty County



Now that you're here, let us help you stay healthy.

The Liberty County Health Department has programs that can benefit everyone, from newborns to teenagers to adults.

We offer services including:

- *Family Planning (physical exams, pregnancy testing, STD testing, counseling, and referrals)*
- *Women, Children, and Infants (WIC) nutrition program (nutrition education counseling, breastfeeding support and counseling, health and dietary assessments, and supplemental food to eligible clients)*
- *Adult and child immunizations and vaccinations*
- *Environmental Health services to include restaurant inspections and new septic system inspections*
- *Teen-specific health programs and services*
- *Coordination of family friendly health and fitness activities at wecanliberty.org*



As a public health department, it's our goal to help prevent illness and promote wellness. That's what we do every day. We are proud to serve all of the citizens of Liberty County, and we welcome you to your new home.

1113 East Oglethorpe Highway • Hinesville, GA 31310 • (912) 876-2173

Save Everyday with No Sales Tax

Fort Stewart Exchange Directory

Ft. Stewart Shopping Center

Building 71

Main PX 876-2850 or 9585

Store Hours

Mon-Sat 0900-2100

Sunday 1000-1900

Military Clothing and Sales

368-4572 or 767-8372

Concessions Bldg 71

Barber Shop 876-0934

Beauty Salon 876-2663

Optical Center 876-2488

Optometry 876-1101

GNC 876-4994

Pharmacy 767-2672

AT&T, T Mobile, Verizon Phone Kiosk 369-9299

Petals & Blooms Flower Shop 876-0598

Stripes (Alterations) 368-8233

US Cavalry 368-2378

Starbucks 876-4713

Game Stop 877-2600



876-4698



Furniture Store 876-7558 or 876-7560

Building 419

The Spa 332-7314

Lock & Leave Storage 876-2103

Barber Shop 876-4080

Trophy & Engraving

American Warrior Network 876-2915

Food Court 876-0626

Building 419



Marco's Pizza
368-3302



Popeyes Chicken 368-0134

Building 703

Marne Shoppette

Class Six/Gasoline 876-8434

Building 939 (Utility Rd)

Winn Hospital Shoppette 767-3069

Building 302 (Harmon Ave)

Woodruff Theater 767-3069

Building 410 (Wurzburg Sf.)

Brigade Troop Store 876-0340

Building 706 (13th St)

Barber Shop Bldg. 706

Bryan Village Shoppette/Gasoline 368-2237

Building 7336 (Austin Rd)

Burger King 368-6618

Building 455 (Gulick Ave)

Car Care Center 876-5265

Building 430 (Bundy Ave)

Main Shoppette/Class Six 876-0868

Building 417 (Vilseck Ave)

WTU Shoppette 767-4462

Building 12729

Coin Operated Car Wash

Building 430C

Launderette

Building 419

Harmon Shoppette 876-4230

Class Six/Gasoline

Bldg. 7806 (Harmon Avenue)

Sixth Street Mini Mall 876-2351

Shoppette/Class Six/Gasoline

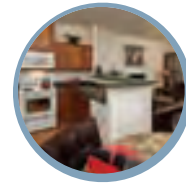
Bldg. 3050

Sixth Street Barber Shop 368-1716

Bldg. 3050



shopmyexchange.com



Welcome to the *comfort zone*

Marne Point Apartments at Fort Stewart offers Unaccompanied Personnel a relaxing place to spend their free time that feels just like home.

Luxury...On Base

We cater to just what Unaccompanied Personnel need...a private, comfortable living environment with amenities and activities that support them in their work. With onsite fitness center and computer lab, taking care of business is just as relaxing as enjoying the pool, sports courts and game room.

Everyday Comfort

Unaccompanied Personnel need “family” support as much as they need a place to live and at Marne Point they find a staff who understands that their duties extend to forwarding mail to the deployed, arranging a ride to town, walking a dog for someone on maneuvers – or just checking in to see how someone is doing—it’s what we do, every day.

Unaccompanied Doesn't Mean Alone

Roommates, neighbors, friendly staff and beloved pets - someone is always here to make Marne Point THE home away from home.

“...the facilities not only look great, but are great. I could not ask for a better place to live and a better group of people to have take care of my needs.”

- (LTC) William C. Prewitt

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