

Annual Report to the Citizens of Hinesville Fiscal Year Ending October 31, 2007



*Governmental Structure
Performance Highlights
Financial Reviews*

Hinesville

GEORGIA | USA
EST. 1837



***About the Photo on the Cover –
The Historic “Old Liberty County Jail”***

The cover features a current photograph of the historic “Old Liberty County Jail”, located at 302 South Main Street in Hinesville, Georgia. Built in 1892, the two-story brick structure is listed on the National Register for Historic Places.

The building served as Liberty County’s jail until 1969 when it was replaced by a larger, modern regional jail just a block away. The jail was auctioned by the Liberty County Commissioners of Roads and Revenues to the highest bidder for \$4,500 on March 3, 1970. The Liberty County Historical Society is credited for rescuing the historical structure from certain demolition as was planned by the next highest bidder. Since its’ days of housing inmates, the jail has been used as offices by various organizations, was the location of the Jaycee’s annual Haunted House for several years, and is currently owned by the City of Hinesville.

The Hinesville Downtown Development Authority has recently completed interior restoration of the jail and customized the roof and gutter system to both simulate the original tin roof and minimize further deterioration of the brick caused by water drainage through the years. Restoration efforts will continue with the exterior brick wall, wrought iron bars and front gate which were added in 1940 for increased security. The “old jail” currently houses the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority office and in the near future will serve as an information center for the downtown area as well as offer museum-type tours.



Report to the Citizens of Hinesville

The City of Hinesville continuously strives to provide citizens information about their city. As part of that effort, we are proud to publish our annual Citizens Report. Throughout this report, you will find information about the elected officials, services and a general overview of the financial condition of your city.

The financial information contained within this report is extracted from the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) which is in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). In order to provide a comprehensive condensed overview, financial information presented within this report is not presented on a GAAP basis. City Funds presented within the Financial Review section disclose the appropriate fund in which the detail was derived. Component units are not presented in this report.

The City's CAFR for the years ending October 31, 2005 and 2006 were awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of only one year. We believe that our current CAFR continues to meet the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements and we have submitted it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.

You may obtain a copy of the CAFR on our website at www.cityofhinesville.org or by contacting the Finance Department at (912) 876-3564.



Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting

PRESENTED TO

City of Hinesville
Georgia

for the Fiscal Year Ended
October 31, 2006



Charles S. Cox
President

Jeffrey L. Easer
Executive Director

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to the City of Hinesville for its Citizens Report for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2006. The award is a prestigious national honor recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports. The published reports must reflect the program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability and reader appeal.

Message from the Mayor



Dear Fellow Citizens,

On behalf of the Hinesville City Council, I am pleased to present the second Annual Citizen's Report for the City of Hinesville. This report provides you with an overview of the financial condition of the city and a report of significant ongoing and future activities affecting our city.

As you read this report, you will find that the city is financially and fiscally in excellent condition. We are growing at a rapid pace and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future due to the U.S. Army's stationing initiatives at Fort Stewart. There is a simultaneous growth in our community from civilians that are here to support the growth on the installation. The City of Hinesville is well prepared to accommodate the additional growth from the installation from an infrastructure and housing perspective. Construction has been started on the Memorial Drive Realignment and we are on schedule to implement our public transportation system in conjunction with the City of Flemington on or around December 1, 2008.

We also have some opportunities to improve our streets and roads and we will diligently pursue those efforts to improve and widen our critical streets and thoroughfares in the city.

Our city's financial condition is very sound. We have operational reserves sufficient to cover 88 days or approximately 3 months of operational expenses on hand. The City's target is a 90 day reserve on hand and we will achieve that goal this year. The City's General Fund revenue (our income) has increased by 31% from five years ago while the property tax millage rate has been decreased by 15.9%. The property tax millage has been constant at 11.30 mills until 2006, when the rate was reduced by .40 of a mill to 10.90 mills, the millage rate was reduced again in 2007 to 9.50 mills. General Fund operational expenses have also increased by 42% during the same period. Obviously, both the growth in the property tax digest from new construction and increases in the sales tax receipts from increased retail sales have allowed the City to maintain its economic balance between revenue and expenses without increasing the property tax millage rates.

My fellow City Councilmen and I believe that Hinesville is one of Georgia's most vibrant and progressive cities. Hinesville's importance to our region, state, and nation is vital and will continue to be for the foreseeable future. Our city is very fortunate to have a superb management team with dedicated, skilled employees and committed elected officials. This leadership, management and dedication contributes to our shared belief that our community is in the midst of a time of exciting change, sustainable development and smart growth. With the projected growth from Fort Stewart and associated civilian growth the City of Hinesville will grow by approximately 25% in the next four years. We will absorb that growth while retaining the quality of life that attracts so many people to our city.

As we plan for our City's sustainable growth, we continue to face a number of challenges that must be addressed to insure the future health of our community. As we grow, it is increasingly important for us to obtain your insights and suggestion regarding ways to improve our City government.

As you read this report, please take note of your suggestions and comments and send them to us so that we can more effectively evaluate both our current programs and future opportunities.

Thank you for the privilege of serving Hinesville.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Thomas Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Thomas Jr.
Mayor

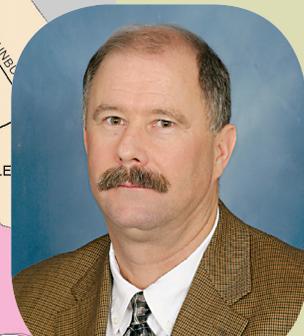
City Council Members



**COUNCIL MEMBER
DAVID ANDERSON, SR.
DISTRICT 3**



**MAYOR PRO TEM
CHARLES FRASIER
DISTRICT 1**



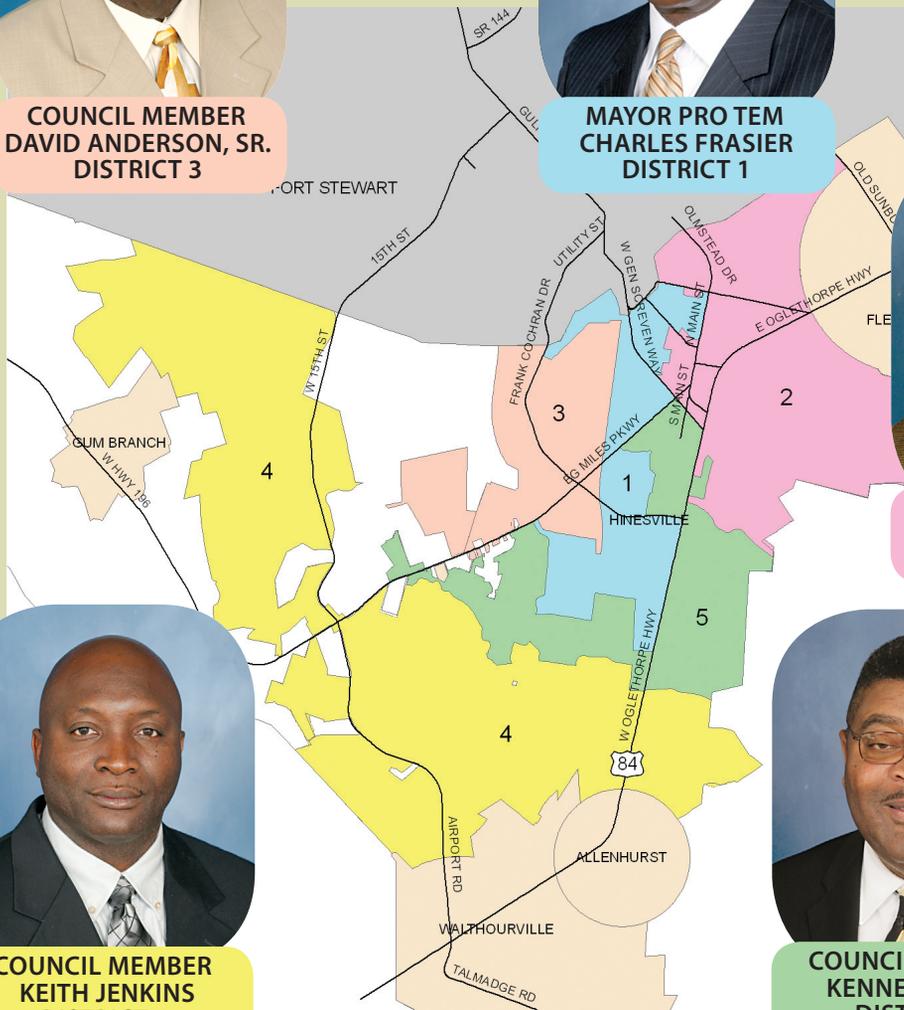
**COUNCIL MEMBER
BOBBY RYON
DISTRICT 2**



**COUNCIL MEMBER
KEITH JENKINS
DISTRICT 4**



**COUNCIL MEMBER
KENNETH SHAW
DISTRICT 5**



The City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in City Hall.



Message from the City Manager



It is on the premise that an informed citizenry is the foundation for effective governance that we provide you with this report. So please take the time to review the information provided within this report and let us know if you would like more detail or clarification. A year ago you received the first edition of the City of Hinesville Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). In this, the second edition of the PAFR, I am pleased to report to you on several of the projects that have come to fruition over the past twelve months and to report on some projects that have recently been started.

In January of this year, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division certified our new wastewater treatment plant as operational. This \$30,000,000 project will be up and running within the next few months. All that is lacking is the completion of some discharge and distribution piping systems. Once operational, we will have an additional two million gallons per day of wastewater treatment capacity. This additional capacity provides us with the capability to meet the needs of our growing community. A part of this project was the installation of NPRL or “purple pipes”. You may have seen these pipes along side the road as you drove around. These pipes will carry the highly treated wastewater to various locations where it will be used for irrigation and, as such, help us to conserve millions of gallons per day of our drinking water.

Another project that was completed since last year is the Frank Cochran Drive Extension. Although the City had no direct role in the construction of the new roadway, our citizens surely have benefited from it. Traffic flow has been improved by removing through traffic from neighborhood streets that were never intended to handle the volume of traffic they were experiencing and commuting has been made easier. A companion project is currently being designed that will widen to a four lane roadway the section of Frank Cochran Drive, into Ft. Stewart.

As we grow we must continue to improve our transportation systems. This is not limited to new roadway projects. The City has been a proud partner with the Liberty County Board of Commissioners, the Liberty County Development Authority and Ft. Stewart in the development of Mid Coast Regional Airport which opened last fall. Not only does this new facility provide a state of the art general aviation point for our county; it also creates a great first impression to business travelers who come into our community looking to expand or relocate to Liberty County. Attracting new jobs is paramount to our efforts in improving the quality of living for all.

Continuing in our efforts for improving our transportation projects, we are currently working on the implementation of a public transit system, which is set to go into operation late this fall. Initial routes will provide scheduled bus transportation along US 84 from Brewton Parker College to Frank Cochran Drive, through the downtown area, along General Screven Way, General Stewart Way and into Ft. Stewart. Additional routes on Ft. Stewart will provide service to the housing areas.

Exciting times are ahead of us. The most exciting of which is the redeployment of the 3rd ID. Some of our friends, neighbors and family members that have been deployed are home now and we anxiously await the safe return of the rest. As always, our hearts and prayers are with our service members as they are away providing for a safe and secure home front.

There are many other things for me to write about but I am limited in space so I will close for now. However, if you would like more information about your city, please log on to our website at www.cityofhinesville.org or simply call any of our capable staff persons at any one of the telephone numbers provided in this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Billy Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Billy Edwards
City Manager

Water Department

The City of Hinesville Water Department, located inside City Hall at 115 East M L King Jr. Drive, Hinesville, GA, is dedicated to adding value and exceeding the expectations of our customers. The mission of the Water Department is to keep Hinesville's water supply clean, safe, and constantly increase quality of life.

Water is used for many things: public health and safety, transportation, business, and enjoyment. In fact, we rely on it being there each time we turn a faucet on and for the most important use of all, our survival. Having an adequate supply of fresh water, made easily available at an affordable rate, is the cornerstone of any livable community. This is especially true in Hinesville.

The swift removal of sanitary sewage from City residences and places of business is as key to our quality of life as our supply of drinking water. Efficient, safe delivery of the City's wastewater to nearby wastewater treatment facilities is another valuable service of the Hinesville Water Department.

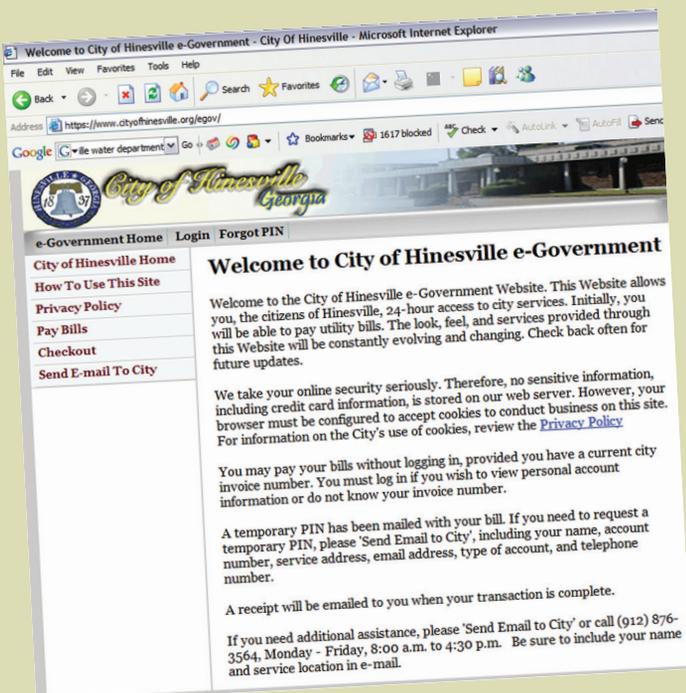


For the convenience of our military service members and their families, a satellite office is available at the Welcome Center on Fort Stewart. This office is for initiating new service for the military moving off post into the Hinesville Community, out processing, and accepting payments.

The City of Hinesville is excited to introduce our new e-government services. A customer is able to view his water bill, consumption history, payment history and pay a bill online. In addition, you can elect to have your bill emailed to you and you can sign up for bank draft.

To take advantage of this added convenience, visit the City of Hinesville's website at www.cityofhinesville.org, and click on "E-Gov Pay Services" on the home page. You can either login with your account number and password or pay your bill using the invoice number on your current bill. The City of Hinesville accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard, and Visa. Hours of operation for City Hall are 8-5, Monday thru Friday. The drive thru is open from 8:30-4:30, Monday thru Friday, the 1st thru the 15th of every month. The office at Fort Stewart is open 9-4, Monday thru Friday. Night deposit is available 24 hours a day.

If you have any questions concerning the water department, or our e-government services, please call 912-876-3564, and ask to speak to a customer service representative.



Hinesville Downtown Development Authority

The City of Hinesville established the Downtown Development Authority in 2004 to facilitate downtown revitalization utilizing a comprehensive approach encompassing the essential components of a successful thriving downtown district – property and business development, demonstrating preservation ethic, promoting the downtown district, and beautification.

Historic Preservation

The Old Liberty County Jail, located at 302 South Main Street and listed on the National Register for Historic Places, is currently being restored. The most recent phase-work included roof replacement, lead-based paint abatement, work on the interior surfaces, plumbing, electrical and HVAC. The adaptive re-use of the facility will house the HDDA office, provide a downtown welcome center, and will eventually offer museum-type tours.

Promotion

Promoting downtown Hinesville as a destination is accomplished by encouraging and promoting events that occur in the downtown district. The HDDA collaborates with several local businesses and organizations for special events such as Liberty Fest, Christmas in the Park, Earth Day, and Holiday Open House. Future promotional efforts will include new festivals/special events, more joint retail promotions, the creation of a downtown business directory and walking tour guide.

Beautification

Currently, the Bradwell and Main Street Parks as well as the Liberty Nature Trail offer a welcoming



Main Street Park

and relaxing environment. The realignment of East Washington Avenue and Memorial Drive once completed will further edify the aesthetic appeal of the Hinesville's downtown business center providing a more culturally enriched atmosphere with its attractive, landscaped median, complimentary streetscape furnishing, and extra-wide sidewalks creating a more pedestrian-friendly environment. Additionally, in the near future motorists and pedestrians will be greeted and directed to their downtown destinations with attractive and informative Gateway & Wayfinding Signage.

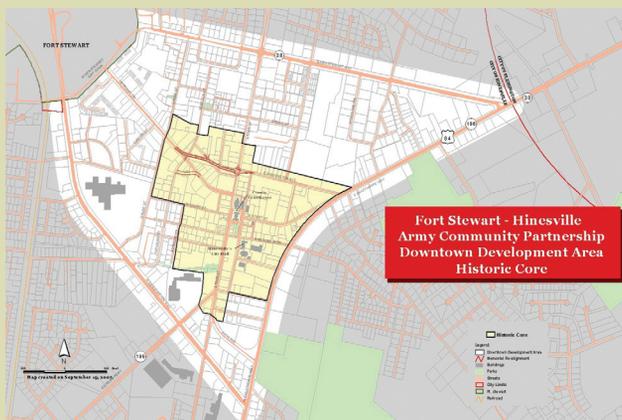
Business and Property Development

New business starts, businesses' expansion, property development, and rehabilitation initiatives in the downtown area are encouraged through business assistance and various incentives available through the HDDA, local, state, and national programs. Current incentives include low interest loans, HDDA Façade Grant Program, New Jobs Tax Credit, and Historic Tax Credits.

The HDDA is guided by activities that are in accordance with their mission statement.

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

For more information contact HDDA at 912.368.3473 or email: HDDA@coastalnw.net.



Public Works: Sanitation Services

The Sanitation Department is responsible for the collection of municipal solid waste. Waste collection includes: Household Garbage, Yard Waste, Bulk Trash (Junk), and Appliances.

Household Garbage

Residential and commercial customers are provided a polycart (trash receptacle) by the city. Carts are to be placed at the curb by 6:00am on the day of the scheduled pick up. Repair and/or replacement of trash containers are handled via work orders at City Hall.

Yard Waste

Residential customers in need of yard waste collection are to either bag or pile their yard debris neatly next to the curb. Yard waste includes leaves, limbs, straw, grass clippings, shrubs, etc. A regular schedule is adhered to here as well.

Bulk Trash

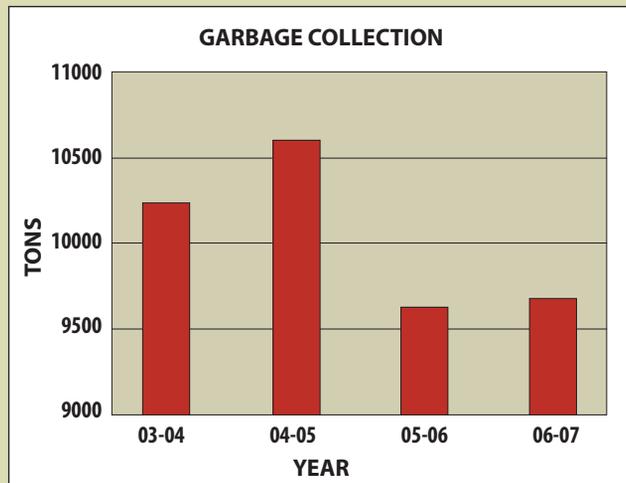
Items such as sofas, chairs, bicycles, etc. are considered junk and should be placed next to the curb for collection on the scheduled day.

Appliances

Refrigerators, microwave ovens, washers, dryers, stoves, etc. can be placed next to the curb on your regular scheduled day or they are collected upon request.

The Sanitation Department is located at 613 E. G. Miles Pkwy. Gary Gilliard is the Project Manager and the office phone number is 912-876-8216.

Household Garbage Collection



Yard Waste Collection



Memorial Drive Corridor Realignment

Project History

The Memorial Drive Corridor Realignment is part of an overall Downtown Redevelopment Plan adopted by the City of Hinesville with a vision of revitalizing and expanding the downtown area. The design concept for Memorial Drive was generated from a study prepared by W.K. Dickson and based on the type 2 streetscape prototype with minor revisions dictated by existing site conditions (i.e. existing tree location). By creating a direct link between Fort Stewart, Main Street, and Oglethorpe Highway, this project will create more business opportunities in the downtown area and improve the feasibility of urban living in Hinesville.



Project Route

Once the project is completed the Memorial Drive Corridor will serve as a direct route from the intersection of Oglethorpe Highway and East Washington Ave., along East Washington Ave., across North Main Street, and connect to the existing Memorial Drive at Rebecca Street. As a part of the realignment a roundabout will be installed to serve as the intersection of Memorial Drive/Washington Ave & North Main Street. The two lane street of Washington Ave and the existing four lane street of Memorial Drive will both be converted to a two lane road with a 16' landscaped median with periodic median breaks. The

intersection with General Stewart Way and Oglethorpe Highway will both have left and right turning lanes.

Project Status

The conception of the project began in 2003 and has since been revised many times to accommodate existing structures and magnificent live oak canopies. The project route is separated into four phases. Phase I will entail improvements along East Washington Ave from Oglethorpe Highway to Commerce Street, Phase II will contain the realignment along Washington Ave from Commerce Street to Rebecca Street, Phase III will encompass the existing portion of Memorial



Memorial Drive Corridor Realignment

Drive from Rebecca Street to General Stewart Way, and Phase IV will link the existing intersection of Memorial Drive and North Main Street with Welborn Street. Design on Phase I & II of the project was complete in Summer 2007 and construction will begin May 1, 2008. Design of Phase III was completed in Winter 2008 and construction is scheduled to begin Fall 2008. Phase IV of the project is still under design and does not have an estimated construction start date at this time. Phase I & II should be completed within 18 months and Phase III is scheduled for completion 6-8 months after completion of Phase II.



Community Cohesion

Connectivity of vehicular traffic will be significantly improved along with pedestrian traffic. One of the achievements of this project will be the promotion of community cohesion by expanding and improving the pedestrian corridor along this route. Out dated and inadequate sidewalks will be replaced with a 6' wide sidewalk and a 10' wide multi-use path with patterns and colors that will match the existing downtown sidewalks. Benches, waste receptacles and improved lighting will also be signature improvements to promote pedestrian traffic in the downtown area.

Corridor Amenities

The Memorial Drive Corridor currently serves as a route to reach worship places, residential dwellings, the Liberty County Board of Education Board Office, Bradwell Institute, and other destinations within Hinesville. Once this realignment project is complete, this corridor will also serve as a gateway to the downtown area and all of the commerce and attraction that the Memorial Drive Corridor will soon host.

Unseen Improvements

One of the most important aspects of the project will be the much needed upgrade and relocation of existing utilities including water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, power, cable, telephone, and natural gas services. To better serve the potential growth in the downtown area the water and sanitary sewer systems will be upgraded while the area is under construction. The long fought drainage problem along East Washington Ave will see some relief as the majority of the storm water will be re-routed to the Olvey Field detention facility. In efforts to enhance the aesthetics of the corridor and protect the canopy of all existing and proposed trees, all existing aerial utility lines and poles will be relocated underground.

Construction Costs

| | | |
|-----------|------------|--------------|
| Phase I | GDOT | \$ 320,000 |
| | Hinesville | \$ 1,800,000 |
| Phase II | GDOT | \$ 320,000 |
| | Hinesville | \$ 1,800,000 |
| Phase III | GDOT | \$ 500,000 |
| | Hinesville | \$ 1,750,000 |
| Total | | \$ 6,490,000 |



Financial Review of Fiscal Year 2007

The Financial Review section is designed to provide information on the financial health and stability of the City of Hinesville. This information should provide the reader with an increased level of understanding of how available resources are utilized to provide services. The following charts summarize the City's largest sources of revenues ("Where the Money Came From") and expenditures ("Where the Money Went") for the government as a whole.

The total net assets of the City are categorized. The largest portion of net assets (\$46,947,905 or 80.60%) is invested in capital assets (e.g. land, buildings, infrastructure, machinery and equipment) less any related outstanding debt used to acquire these assets. An additional portion of the City's net assets (\$1,462,728 or 2.51%) represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. All of the City's *restricted net assets* are restricted for the repayment of the water and sewer fund revenue bond debt. The remaining portion of the City's net assets (\$9,835,592 or 16.89%) is *unrestricted net assets* and may be used to meet the City's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM . . .

| | Fiscal Year 2006 | Fiscal Year 2007 |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Property Taxes..... | \$ 5,462,651 | \$ 5,423,568 |
| Sales Taxes | 4,152,234 | 3,860,877 |
| Franchise Taxes..... | 1,278,657 | 1,567,418 |
| Insurance Premium Tax..... | 1,592,536 | 1,661,193 |
| Alcoholic Beverage Taxes..... | 325,709 | 309,439 |
| Hotel/Motel Tax | 209,012 | 195,679 |
| Other General Revenue | 36,496 | 57,494 |
| Total General Revenue | \$ 13,057,295 | \$ 13,075,668 |
| Charges for Services..... | 11,090,118 | 12,386,409 |
| Operating Grants..... | 942,686 | 1,324,376 |
| Capital Grants and Contributions | 2,131,961 | 2,935,746 |
| Total Program Revenues | \$ 14,164,765 | \$ 16,646,531 |
| Other Income | 960,400 | 68,964 |
| Investment Earnings | 567,694 | 645,569 |
| Transfers..... | - | - |
| Total Other Income and Transfers | \$ 1,528,094 | \$ 714,533 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | \$ 28,750,154 | \$ 30,436,732 |

Financial Review of Fiscal Year 2007

Definitions of Key Terms

Governmental Activities: Activities generally financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other non-exchange revenues.

Business-Type Activities: One of two classes of activities reported in the government-wide financial statements. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties for goods or services. These activities are normally reported in enterprise funds. The City currently has three business-type funds.

Net Assets: Refers to the difference between assets and liabilities of the City as a whole. Net assets may be shown in the following three major categories:

1. Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt: The component of net assets that consists of capital assets less both the accumulated depreciation and the outstanding balance of debt attributable to the acquisition of those assets.
2. Net Assets-Restricted: The component of net assets that consists of assets with constraints placed on their use by either external parties or through enabling legislation.
3. Net Assets-Unrestricted: The remaining balance of net assets not reported under the other two categories of net assets.

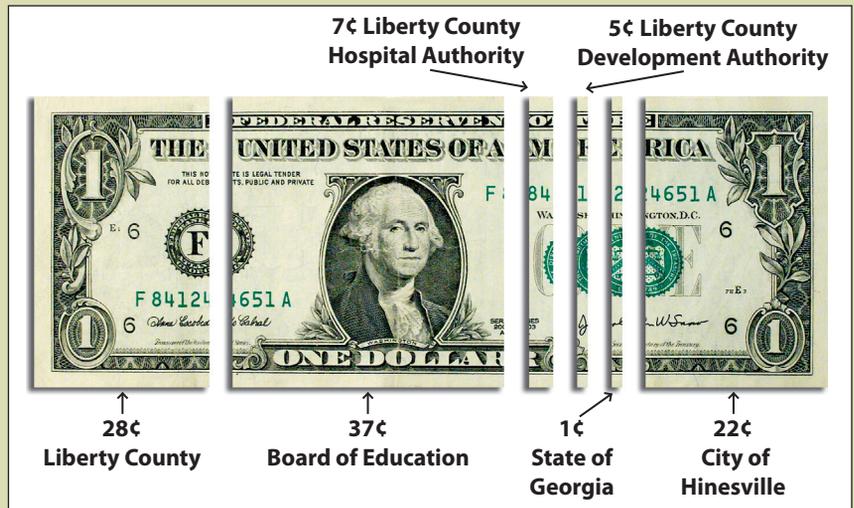
WHERE THE MONEY WENT . . .

| | Fiscal Year 2006 | Fiscal Year 2007 |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| General Government | \$ 2,351,658 | \$ 2,194,891 |
| Judicial | 310,188 | 307,241 |
| Public Safety | 7,909,188 | 8,552,233 |
| Public Works | 3,216,476 | 2,867,482 |
| Housing and Development | 822,567 | 2,590,029 |
| Health and Welfare | 841,646 | 481,410 |
| Culture and Recreation | 431,665 | 1,006,902 |
| Interest and Fiscal Charges | 91,989 | 78,094 |
| Total Governmental Activities . . | \$ 15,975,377 | \$ 18,078,282 |
| Water and Sewer | 6,570,595 | 6,925,859 |
| Sanitation | 2,177,974 | 2,103,192 |
| Stormwater Utility | - | 178,089 |
| Total Business-type Activities . . | \$ 8,748,569 | \$ 9,207,140 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$ 24,723,946 | \$ 27,285,422 |
| Change in Net Assets | 4,026,208 | 3,151,308 |
| Net Assets - November 1, 2006 (restated) | \$ 54,220,017 | \$ 58,738,234 |
| Net Assets - October 31, 2007 | \$ 58,246,225 | \$ 61,889,542 |

Financial Review of Fiscal Year 2007

Property Tax Breakdown

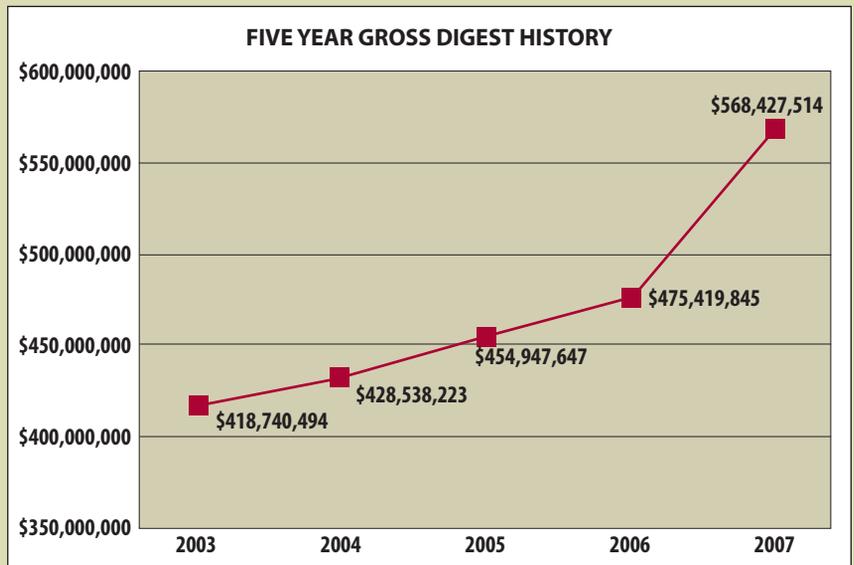
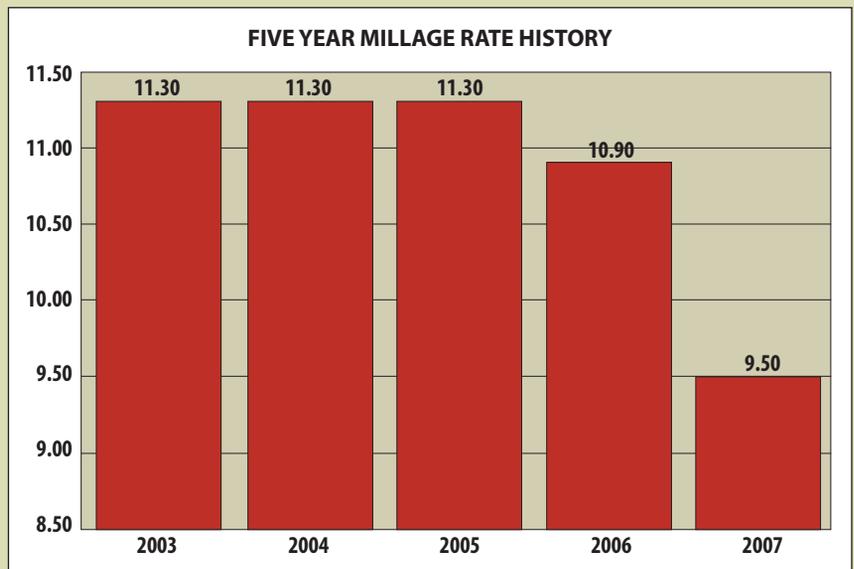
The illustration to the left depicts how each one dollar of property tax revenue collected is distributed to the various taxing entities. The City of Hinesville receives 22¢ of each \$1.00 collected from taxpayers in the City.



Property Taxes

Property tax is the City's single largest source of revenue. The graph at the top right, shows the City's Millage Rate history for the past five years. The City's millage rate remained level at 11.30 mills from 1997 to 2005. In 2006, the City decreased the millage rate to 10.90 mills. In 2007 the City again decreased the rate to 9.5 mills.

The graph at the bottom right tracks the change in the tax digest over the past five years.



Department of Inspections

Good news! The Department of Inspections is working hard towards some new strides in making permitting, payments, and inspection information available on-line for our customers. The Inspections Department started more than a year ago looking at ways to simplify a process in which our customers can obtain permits, make payments and acquire information as related to their projects i.e. inspection reports listing corrections that may need to be handled, re-inspections if required, and/or simply notes that could help the contractor with future projects. During this process we have looked at other city websites, inquired through phone conversations and visited sites that have been working under this system successfully such as Williamsburg, Virginia. During our many conversations and visits we also confirmed what we believe to be true throughout the country and that is that no two cities are the same and that we would have to develop a program suited for our city. Although most cities now follow the same International Building Codes, not all follow the same code compliance or payment process, which meant that we had to insure that we developed a system that would be conducive to the customers for the City of Hinesville. We learned very early in the process that with the diverse staff employed with the City of Hinesville and the partnership that our City has with other cities, it would only be a matter of time before the system could be up and running.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of all involved, our inspections in the near future, will be able to enter inspectors result information at the jobsite on



laptop computers and in just a matter of minutes, a contractor can access those results via the internet. This will allow the contractor to move forward with his project without the delay of waiting for an inspector to return to the office and process his reports. This system would also allow for the contractor to make payment for his permit on-line as well as review the status of the permitting process less the delay of travel to the Inspection Department.

It is our goal to provide a better service to all our customers and allow a faster manner in which the home owner and/or contractor can make payment as well as obtain inspection results without being on site at the time of the inspection.



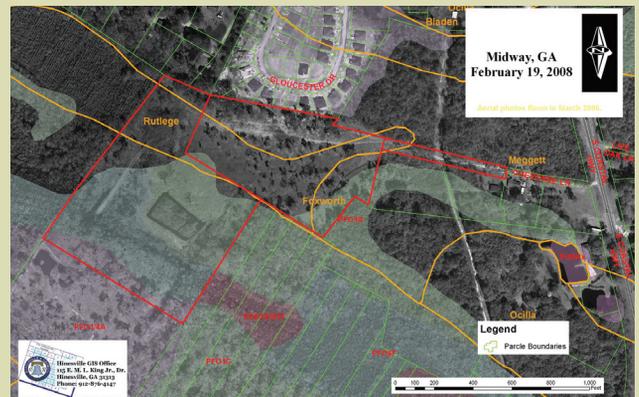
Hinesville GIS Office

Hinesville Geographic Information System Office (GIS Office) has been serving Liberty County GIS data to the public for five years. During this time, we have created simple boundary to display maps. We have produced maps for the homeowner to the commercial developers. The GIS Office does small to large projects using the spatial data available in office or from other sources. The GIS Office has aeriels for 1996 and 2006 in a digital format for all of Liberty County.

Property boundary maps use the assessor's office property boundaries, layered onto aeriels. This gives an idea of where property lines fall, where the house may sit on the property and other data. These maps are good for purposes that do not require an official survey. We can label parcels with parcel numbers or addresses. These maps can be used as site plans for fence permits in the Inspection Office. These maps can also be overlaid with the wetland, flood data, 2' contours and soil files. This gives an over all picture of your property with minimal investment of time and money.

Do you want to open a retail store and need to know population and traffic trends? We have traffic counts to show the busy streets. We have the tools to analyze the population by using the US Census information. We can take your list of addresses and pin point them on maps for you helping in routing and sales territories development. Realtors already use the GIS Office to help promote the sale of properties in Liberty County.

We are proud to say that our aeriels, 2' contours and LIDAR meet Nation Map Standards. What does that mean? The data meets the closeness or nearness of the measurements to the true or actual placement on the earth's surface as set by the U.S. Bureau of the Budget. The vertical accuracy is + or - one foot



and horizontal is + or - 6 inches. We are working on acquiring other data to that standard.

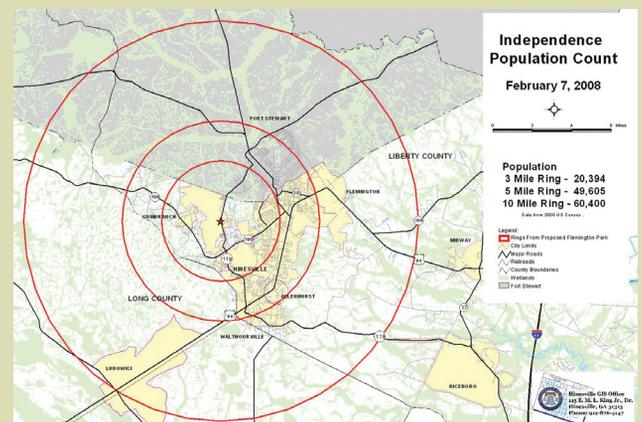
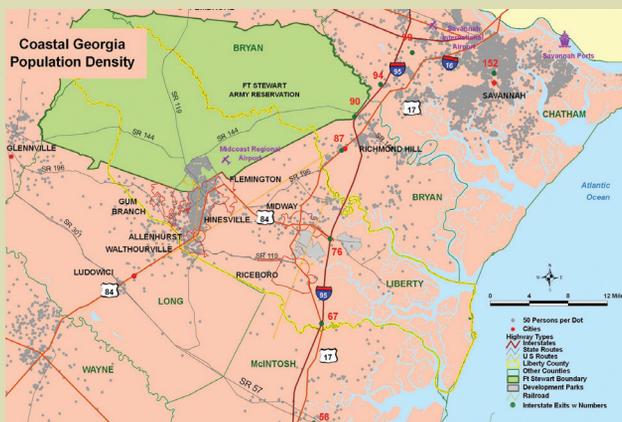
We are planning in the near future, the creation of other GIS data files, which could include building coverage, pavement area, sidewalks, light poles and edge of streets.

Map Facts

City of Hinesville has in the GIS database as of February 1, 2008:

- City of Hinesville is 13,510 acres or 21.11 square miles.
- City has 148 miles of roads.
- The number of manholes is 3,308.
- The length of sewer lines is 164 miles.
- The length of water lines is 170 miles.

The Hinesville GIS Office is located in city hall and is open Monday thru Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. We have the most up to date street maps in town! To learn more about GIS, you can go to website: [www. GIS.com](http://www.GIS.com). For more information about the Hinesville GIS Office, please call 912-876-4147.



Fire Department

The City of Hinesville's Fire Department continually seeks ways to provide the best service to its citizens. In 2004 two goals were met that drastically improved the service we provide: the opening of our second station and the lowering of our Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating.

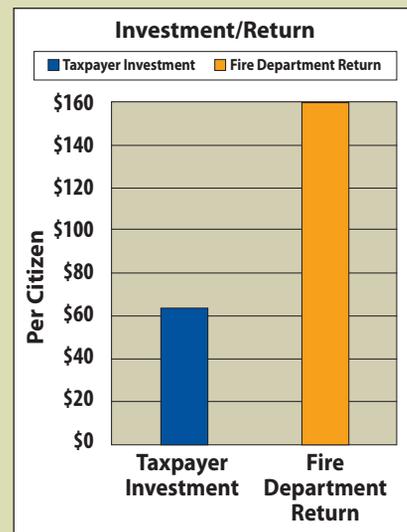
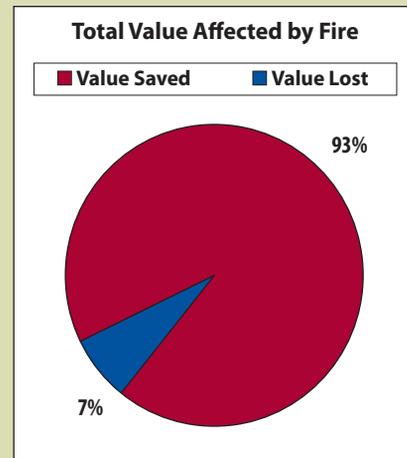
In 2004, the Hinesville Fire Department opened Station 2 on the west side of the city. The station was strategically placed to meet the residential growth in that area. With this opening, the department was able to expand its ability to provide protection to its citizens and reduce the amount of time that it took to respond to incidents in the western areas of the city.

Also in 2004, the City of Hinesville Fire Department's ISO PPC rating went from a Class 5 to a Class 3. This allowed the citizens of the City of Hinesville to save on the cost of homeowner's insurance premiums.

As a result of these achievements, the Hinesville Fire Department has produced a return in the tax payer's investment with the fire department. In 2007, the budget for the fire department was \$2,387,239 and the population of the city was 36,420 citizens. The average cost per capita for fire protection was \$66. During that year, the fire department responded to 2,274 incidents, 51 of which involved fire in structures. The total value of the property that was responded to in these 51 incidents was \$6,701,927. Calculated into percentages, 93% of all the property involved in fire that the Hinesville Fire Department responded to was saved. This percentage represents the total property saved from those incidents to be \$5,781,338.

In terms of percentages and investments, \$66 per citizen to investment, \$159 per citizen returned, which equals 242% return on taxpayer investment. These are the kinds of numbers that most would like to see on the stock market.

The outstanding service provided by the Hinesville Fire Department is the product of the commitment of the mayor, city council members; and the dedication of its employees to the citizens of the City of Hinesville.



Police Recruiting and Training

WITH PRIDE WE SERVE - This is more than a motto—it is the philosophy around which the Hinesville Police Department has been molded. Each day, our officers strive to improve the quality of life for our citizens. The Hinesville Police Department is committed to providing the people of Hinesville with the most professional, efficient and effective police service possible.

Through a strong tradition of progressive policing and excellence, the Hinesville Police Department has become an organization of which officers and the public alike can be proud. The public trust, support, and confidence are not taken lightly. Every member of our department is dedicated to serving and protecting the citizens of Hinesville.

To assure the best possible police officer candidates, there are a number of requirements in the recruiting and selection process. Each prospective candidate must be age 18 or older, be a U.S. citizen, be a high school or GED graduate, have a valid Georgia driver's license, have been honorably discharged if ever in the military, have no criminal background, have a good driving record, and undergo a complete background check. Additionally, candidates are required to take a written examination, successfully complete a physical ability test, pass a psychological screening, pass a polygraph examination and have an interview with the Chief of Police. At this point, candidates with acceptable scores will be considered for employment and undergo an employment physical and be scheduled to take the police academy entrance exam.

New police recruits will be sworn in by Mayor James Thomas and begin receiving an annual starting salary of \$31,460, plus numerous benefits including



Officer Fernando George: "During my eleven years with the Hinesville Police Department, I have enjoyed working with my fellow officers and interacting with the citizens of Hinesville. Being retired military, and now living and working in the Hinesville community, I find great satisfaction in still serving the public."

paid holidays and vacations, uniform allowance, and excellent retirement benefits. Recruits will then begin 11 weeks of Mandate Training at the Georgia Public Safety Training Academy, Savannah location. Training includes:

- 40 hours of firearms training
- 24 hours of emergency vehicle operations
- 16 hours of Georgia criminal law
- 34 hours of criminal procedures
- 12 hours of accident reporting
- 16 hours of crime scene processing
- 12 hours of vehicle pullovers
- 16 hours of judgmental shooting

Starting salary of \$31,460.62
Paid sick, vacation and holiday leave
Monthly uniform allowance
Take-home vehicle for Hinesville residents
Disability coverage
Excellent retirement benefits



After graduation from the police academy, new police recruits will undergo a minimum of six weeks in the departmental Field Training Officer Program. Under the guidance of a certified Field Training Officer, new recruit officers will put the skills obtained in the police academy to use on the street. Each recruit officer will complete a comprehensive checklist of tasks to assure the trainer that they have mastered the basic police skills. Recruits will be rated daily on how well they utilize those skills on the job. Upon their completion of this phase of training, when they have reached an acceptable level of competence, recruits are now prepared for an assignment as a solo beat officer.

Police Recruiting and Training

Training, however, continues with an annual state training requirement per calendar year. The Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training Council requires each officer to attend 20 hours of training annually to maintain their certification.

- 2 hours must be firearms qualification with a minimum score of 80%
- 18 hours of other subject matter: recommended topics: legislative updates, elder abuse, and domestic violence.

The Hinesville Police Department has seven certified instructors, qualified to teach different types of classes, general instruction as well as specialty instruction such as firearms and radar training.

Officers in specialized units may receive additional training in firearms, defensive tactics, accident investigation, or underwater recovery. The Underwater Search and Recovery Team is comprised of officers from the Police Department and the Fire Department. All of the divers have volunteered for this duty and supply their own equipment. Members are called out to search and rescue missions throughout Southeast Georgia. Training is conducted quarterly in lakes, rivers, ponds, or swimming pools to refresh divers' skills and to keep them actively involved in rescue and recovery techniques.

Certain events call for other types of training. The photos above and to the right are samples of the classroom and hands-on training officers completed in preparation for the G-8 Summit.

The Hinesville Police Department, in an effort to retain trained and experienced officers, has created a system to provide officers with opportunities to advance in responsibility and rank. As officers complete additional requirements in the areas of time in service, performance and specific training they become



eligible for advancement to Senior Patrol Officer and Corporal. These positions give the officers the privilege of rank designations (one stripe for S.P.O. and two for Corporal) and advances in pay. The department believes that these rewards will act as incentives for the officers to continue to work for the department and give the citizens the benefit of having seasoned officers to respond to their needs.



Hinesville Public Utilities

The Hinesville Public Utilities Department performs tasks related to the City's drinking water and sanitary sewer. Those tasks include the following operations and maintenance departments: Water Treatment, Water Distribution, Wastewater Collection, Wastewater Treatment (two facilities), Re-use Water Distribution, Meter Reading, Utility Maintenance, and Inflow & Infiltration Inspections. These tasks are completed by a staff of 35 full-time employees.

Water System

The Hinesville water system's water is supplied by four groundwater wells that are permitted for withdrawal from the Floridian Aquifer. The water system is permitted by the State of Georgia to withdraw an Annual Daily Average of 4.0 million gallons of water per day and a Monthly Daily Average of 4.5 million gallons of water per day. The water is treated for consumption by addition of chlorine for disinfection and by the addition of fluoride for oral hygiene protection. The treated water is stored in six elevated storage tanks throughout the City for distribution as the demand dictates. The elevated storage tanks are inspected on an aggressive schedule to ensure their safety and structural integrity are maintained at the highest possible levels. The water system is sampled on a daily basis by our State certified personnel to ensure it is being operated within the guidelines set forth by the State of Georgia Environmental Protection Division. The status of the water system testing is available to the citizens each year through our Consumer Confidence Report.

Meter Reading activities are performed on a monthly basis to work in conjunction with the monthly billing process. The meters are read utilizing a Touch Read process where the meter reader attaches an electronic probe to a transmitter on top of the water meter boxes at each residence or business. Once all readings are gathered they are transmitted into the City's billing system electronically for final processing

Utility Maintenance

This department is responsible for the preventive and corrective maintenance tasks related to the proper operation of all potable water and wastewater functions. These tasks are tracked by a Computerized Maintenance Management System which produces weekly tasks to be performed on all equipment to ensure they are



maintained to a level of maximum efficiency. These type tasks ensure the longest possible life of service for each piece of equipment which in turn lowers the City's operating and repair/replacement costs.

Wastewater Treatment

Hinesville's wastewater treatment needs are currently being accomplished at the Hinesville/Fort Stewart Regional W.P.C.P located on Fort Stewart. This facility treats all of the wastewater from Hinesville as well as all of the domestic wastewater from Fort Stewart's main garrison area. This facility is permitted by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to treat a Daily Average of 7.15 million gallons per day. The treated water from this facility is discharged into Taylor Creek.

The City is currently finalizing construction of a new wastewater treatment facility in the western part of the City which will provide an additional 2.0 million gallons per day of treatment capacity. The Hinesville Water Reclamation Facility should come on-line in early 2008. This additional capacity will help meet the growing needs of the community. This facility will treat the wastewater to a much higher standard than most other facilities. The water treated at this facility will meet re-use water quality standards and will be transported to many areas of the city and be available for customers to use for irrigation purposes. This system, known as a non-potable re-use system or "purple pipe system", is crucial to the city's long-range water usage plan. Beneficial re-use of our water is critical for the protection of our water. Our city has been recognized by Governor Perdue for its forward-thinking with this facility and for being the first coastal community to exhibit this level of commitment to the protection of our resources.

Community Development Department

The mission of the Community Development Department is to seek and secure grant funding from both private and public grant sources to help facilitate the strategic goals of the City of Hinesville.

The development of the Irene B. Thomas Park is one of the City's hallmark environmental and recreational projects. The Park enhances opportunities for outdoor avocations and helps the City further protect and positively regard the environmental resources that citizens enjoy and value.

The walking trail surrounding the majestic pond supports the City's goal of increased recreational and fitness venues for the community. Park benches, adequate lighting, a pavilion for picnics, a boating ramp for recreational fishing, and a playground for youth are all value-added amenities to the Irene B. Thomas Park.

Irene B. Thomas Park



the Hinesville area. Mrs. Thomas later purchased the property, where the Park is currently situated, from the Martin family.

The City of Hinesville is grateful for the generosity of the descendants of Mrs. Irene B. Thomas, an African American matriarch of two of Liberty County's most prominent civic leaders, [her grandsons, The Honorable Charles Frasier (first African American elected official in Hinesville) and The Honorable Henry Frasier, Sr. (former Mayor of Walthourville).]

Development of the Park has cost the City nearly \$450,000; the costs have been largely defrayed by resources provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Irene B. Thomas Park is scheduled for public use July 2008.



Did you know that the Community Development Dept. has secured over \$4.5M in total grant funds for the City of Hinesville in the past 4 years?

The Park is named in honor of the late Mrs. Irene Baker Thomas who was born circa 1878 to the late Israel and Mary Baker in the Taylor's Creek area. Forced to leave Fort Stewart in 1943, she settled in

Groundbreaking Ceremony with City, County, & State Elected Officials



Irene B. Thomas Park



Drought

Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Declares Level One in South Georgia

Drought is a natural disaster. Georgia is facing one of the most severe droughts in history. Our rivers and reservoirs are at record lows, and many of our communities face water shortages that could challenge their ability to meet water supply needs. Now is the time for all Georgians to take steps to conserve water in their homes, schools, and places of business.

The director of the Georgia EPD has declared a level one-drought response across South Georgia and



will require all Georgians to follow more stringent outdoor water use schedule.

Under a declared **Drought Response Level One**, outdoor water use may occur on scheduled days within the hours of 12:00 midnight to 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight.

- Scheduled days for odd-numbered addresses are Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.
- Scheduled days for even-numbered or unnumbered addresses and golf course fairways are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.
- Use of hydrants for any purpose other than firefighting, public health, safety or flushing is prohibited.

More information about the outdoor water use schedules or changes in declared level can be found on the following websites:

www.gaepd.org
www.conservewatergeorgia.net

Detailed information on the drought can be found at: www.georgiadrought.org



waterSmart is a program of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' EPD in partnership with the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. *waterSmart* seeks to conserve water in Georgia by encouraging reductions in outdoor water use. It offers simple tips and tools for maintaining healthy landscapes while using less water. Visit their website at www.waterSmart.net

City of Hinesville Contact Information



CITY OF HINESVILLE

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| City Hall (Direct Line) | 912-876-3564 | Finance Department | 912-876-3564 |
| Hearing Impaired City Hall | 912-876-4229 | Fire Department | 912-876-4143 |
| Mayor's Office | 912-876-3564 | Police Department | 912-368-8211 |
| City Council | 912-876-3564 | Human Resources | 912-876-3564 |
| Administration | 912-876-3564 | Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission | 912-408-2030 |
| Business License & Delinquent Taxes | 912-876-3564 | Municipal Court | 912-368-8211 |
| City Clerk | 912-876-3564 | Planning & Zoning Office | 912-408-2030 |
| Department of Community Development | 912-876-3164 | Public Works Department | 912-876-8216 |
| Department of Inspections | 912-876-4147 | Water Department | 912-876-3564 |

OTHER FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Animal Control | 912-876-9191 | Passports | 912-876-3625 |
| Birth Certificates/ Marriage License/Gun Permits | 912-876-3635 | Public Health Department | 912-876-2173 |
| Board of Education | 912-876-2161 | Social Security Administration (Savannah) | 800-772-1213 |
| Driver's License | 912-370-2604 | Soil Testing (County Extension Service) | 912-876-2133 |
| Emergency Management Agency | 912-368-2201 | Vehicle Registration & Car Tags | 912-876-3389 |
| Georgia Department of Labor | 912-370-2595 | Voter's Registration | 912-876-3310 |

www.cityofhinesville.org



The heart of your city is just a click away.

Visit the City of Hinesville's website, a fast and convenient means of keeping in touch with your local government. Review issues, download forms, print agendas, and find special events and programs. You can be connected to the heart of your city, any time of the day.

Hinesville
GEORGIA | USA
EST. 1837

115 East Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Hinesville, GA 31313

Postal Patron

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
US Postage
PAID
Permit #144
Statesboro, GA