



# HINESVILLE

GEORGIA



*"Home for a Day or a Lifetime"*



Postal Patron  
PRSRPT STD  
EORWSS  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit #144  
Statesboro, GA



*John was homebound for nearly five years due to anxiety. With the help of his K-9 Battle Buddy Molly, he was able to begin shopping and being in public places again this past year. More information about the K9 Battle Buddies can be found on page 10.*

# 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 have proudly published our Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) or “Citizens Report” since Fiscal Year 2006. Throughout this report, you will find information about the elected officials, services and financial condition of your city.

The financial information contained within this report is extracted from the City’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). In order to provide a comprehensive condensed overview, financial statements are presented in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Further, city funds, which are presented within the Financial Condition and Reporting section, disclose the appropriate fund in which the detail was derived. Component units are not presented in this report.

For the past eleven years the City’s CAFR was 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](http://www.cityofhinesville.org) or by contacting the Finance Department at (912) 876-3564.



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, 2015. 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.

# Letter From The Mayor

Dear Friends of Hinesville,

It is my pleasure to present the 2016 Annual Report to you. We've had a whirlwind year and I can't help but reflect on how far the City of Hinesville has come.

This time last year, the City did not have a strong fund balance, we had experienced relatively flat revenues, increasing expenses and had to compensate with conservative budgeting and a millage rate that was 11.51, at that time, an increase of 1.01 mills over Fiscal Year 2014 rate.



Today, I am proud to report that the City is in sound fiscal shape and current budget is .5 percent higher than it was six years ago. This demonstrates that we kept our spending in check. We have not experienced a reduction in our expenses and we are doing more than ever as a city, which means we are doing more and spending less.

One of the biggest attributes to the financial state of the City, in addition to strategic leadership and a conservative stance on expense management, is SPLOST. In the past, we have deferred some capital purchases due its absence, but now, we can make these purchases as well as continue to service debt without having to take money out of the General Fund.

This year, the City expects \$1,054,000 for Fiscal Year 2017 from SPLOST. This only reflects seven months since merchants did not start collecting funds until April. SPLOST was also a contributing factor in allowing the City to lower the millage rate to 11.00, a reduction of half a mill over the last year and I feel confident that we will be able to continue to lower that.

Despite having to increase the millage rate to 11.51 after SPLOST did not pass in 2014, the trend over the last 20 years has remained fairly consistent and the sentiment that it has increased dramatically over the last five years is simply not true.

In Fiscal Year 2015, we took a hit when we projected sales tax receipts to increase and then they did not. Sales tax makes up 20 percent of our general fund budget and is the second largest revenue source next to property taxes. The new Oglethorpe Square shopping center will certainly give the City a strong position in terms of sales tax. It is my personal belief that Oglethorpe Square will be a catalyst for continued growth in Hinesville and along with the passing of SPLOST, serves as a testament for how well our community works together to achieve high levels of success.

Despite hurricanes, tropical storms and the typical challenges that municipalities tend to face on a day-to-day basis; the City of Hinesville has come out stronger this last year than I have seen it before. I am blessed to be your mayor and grateful for the opportunity to continue to lead our great City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allen Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Allen Brown, Mayor

# Message From The City Manager

Dear Residents and Visitors:

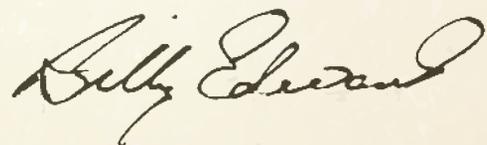
It is with great pleasure and pride that we present to you the 11th Popular Annual Financial Report, more commonly referred to as the PAFR. I use the term pride because for the 10th consecutive year the City of Hinesville PAFR for fiscal year ending October 31, 2015 (submitted by our Finance Department to the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)) received the GFOA Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award. This award is given to those governments that produce high quality reports designed to provide the general public readily accessible, easily read information relative to the governmental entity's financial position.

I am also proud to report that the City has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the GFOA for our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for fiscal year ending October 31, 2015. The City has received this recognition for 11 consecutive years. Both of these awards are a testament to the level of professionalism exhibited by our Finance Department. They, like our other City departments, continue to serve you with the highest level of professional integrity and efficiency. Kudos to all that work diligently on these efforts.

During fiscal year 2016, our financial position continued to improve, primarily as a result of careful expense management. As a result our combined governmental funds balance improved by \$716,464 to \$4,135,279. Of that number 72 percent or \$2,976,351 is available should an unforeseen set of circumstances occur. Our financial policies call for us to maintain an unassigned fund balance equal to 25 percent of our annual budget after capital purchases are subtracted. Our current unassigned fund balance is equal to 16.25 percent of our current budget excluding capital purchases, so you can see that we are on a strong financial footing and continue to make headway toward our goal.

If you would like to review in greater detail our financial documents, our annual CAFR is posted to our website and can be reviewed in its' entirety under the Finance Department page of the City website [www.cityofhinesville.org](http://www.cityofhinesville.org)

With warm regards,



Billy Edwards,  
City Manager





## District 1

**Diana F. Reid**

[district1@cityofhinesville.org](mailto:district1@cityofhinesville.org)

“It’s my humble pleasure continually serving you. Together we have made great strides towards strengthening our community! We still have much work ahead, but I am up for the task. If you need me, be assured I am only a phone call away. And as always, to God be the Glory!”

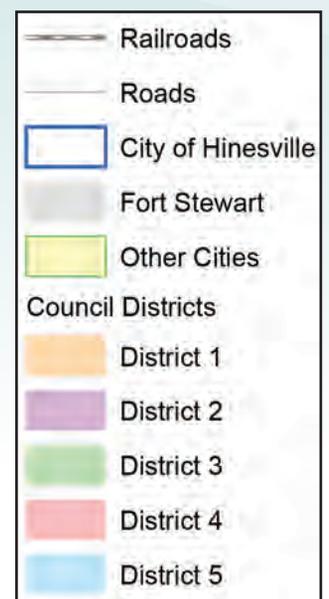
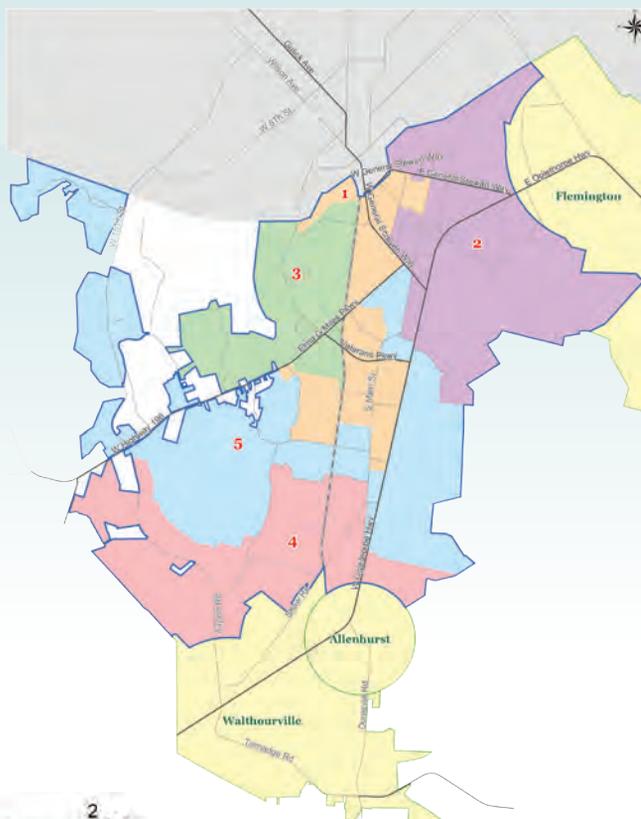


## District 2

**Jason Floyd**

[district2@cityofhinesville.org](mailto:district2@cityofhinesville.org)

“I would like to thank the Citizens of Hinesville for their continued support of the City. The City is proud of the services they provide the Citizens and I hope you enjoy the Annual Financial Report so you can see how your tax dollars are put to work. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as a council member.”





## District 3

**Vicky Nelson**

[district3@cityofhinesville.org](mailto:district3@cityofhinesville.org)

“I am grateful for the opportunity to not only serve the citizens of District 3, but of all of Hinesville. I let the voices of my constituents drive me and I feel confident that my work thus far has been a reflection of that. I am honored to be a member of the City’s leadership and collectively, we work daily to make Hinesville a better place for everyone. Thank you for your continued confidence. “A gem is not polished without rubbing nor a person perfect without trials.”

“Greetings Constituents of District Four,  
It has been a distinct privilege serving you for over eight years. Our district is diverse and with promising growth for the future, it is my desire to advocate for new development and infrastructure upgrades. This is why I am encouraging you to learn more about SPLOST and various initiatives through things like community meetings. Let’s work together to improve our district and our city.”



## District 4

**Keith Jenkins**

[district4@cityofhinesville.org](mailto:district4@cityofhinesville.org)

“I am blessed to serve you and all citizens of Hinesville. Behind the success of every great city are great citizens that get involved and show interest in their community, which is why I will continue to remain accessible through my participation in neighborhood watches. With your support and with God by my side, I will continue to serve and do the right thing for our city.”



## District 5

**Kenneth Shaw**

District 5, Mayor Pro Tem

[district5@cityofhinesville.org](mailto:district5@cityofhinesville.org)

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

# Community Development Department

On Friday, March 10, 2017, the Hinesville Development Authority (HDA) held the official Grand Opening Ceremony for Oglethorpe Square, the newest, premier shopping and dining destination for the City of Hinesville and surrounding cities.

This historical initiative began in October of 2015 with a public, private partnership between the HDA and Oglethorpe Square, LLC. It was through progressive leadership, months of dedicated effort and collaboration from all entities involved that led the project to break ground on May 5, 2016.

The project is boasted to be the largest retail development in the history of Hinesville. The complex features more than 179,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space that perfectly unites shopping destinations and an eclectic range of dining options.

Oglethorpe Square will have a significant impact on the local economy by producing more than 250 full-time equivalent job opportunities and boosting the annual property and sales tax revenue. It is projected that the development will generate over \$55 million in retail sales in the first year, approximately \$307,000 in property tax revenue annually and an estimated \$17 million in annual payroll dollars that will be added back into our community.

Coupled with a thriving population and a social engaged and supportive community, Oglethorpe Square is the perfect place for the citizens of Hinesville to live, work and play.



Photos courtesy Liberty County Chamber of Commerce  
Photographer: Joanna Ng

## Shopping Retailers

Dick's Sporting Goods  
Hobby Lobby  
TJ Maxx  
Ulta Beauty  
PetSmart

## Specialty Shops

Aspen Dental  
Great Clips

## Dining

LongHorn Steakhouse  
Barberitos Grille & Cantina  
Panda Express  
Wayback Burgers  
Chic-Fil-A  
Jersey Mikes  
Starbucks Coffee

# Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

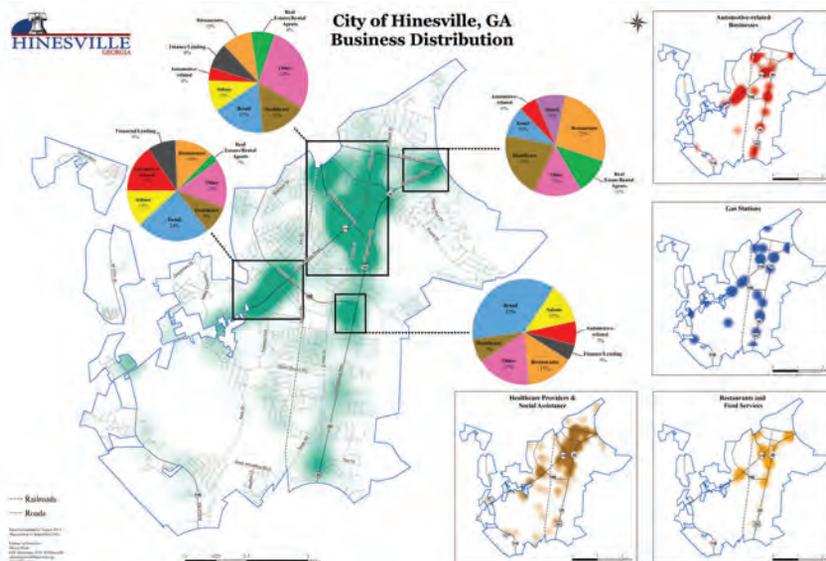
What is Geographic Information Systems (GIS)? Maps are the most publicly viewed portion of our work but our work consists of much more than just making maps. We gather, update and maintain the information used in creating the maps.

Large databases, approximately 250 different layers, are updated and maintained by the City of Hinesville's GIS department. A few examples of these layers are water, sewer, storm water, non-potable water, new roads and realignments, road signs, zoning, council districts, transit, flood zone information and crime data.

The City's GIS department produces weekly crime data maps for the Coastal Courier. We also provide online maps displaying data available to the general public, as well as, a series of secured maps for internal use. At times, the office is even tasked with the production of maps for court cases and police crime investigations.



The GIS department is part of the Inspections Department. We routinely work together with various city departments and local government entities. Through the cooperative



efforts between the GIS office and these other departments and entities, we are able to acquire up-to-date data.

In addition to work done for the city, GIS pursues outreach with the public. Our office hosts GIS Day at City Hall held in November during Geography Awareness Week. The GIS office also participates in career day activities for various Liberty County schools to spread awareness regarding career opportunities in the field of GIS.





Clearing your yard of leaves, branches and lawn clippings can be liberating, but ending up with a giant pile of yard waste is not. Scooping it all into lawn bags and placing it by curb for pickup can be a daunting task, which is why many residents choose to burn it.

Burning yard debris requires a burn permit from the City of Hinesville. The permit, which is required for any type of open burning, can be obtained in a couple of ways. One is to come to Fire Station 1 at 103 Liberty St. where you will provide your name, address and phone number and given a paper permit. You can also obtain a permit by going to [cityofhinesville.org](http://cityofhinesville.org) and filling out a brief form. An electronic copy of the permit will be emailed to the applicant and the fire department. Burn permits are only good for the day listed on the permit and if you are burning more than one day, a permit has to be obtained for each day. Even once a burn permit is obtained, it is important to know the various limitations of burning in the City of Hinesville.

## **Rules regarding burning include:**

- No burning piles higher than 4-feet and no longer than 8-feet.
- No burning tree limbs less than 4-inches in diameter and shorter than 2-feet.
- The fire has to be observed at all times while it is burning by a competent person, 18-years or older.
- Tools needed to control the fire must be with the person attending the fire at all times while the pile is burning. These tools include a rake, shovel and a charged water hose that will reach beyond the burning pile.
- All fire shall be extinguished before sunset on the day of the burning.
- Use of gasoline, diesel fuel and kerosene are prohibited.

## ***Items that permit holders are restricted from burning include:***

- Tree stumps
- Household trash
- Material or substances which emit noxious or poisonous gases such as, but not limited to, rubber tires, batteries, PVC, clothing, sawn lumber and pressure-treated lumber.
- Yards





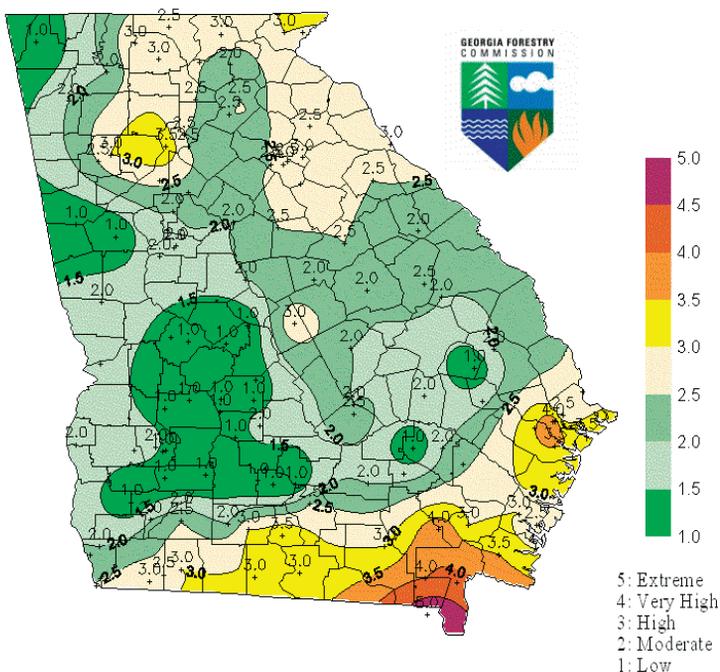
Sometimes, you may want to light a fire for things like a campfire or cooking. A burn permit does not have to be obtained for these purposes, so long as the fire is contained by a fire ring, grill or by other means. However, these fires must also be carefully monitored and be in close proximity to a charged water hose. These types of fires may burn beyond sunset.

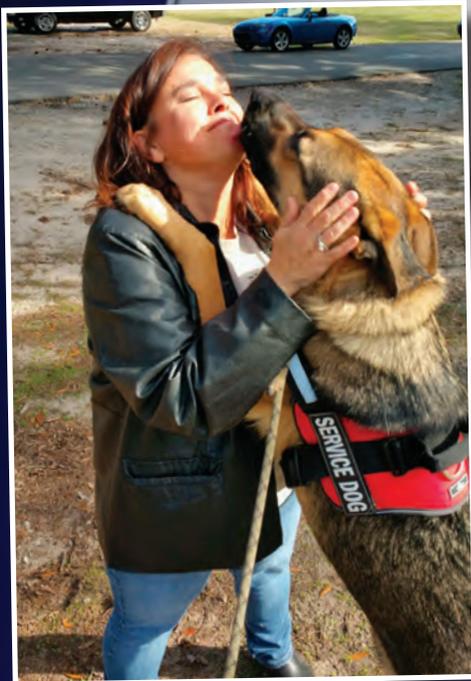
Bonfires, however, are only limited to activities sponsored by a civic, educational, religious or other organized group for the purpose of celebration and require a permit, as well as, an inspection of the area prior to burning. Pending the circumstances, you may be required to have the fire department on site during burning. Like campfires, these fires do not have to be put out before sunset.

There are occasions when even approved means of burning are temporarily restricted. These burn bans usually occur due to various weather conditions including wind or drought. Risk conditions are monitored by the Georgia Forestry Commission and based on that information, Fire Chief, Lamar Cook, makes the final call.

While open burning is useful and sometimes fun, it is important to follow these guidelines and safety precautions so that your small fire doesn't become a big disaster.

## Fire Danger Rating





Gypsy helps socialize the big service dogs in training.

Each time he sees her, service dog Chase thanks Patricia Durham for rescuing him.



Danny and Jake have enjoyed the park.

## Vets, dogs overcome PTSD at Local Park

Everyone needs a calming place to relax. Bryant Commons is that place for many veterans and dogs, where through the K-9 Battle Buddies (K9BB) everyone is building a new life.

On Sunday afternoons, you will see veterans who have Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD), working with their new battle buddies who have been rescued from shelters. Many dogs have been pulled from shelters the day before they were scheduled to be euthanized.

“We check to make sure the dogs have a loving personality,” said Patricia Durham, who has operated K-9 Battle Buddies since 2015. “The program is three steps. We see if

the veteran and dog bond, we help with training for as long as it takes, then they graduate.”

Graduation means the veteran and his/her buddy can go out to eat in a public place with little or no anxiety from either party.

Anxiety and trouble dreams are common for the people with PTSD. Danny recently connected with K9BB and agreed to foster Jack. On Jack’s first night in house, Danny had trouble dreams. Jack instinctively knew he needed to wake up Danny, so he jumped into bed with him and woke up the former soldier. Suddenly the terror stopped.

Eli said dogs saved his life and his



Eli has experienced the benefits of having a K-9 Battle Buddy. Now, he is leading veterans and dogs through training classes.



Riley also has a bond with his father's service dog Ciner.

brother's life. He candidly admitted that he had suicidal thoughts before getting a dog. As a graduate of the program, he is now working with other veterans and their service dogs. It has given him a sense of purpose and put a smile on his face.

When Hurricane Matthew winded the coast last fall, the K9BB were quickly on the scene with a team of dozen volunteers who cleared debris and down trees from the park. They simply said they just wanted to give back to the place that has given them so much.

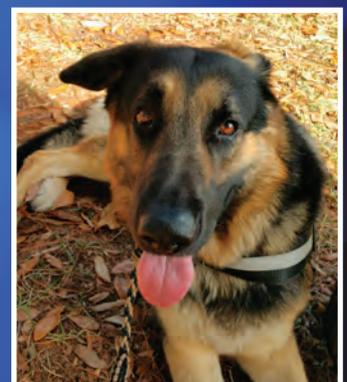
K9BB posts their need for trainers, foster families, supplies and donations on Facebook and their Amazon site.

To qualify for a service dog you must be disabled or have a prescription/

doctor's memo for a service dog, and be able to provide a copy of your DD214, Durham said. Interested veterans can connect to the program through Facebook or their website [www.K9BB.org](http://www.K9BB.org).

Bryant Commons is also the future home of Cisco's Dog Park. Fundraising is currently taking place for the 2.5-acre site in the park. For more information, contact the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority at 912-877-4332.

The Veterans Memorial Walk at Bryant Commons has been under construction since August. There will be a ribbon cutting for the Memorial at 10 a.m. on November 4. For more information, visit their website at [www.veteransmemorialhinesville.com](http://www.veteransmemorialhinesville.com)



Kopitar

# Financial Review of Fiscal Year 2016

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 expenses ("Where the Money Went") for the government as a whole.

## Where the Money Came From...

	Fiscal Year 2015	Fiscal Year 2016
Property Taxes.....	\$7,727,647	\$7,905,591
Sales Taxes.....	3,446,617	3,191,466
Franchise Taxes.....	1,709,285	1,675,154
Insurance Premium Tax.....	1,926,770	2,086,879
Alcoholic Beverage Taxes.....	394,123	415,999
Hotel/Motel Tax.....	180,136	206,998
Other General Revenue.....	<u>114,481</u>	<u>278,522</u>
<b>Total General Revenue.....</b>	<b>15,499,059</b>	<b>15,760,609</b>
Charges for Services.....	15,449,538	15,986,518
Operating Grants.....	1,110,977	847,449
Capital Grants and Contributions.....	<u>527,784</u>	<u>403,131</u>
<b>Total Program Revenues .....</b>	<b>17,088,299</b>	<b>17,237,098</b>
Other Income.....	45,943	45,715
Investment Earnings.....	<u>20,942</u>	<u>21,445</u>
<b>Total Other Income and Transfers.....</b>	<b>66,885</b>	<b>67,160</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b><u>\$32,654,243</u></b>	<b><u>\$33,064,867</u></b>

## Where the Money Went...

	Fiscal Year 2015	Fiscal Year 2016
General Government.....	\$2,671,074	\$2,655,291
Judicial.....	473,800	497,030
Public Safety.....	9,245,840	9,655,137
Public Works.....	3,047,557	3,111,754
Housing and Development.....	1,829,571	1,664,079
Health and Welfare.....	682,611	669,871
Culture and Recreation.....	821,679	832,611
Interest and Fiscal Charges...	<u>351,345</u>	<u>160,528</u>
<b>Total Governmental Activities</b>	<b>19,123,477</b>	<b>19,246,301</b>
Water and Sewer.....	9,170,103	9,420,497
Sanitation.....	2,726,225	2,854,564
Stormwater Utility.....	1,320,860	1,380,540
Transit.....	<u>892,172</u>	<u>687,820</u>
<b>Total Business-type Activities</b>	<b>14,109,360</b>	<b>14,343,421</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>33,232,837</u></b>	<b><u>33,589,722</u></b>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	<b>(578,594)</b>	<b>(524,855)</b>
Net Position - Beginning	85,251,452	84,672,858
<b>Net Position - Ending</b>	<b><u>\$84,672,858</u></b>	<b><u>\$84,148,003</u></b>

## Definitions of Key Terms

### General Revenue

All revenue that is not required to be reported as program revenue. All taxes, even those that are levied for specific purpose, are general revenues and should be reported by type of tax.

### Program Revenue

Revenue derived directly from the program itself or from parties outside the City's taxpayers or citizenry, as a whole. Program revenues reduce the net cost of the function to be financed from the City's general 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.

### Governmental Activities

Activities generally financed through taxes,

intergovernmental revenues, and other non-exchange revenues.

### Net Position

Refers to the difference between assets and deferred outflows and deferred inflows of the City as a whole.

Net positions may be shown in the following three major categories:

#### Net Investment in Capital Assets

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.

#### Net Position Restricted

The component of net position that consists of assets with constraints placed on their use by either external parties or through enabling legislation.

#### Net Positions Unrestricted

The remaining balance of net assets not reports under the other two categories of net postilions.

# Financial Review Of Fiscal Year 2016

The City's total net position is categorized. The largest portion of net position (\$80,640,436) is net investment 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 position (\$1,079,388) represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining portion of the City's net position (\$2,428,179) is unrestricted and may be used to meet the City's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

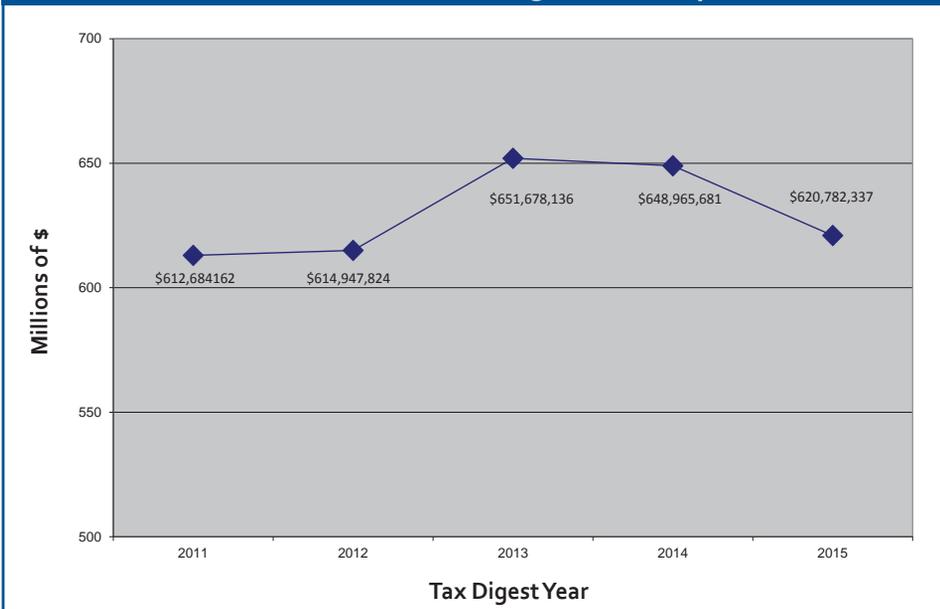
## Property Tax Breakdown



## 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 25¢ of each \$1.00 collected from taxpayers in the City.

## Five Year Gross Digest History



## Property Tax Digest

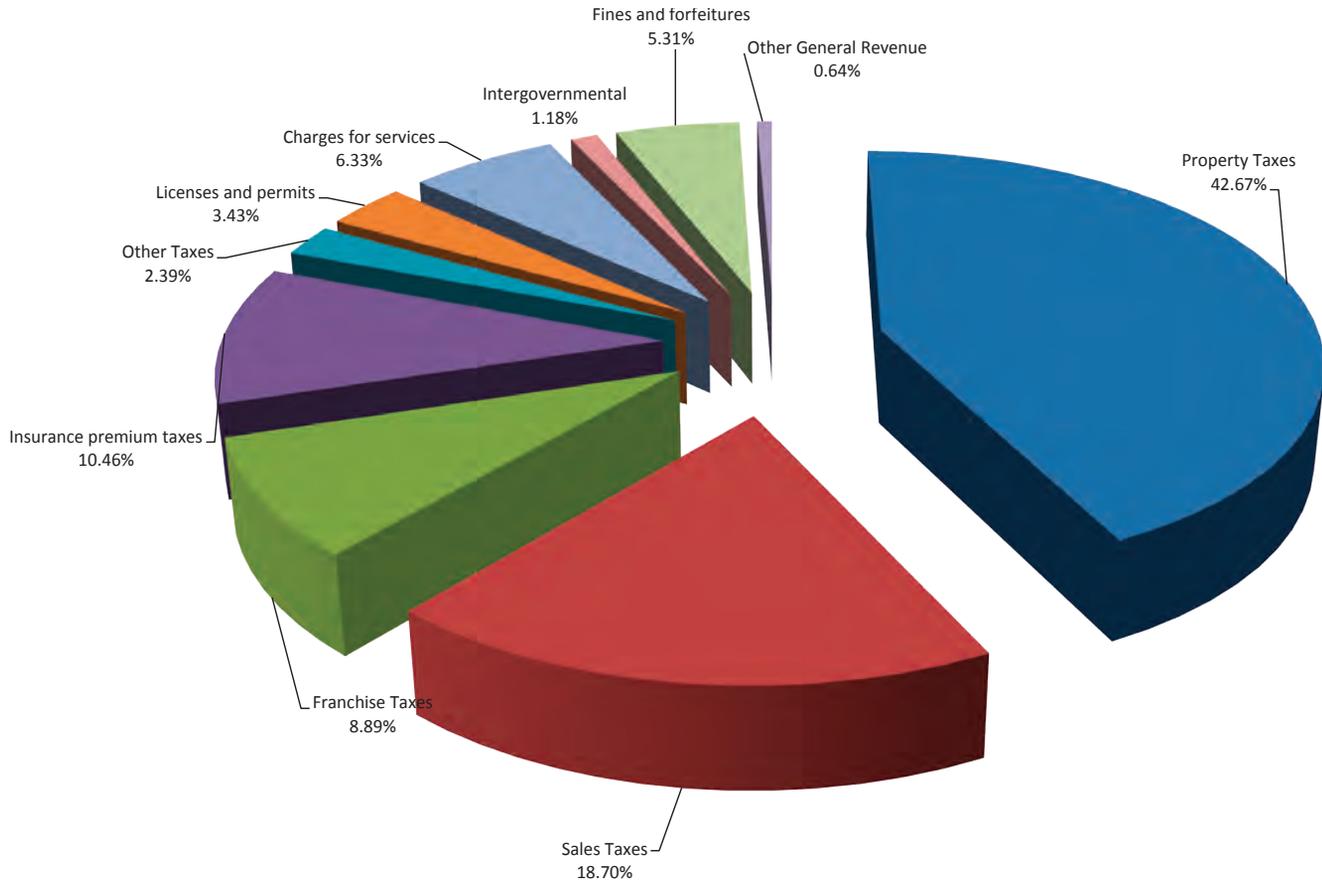
The graph on the left tracks the change in the tax digest over the past five years.

Property tax is the City's single largest source of revenue. 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 9.50 mills, where it remained level through fiscal year 2012. The City increased its millage rate to 10.50 in fiscal year 2013 and increased to 11.51 mills in fiscal year 2015 where it remained in fiscal year 2016.

# Financial Review Of Fiscal Year 2016

For fiscal year ended October 31, 2016, the City of Hinesville received revenues for the General Fund totaling slightly over \$18.5 million. The four largest sources of revenues are Property Taxes, Sales Taxes, Insurance Premium Taxes and Franchise Taxes. The Following section provides a brief description of the City's revenue sources by category:

## General Fund Fiscal Year 2016 Revenues



- Property Taxes 42.67%**  
 Taxes collected from property owners based upon an assessed valuation and tax rate. The dollar amount received is to be used to fund governmental services and debt service on voter approved general obligation bonds.
- Sales and Use Taxes 18.70%**  
 Taxes imposed on the purchase, sale, rental, storage, use or consumption of tangible personal property and related services and are subject to voter approval. Specifically represents the City's portion of the 1% sales and use tax collected.
- Franchise Taxes 8.89%**  
 Taxes imposed on corporations or business for using public property for private purposes.
- Insurance Premium Taxes 10.46%**  
 Taxes levied based on the gross direct premiums collected by all insurance companies doing business in the City.
- Other Taxes 2.39%**  
 Taxes not classified under any other taxes.
- License and permits 3.43%**  
 Fees collected for the issuance of licenses and permits by the City. One of the large components included in this is business licenses.
- Charges for services 6.33%**  
 Fees collected for general government services.
- Intergovernmental 1.18%**  
 Revenue from other governments in the form of operating grants, shared revenues, etc.
- Fines, forfeitures and fees 5.31%**  
 Revenue derived from fines and penalties imposed for the commission of statutory offenses, violation of lawful administrative rules and regulations, for the neglect of official duty, etc.
- Other general revenue .64%**  
 Other revenue received from sale of surplus, investments, or not otherwise classified.



License and permit requirements may seem challenging, but you don't have to figure it out on your own. The Business License Department coordinates the process for transient merchants, peddlers and yard sale permits and obtaining the proper license and permits can be done by stopping by our office inside Hinesville City Hall.

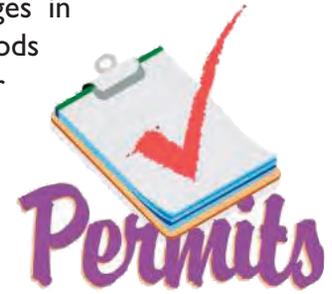
Permitting is done to protect all residents from fraudulent activity and safety hazards, as well as to educate you on state and local laws and requirements for operating a business. All permits for solicitation for charitable and/or religious purposes, parades and/or assembly may also be obtained through the Business License Department.

## Here is some helpful information to help you navigate the process:

1. Transient merchant means any person who engages in a business selling good, wares, merchandise, food, drink or other items or services occasionally or temporarily within the city and who, in furtherance of such purpose, hires, leases, uses or occupies any building, structure, or place within the city.

2. A peddler is any person, who, whether a resident of the city or not, has no permanent regular place

in the city, and who engages in the business of selling goods or offering to sell goods or services by going from door to door and place to place within the city.



3. An applicant who wishes to have a private yard sale may have no more than three (3) yard sales per calendar year and continuing no more than two consecutive days per sale. There is no cost for a private yard sale permit.

4. Any public assembly, parade, demonstration, march, ceremony, exhibition, or other like event, either fixed or processional involving individuals gathering for a common purpose due to either prior planning or spontaneous gathering on public streets or spaces require a permit approved by the Chief of Police. Permit request must be turned in 20 days prior to the planned event.

5. No fee is required for a Solicitor for Charitable or Religious Purposes Permit. Applicants must attach a copy of the corporate charter and by-laws, or a copy of the tax exempt status 501-(C)(3) letter from the IRS; or have maintained in the city a continuous existence as a charitable or religious organization for a period of one year prior to the date of application submittal.

6. To apply for a car wash permit, the car wash must be located and operated on property owned or leased by the charitable organization authorized to conduct the car wash.

Prices for licenses and permits vary based on location and the nature of business. For more information on permitting procedures, please feel free to visit our website at [www.cityofhinesville.org](http://www.cityofhinesville.org) > Departments > Business License Office > Business License Forms. Please take the time to obtain the necessary licensing and permits. We look forward to serving you.



The Hinesville Police Department is taking full advantage of social media as a crime fighting tool. A recent case worked by patrol and the detectives division shows how the community and law enforcement can come together, via social media, to solve crime.

In early January, a rash of package thefts in the Griffin Park Subdivision prompted the department to publish a description of the suspect on its Facebook page. Although there was minimal information to go on, the next morning, an officer received a tip from a concerned citizen who had seen the lookout and thought the suspect could be located at an address near Griffin Park. Officers responded to the area and found numerous opened packages addressed to victims in the backyard of the residence and even more in the cargo area of a vehicle parked at the residence. The suspect was identified and subsequently arrested, but the investigation continued.

The suspect was ultimately linked to thefts in Liberty, Bryan and Chatham counties. A search warrant was

obtained and a storage unit rented by the suspect was opened; a cache of property was found and returned to the victims.

More recently, a photograph of a suspect wanted for failure to appear was placed on the HPD's Facebook page and within 24 hours, she turned herself in at the police department because she wanted her picture taken down from the website. Apparently, she received a lot of calls letting her know she was wanted by local police.

A positive relationship between law enforcement and the community is a pivotal factor in solving crime. With social media, it is now easier than ever to report crime while maintaining your anonymity.

If you have information that may help solve a crime, or just have a concern you would like to see addressed, please visit the Hinesville Police Department Facebook page just by simply searching "Hinesville Police Department." Leave a comment or if you wish, you can send a private message and we will respond promptly. Don't forget to like our page!

# Public Works

On October 10, 2016, the City Council of the City of Hinesville unanimously voted to award the public works, utilities operations and maintenance contract to ESG Operations, Inc. By the time November 1 rolled around, residents not only saw new shirts around town, but they saw a company whose priority wasn't just to continue quality management and maintenance of the City's water, sewer and wastewater treatment facilities, as well as services pertaining to streets and drainage, stormwater, parks and grounds, fleet maintenance, mosquito control, sanitation, meter reading and construction maintenance, but a company who was willing to go the extra mile to define their footprint in the Hinesville community.

An opportunity was immediately found at Main Street Park. According to lifelong local and ESG Assistant Project Director Gary Gilliard, the park was not a reflection of the Hinesville he knew and loved. "The park needed a major overhaul," explained Gilliard. "ESG sent four employees to the park every day for four weeks." 160-man-hours later, Main Street Park was transformed back into the downtown leisure park that it was always intended to be and it now sends a powerful message that the City of Hinesville is not just another ESG contract, but a true home for the company who has embraced the City's diverse beauty and culture.

"Cleaning the park up sends a powerful message to anyone watching the community that ESG is committed to becoming an integral part of the Hinesville community," said ESG Operations Project Director Ray Richard.

## Before



## After



# Flood Protection Information

In 2013, the City of Hinesville voluntarily began participating in a FEMA program administered by the Insurance Services Office to improve floodplain management services that results in savings to its residents. Since entering the program, over \$158,000 of savings has been realized by property owners in Hinesville through CRS Premium Discounts on their Flood Hazard Insurance Premiums.

## Flooding can happen to you... Are you prepared?

Many people don't consider the likelihood of flooding in our city but it can happen! Several sources of flooding exist in our city, and our goal at the City of Hinesville is to ensure you are safe from the potential damages of flooding. Even if your property is not in a special flood hazard area, take a look at these checklists to make sure you're safe.

### Know Your Local Flood Hazard

- Check your flood hazard by viewing flood maps and flood protection references in the Hinesville Department of Inspections and Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission offices.
- If you are in a Special Flood Hazard Area or have had flooding issues, drainage, or sewer backup problems or would like information about local flood hazard maps and permit requirements, visit or call the Hinesville Department of Inspections at (912) 876-4147.
  - Request for the Hinesville Public Works Department to visit your property free of charge to review flood problems and explain ways to stop flooding or prevent flood damage. Call Public Works at (912) 876-8216.

### Protect Yourself from Flooding

- Sign-up for emergency alert information from the City of Hinesville at [www.cityofhinesville.org](http://www.cityofhinesville.org) (Click on the "Notify Me Signup" button). Visit [www.libertycountyga.com/alertliberty](http://www.libertycountyga.com/alertliberty) to complete the Citizen Alert Notification Signup from Liberty County EMA.
- Visit [www.libertycountyga.com/alertliberty](http://www.libertycountyga.com/alertliberty) to complete the Citizen Alert Notification Signup from Liberty County EMA.
- Have a plan in place for your family to gather when an evacuation order is issued

### Protect Your Property from Flooding

- Regrade your lot
- Build a small floodwall or earthen berm
- Make your walls waterproof
- Place watertight closures over the doorways
- Raise the house above flood levels
- Talk to a plumber about overhead sewers or a backup valve for deeper sewer backup flooding

### Build Responsibly

Get a permit from the Hinesville Department of Inspections before you build to ensure your structure is up to code and safe from flooding. For example, all projects should be at least 10 feet from the property line so you don't alter the drainage between homes.

Improvement requirements and procedures as well as information on enforcement can be found online at [www.cityofhinesville.org](http://www.cityofhinesville.org) in City of Hinesville Code of Ordinances, Part II, Sec. 5-276 or by contacting the Hinesville Department of Inspections.

The NFIP requires that if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvements to a building equals or exceeds 50% of the building's market value, then the building must meet the same construction requirements as a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must be brought up to the same standards (e.g. a residence damaged so that the cost of repairs equals or exceeds 50% of the building's value before it was damaged must be elevated above the base flood elevation).



## **Flood Safety**

### ***Before the flood...***

- Purchase flood insurance for yourself and encourage renters to buy flood insurance for their content. Take advantage of a low-cost Preferred Risk Policy.
- List all your personal property
- Keep your policy and your list of personal property in a safe place
- Learn the safest route from your home or place of business to a high, safe ground

### ***If the flood comes...***

- Keep a battery-operated radio tuned to a local station and follow all instructions
- Turn off all utilities at the main switch, if time permits
- Move valuable contents to a higher level, if time permits
- Avoid already flooded areas. Do not attempt to cross any stretch of flood waters on foot if the water is above your knees
- Do not drive where water is over the roads. In floods, cars can become coffins!
- If by mistake you find yourself driving in water and the car stalls, get out of the car and climb to high ground immediately
- If you are caught in the house, move to the second floor and/or, if necessary, the roof. Wait for help; do not try to swim to safety

### ***After the flood...***

- Call your insurance agent or broker
- Have your insurance policy and your list of possessions to simplify the adjuster's work
- Be sure that the structure is not in danger of collapsing before you enter
- Open windows and doors to let air circulate
- Do not strike a match or use a flame when you enter the structure
- Begin clean-up as soon as possible
- Make any temporary repairs necessary to stop further losses from the elements or from looting

# Hinesville Municipal Court

This year, the Municipal Court started a new program where assistance has been offered to collect unpaid fines to the court.

In 2014, the law was passed where the Judicial Council's Administrative Office of the Courts is authorized by O.C.G.A. § 48-7-163 to submit debts on behalf of courts to the Georgia Department of Revenue for collection. This is known as the Tax Refund Intercept Program (TRIP). The program considers judgments over seven years old to be expired; intercepts are active until they expire or collected entirely.

The law, which was signed by Gov. Nathan Deal on April 14, 2014, applies to debts of more than \$25 owed to a local government. Debts have to be at least 90 days old, with the debtor matched to a Social Security number. The people who owe an old debt have to be notified in advance and will be able to appeal.

The program serves as an incentive to debtors to pay their debts directly to the court. Intercepted funds are returned to the requesting court just as if the judgment were paid directly to the court. This includes add-ons or fees that are assessed by law. A one-time administrative fee of \$20 is added to intercepts to cover costs of the system, administration and notices.

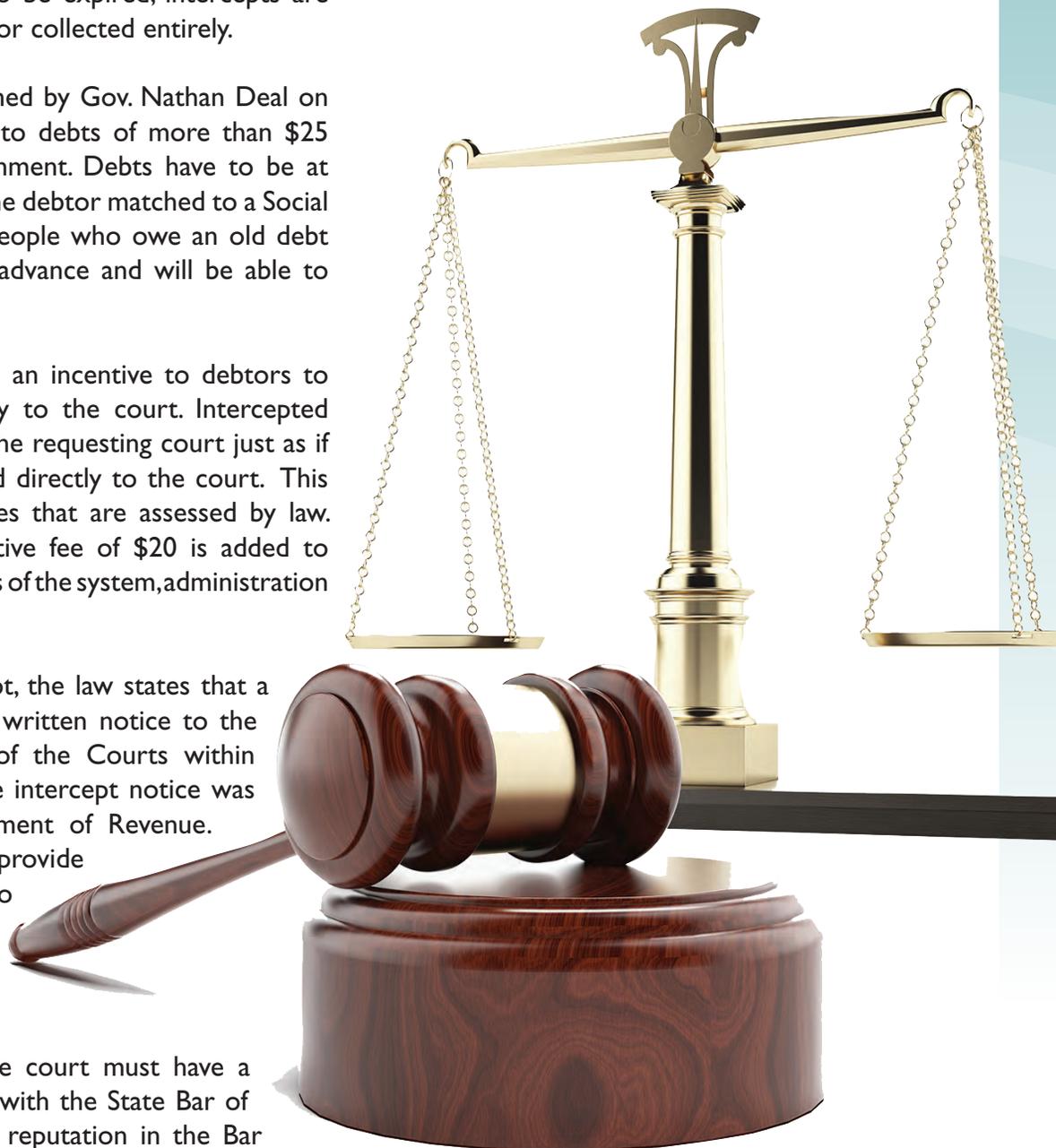
To contest the intercept, the law states that a taxpayer must provide written notice to the Administrative Office of the Courts within 30 days of the date the intercept notice was mailed by the Department of Revenue.

The information you provide will be forwarded to the requesting court to respond to your issue which in turn, will notify you directly.

If a hearing is held, the court must have a judge in good standing with the State Bar of Georgia and possess a reputation in the Bar

for ethical practice. That hearing officer may be a full-time or part-time magistrate or probate court judge in the county where the hearing is to be held. The hearing officer may be a retired or senior judge, may not advocate for the court and must be impartial.

For more information about the TRIP program or about Municipal Court services please contact us at 912-368-8206.



# City Of Hinesville Contact Information



## Contact Information

City Hall (Direct Line)	912-876-3564	Downtown Development Authority	912-877-4332
City Hall (Hearing Impaired)	912-876-4229	Finance Department	912-876-3564
Mayor's Office	912-876-3564	Fire Department	912-876-4143
City Council	912-876-3564	Police Department	912-368-8211
Administration	912-876-3564	Human Resources	912-876-3564
Business License	912-876-3564	Municipal Court	912-368-8206
City Clerk	912-876-3564	Planning & Zoning Office	912-408-2030
Department of Community Development	912-876-3164	Public Relations	912-876-3564
Department of Inspections	912-876-4147	Public Works Department	912-876-8216
		Water Department	912-876-3564

## Other Frequently Called Numbers

Animal Control	912-876-9191	Liberty Transit	912-877-1472
Birth Certificates/ Marriage License/Gun Permits	912-876-3635	Passports	912-876-3625
Board of Education	912-876-2161	Public Health Department	912-876-2173
Driver's License	912-370-2604	Social Security Administration (Savannah)	800-772-1213
Emergency Management Agency	912-368-2201	Soil Testing (County Extension Service)	912-876-2133
Georgia Department of Labor	912-370-2595	Vehicle Registration & Car Tags	912-876-3389
Homeless Prevention Program	912-876-6573	Voter's Registration	912-876-3310
Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission	912-408-2030		

City Council Meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month in the Council Chamber at Hinesville City Hall beginning at 3:00 p.m. Contact Hinesville City Clerk's Office at (912) 876-3564.

Hinesville Military Affairs Committee Meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month in the Hinesville Police Department Squad Room at 7:00 p.m. Contact Hinesville Military Affairs Committee at (912) 368-8211.

Hinesville Farmers Market every Thursday March through November from 4:00 -7:00 p.m. in Bradwell Park. Contact Hinesville Downtown Development Authority (HDDA) at (912)877-4332.



## 2017 Annual Hinesville Events:

**City of Hinesville's Business After Hours** Thursday, June 15, 2017 from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. in Hinesville City Hall. Contact the City of Hinesville Public Relations Office at (912)876-3564.

**National Night Out** Tuesday, August 2017 (Location TBD). Contact Hinesville Police Department at (912) 876-8211.

**Tied to Success** Saturday, August 26, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Liberty County Performing Arts Center. Contact the Community Development Department at (912)876-6573.

**Blues, Brews and BBQ Festival** Saturday, September 23, 2017 from 1:00 – 11:00 p.m. in downtown Hinesville. Contact Hinesville Area Arts Council at [www.hinesvillearts.com](http://www.hinesvillearts.com).

**Blessing of the Animals** Thursday, October 5, 2017 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. in Bradwell Park at the Hinesville Farmer's Market. Contact the HDDA at (912)877-4332.

**Scarecrow Stroll and Beggar's Night** Friday, October 27, 2017 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. in downtown Hinesville. Contact HDDA at (912) 877-4332.

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's Thanksgiving Service** Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 6 p.m. (Location to be determined). Contact the City of Hinesville Public Relations Office at (912) 876-3564.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration** Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in Bradwell Park. Contact the HDDA at (912)877-4332.

**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Illuminated Christmas Parade** Friday, December 1, 2017 in downtown Hinesville at 6:30 p.m. Contact Liberty County Chamber of Commerce at (912) 368-4445.

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas in the Park** Friday, December 2, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in Downtown Hinesville. Contact Liberty County Chamber of Commerce at (912) 368-4445.

Visit [www.cityofhinesville.org](http://www.cityofhinesville.org) for detailed information on Annual City Events. Information on community events can be found at [www.libertycounty.org](http://www.libertycounty.org)



# HINESVILLE

GEORGIA

*"Home for a day or a lifetime"*

### **Mission Statement**

Our mission is to provide the highest quality of life, nurture a strong business community, and maintain efficient government for the residents of Hinesville.

### **Vision Statement**

Our vision is to be the coastal "southern living" community of choice in Georgia for a day or a lifetime. We are committed to serving our residents with superior organization that demonstrates excellence, responsiveness and efficiency.



### **Find us Online!**

Website: [www.cityofhinesville.org](http://www.cityofhinesville.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/hinesvillega](http://www.facebook.com/hinesvillega) or search City of Hinesville  
Twitter: @HinesvilleGA