Southwest Georgia is home to many picturesque regions and captivating communities, but none so enchanting as Bainbridge and Decatur County. Generations of southerners have witnessed the evolution of this magnificent landscape - rich with Indian lore, scarred by battle, and blessed with beautifully preserved monuments that honor these life changes.

Known for our tree-lined streets and elegant old antebellum and Victorian homes, the town continues to revolve around its central square, Willis Park, which is beautifully maintained. The high clock tower of the Victorian-era Decatur County Courthouse rises above one corner and the surrounding blocks are lined with historic buildings, the majority of them over 100 years old.

Whether you enjoy attending festivals, exploring nature, experiencing the arts, listening to live music, playing sports, or hunting, there is enough to fill up just about every weekend of the year. Both the Flint River and Lake Seminole offer abundant fishing and water sports, attracting thousands of amateur and professional fishermen with many top bass tournaments throughout the year.

Located just 70 miles from Florida beaches, Bainbridge provides easy access to vacation spots and resorts, yet still have plenty to do while in the relaxed environment of a thriving small town in the South.

We invite you to discover Bainbridge and Decatur County!

bainbridgecity.com
decaturcountyga.gov
With its deep agricultural roots and extensive waterways, Decatur County was formed by the Georgia Legislature in 1823 and named for Commodore Stephen Decatur, a naval hero during the War of 1812. Even before that, in 1765, the present site of Bainbridge was an Indian village known as Pucknawhitla. As early as 1778, it became known as Burgess Town, when a trader named James Burgess established a trading post here. Later a federal outpost, it was called Fort Hughes from 1817-1824. After the Seminoles were defeated in battle in late 1824, Fort Hughes was named Bainbridge for Commodore William Bainbridge, Commander of “Old Ironsides” during the War of 1812. Land for a county seat was purchased in 1826, and the city itself was incorporated in 1829.

The waterways surrounding Decatur County were instrumental in the early growth and development of the region. An early inhabitant of Decatur County stated, “The Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers, together with their product, the Apalachicola River to the Gulf of Mexico, made the equivalent of a pretty big ready-made highway system.” Archaeologists digging along the lake and its tributaries have uncovered several prehistoric fossils, dating back 15,000 years, as well as artifacts from the Civil War and turn-of-the-century riverboat excursions.

The historical sites found throughout Decatur County are important reminders of our heritage—battles fought, lives lost, victories won, and progress made. They all help explain, not just where we are, but who we are.
From canopy roads, farm fields and art galleries to the abundant waterways and hunting plantations, Bainbridge and Decatur county has much to offer.

A true Southern hometown, Bainbridge welcomes both visitors, new residents and returning natives with its charm and hospitality that is second to none.
Discover Bainbridge

10 **Convention & Visitors Bureau**
Promoting special events, tourism, conventions, and trade shows

12 **The Chamber of Commerce**
The voice of business in our community

14 **Downtown Bainbridge**
A blend of history, Southern charm and local business

16 **Decatur County Schools**
A world class educational experience for each and every student.

18 **Grace Christian Academy**
An inter-denominational community Christian school that serves 60+ students

20 **Bainbridge State College**
Bainbridge College offers an array of programs as part of the University System of Georgia

22 **Memorial Hospital & Manor**
Serving the healthcare needs of Decatur County and surrounding communities

24 **Development Authority of Bainbridge**
Promoting area industrial parks and available properties

26 **Bainbridge Decatur Co. Recreation Authority**
Offering quality athletic programs and events to the citizens of the Bainbridge area
BAINBRIDGE HERITAGE TOUR
This self-guided tour features 41 of Bainbridge’s historic buildings and homes, many of which have been restored to their original stately glory. So many of them are full of stories just waiting to be told, like the Callahan-Penhallegon house, built by a steamboat captain and modeled after one of his ships. Heritage Tour Guides can be picked up at City Hall at 101 Broad Street.

OAK CITY CEMETERY
Prior to the establishment of Bainbridge, the Oak City Cemetery site had long been home to an Indian Village. It was established as a cemetery in 1852 when William H. Peabody was buried there. His grave is located next to the powder house, where gun powder was stored during the Civil War. In 1878, the west section of the cemetery was deeded to Temple Beth-El and became one of the first Jewish Cemeteries in South Georgia. Miriam Hopkins, a famous Broadway, movie and television star from the 1920s-1950s is buried there. Hopkins was nominated for an Oscar and has a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Marvin S. Griffin, the 72nd Governor of Georgia is also buried in the cemetery, along with numerous unknown Confederate soldiers.

LAKE SEMINOLE
In 2008, the Georgia State Legislature declared Bainbridge the Bass Capital of Georgia. It’s no secret that Lake Seminole is one of the main reasons why. Both the Flint River and Lake Seminole offer abundant fishing and water sports, attracting thousands of amateur and professional fishermen with many top bass tournaments throughout the year. In fact, Bainbridge was home to the very first B.A.S.S. tournament.

EARLE MAY BOAT BASIN RECREATION AREA
Launch into the Flint River from Earle May Boat Basin Park! With new Mega Ramps, a walking trail, an animal park, picnic pavilions, swimming area, campground and park, there’s something for everyone. The City’s Amphitheater is also located at the Park. Here, many community events happen throughout the year, including River Town Days, July 4th activities, and numerous bass fishing tournaments.

For more travel information and resources, call 229-243-8555.

“The purpose of the CVB is to promote special events as well as to promote tourism, conventions, and trade shows within the area.
THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Bainbridge-Decatur County Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business in our community. Comprised of nearly 500 businesses and individuals, the Chamber’s mission is to strengthen business, foster economic growth and improve the quality of life for all.

Through networking events and seminars, the Chamber provides members the avenue to grow and sustain their business. The Chamber works with our local, state and national legislators to be sure they are working for business.

During the second weekend of March each year, the Chamber hosts the community’s River Town Days Festival and Flames on the Flint, a KCBS certified BBQ competition that welcomes 100 barbeque teams to our community. In the fall, the Chamber hosts the annual Fall Fair at Earle May Boat Basin.

LEADERSHIP
The Chamber offers leadership programs for both youth and adults. Youth Leadership meets yearly, while Leadership Decatur County (adults) meets every other year. The groups learn about the Chamber and community while building and fostering leadership skills.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
The Chamber offers multiple programs to help business owners grow and sustain their business. These include our bi-monthly Lunch and Learn series, Industry Roundtable Meetings, Leads Groups and much more!

PROMOTION
We work hard to promote our members by highlighting a Business Spotlight in the local newspaper every month, running ads on local radio welcoming new members and awarding a Business of the Month each month. We also have a number of other advertising opportunities including newsletter sponsorships and our monthly Chamber Connect lunch.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
The Chamber is pleased to offer the community our annual River Town Days Festival on the second weekend of March. The two-day festival features live musical entertainment, kids’ activities, displays and vendors, and our Flames on the Flint Barbeque competition with 100 KCBS Certified BBQ teams competing for $50,000 in prize money. Each fall, we also host the Flint River Fair and our annual Ag Appreciation Luncheon, where we say “thank you,” to our agricultural community.

ADVOCACY
We advocate for business at the local, regional and state level, too. We stay abreast of legislation that could be harmful or beneficial to business, and educate members about the legislation.

Get connected with the Bainbridge-Decatur County Chamber of Commerce!
DOWNTOWN BAINBRIDGE

Downtown Bainbridge is proud of its history and heritage and has built a reputation on making southern hospitality a way of life.

In the heart of Downtown Bainbridge is Willis Park, a charming garden style park complete with a Victorian gazebo and fountain where the community gathers for entertainment and relaxation throughout the year. We encourage you to walk around and enjoying discovering our quaint boutiques, eateries, and southern hospitality.

Downtown boasts several excellent restaurants, gift shops, antique retailers, jewelers, bakeries, professional services and more. We also offer a variety of annual events that are attended by thousands of Decatur County citizens and visitors such as: Living History Tour, Touch-a-Truck, Downtown Block Party, Sidewalk Sales, Munchkin Masquerade, Holiday Open House, Christmas Parade, and Yuletide Jubilee.

Downtown is also the home to the Bainbridge Farmers’ Market, located at 300 North Broad Street. The seasonal market is open March thru June and October thru December each year.

The Firehouse Arts Center & Gallery offers many programs and classes throughout the year to encourage and support artists in the community, both young and old. Exhibits showcasing local artists and students are held throughout the year. Once the city’s fire department, the Firehouse Arts Center is also rented to the public for events.

Bainbridge Little Theatre is a non-profit organization with a 160-seat venue on Troupe Street that presently offers three to four shows per year showcasing local drama enthusiasts.

Founded in 1969 by Bainbridge citizens, the Decatur County Historical Society showcases historic memorabilia from Decatur County at the museum located downtown on Water Street.

The Downtown Development Authority of Bainbridge is an organization that helps preserve the historic identity of our community by strengthening and revitalizing the traditional downtown area with its characteristic small-town charm. We are here to help you with everything from finding the right space, to working with local authorities, and designing a dynamic storefront.

We invite you to Discover Downtown Bainbridge by visiting our website downtownbainbridgega.com.
The Decatur County School System is focused on the delivery of a world class educational experience for each and every student. As an approved Strategic Waiver School System, our educational team is committed to working with all stakeholders on continuous school and system improvements that will prepare our students for success in a global society.

High expectations and quality teaching in every classroom is provided for all students through ongoing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) initiatives, the increased use of instructional technology, and the development of personalized learning platforms focused on meeting the needs of all PK-12 students.

Our educational team is committed and focused on providing all of our students with the guidance, leadership and instruction that will prepare them for success in college and careers.

We welcome you to visit www.DCBOE.com to learn more about excellence in education “The Bearcat Way!”
GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Grace Christian Academy is an inter-denominational K3 through 12 community Christian school. Founded in 1994 Grace Christian Academy represents over sixty churches in the southwest Georgia and north Florida area.

OUR MISSION
As a ministry of Grace Church, the mission of Grace Christian Academy is to partner with like-minded Biblically defined Christian families, to grow the whole child (spirit, mind and body) through a Christ-centered, rigorous college preparatory education.

SPIRIT
Students are encouraged to grow into compassionate, life-long servants within their homes, churches, communities and around the world. Weekly chapels, Bible Classes and service projects uplift and inspire these young people to grow in their knowledge of Jesus Christ and move beyond themselves.

MIND
Our graduates have excelled throughout the years with over ninety-five percent attending colleges and universities throughout the southeast and beyond.

BODY (TALENTS AND INTERESTS)
GCA offers a variety of co-curricular activities including drama, art, chorus, strings, volleyball, cheerleading, swimming, basketball, baseball, tennis, cross-country, soccer, track & field, golf, and dance team.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES GCA STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED TO
ABAC - Florida State Univ. - Ole Miss - Andrew College - GA College & State Univ. Reformed Presbyterian - Auburn Univ. GA Southwestern Theological Seminary Augusta State Univ. GA Southern Univ. Samford Univ. - Bainbridge State College - Georgia State - Tallahassee Community - Baylor Univ. - Georgia Tech Troy Univ. - Berry College - Kennesaw State Univ. of Arkansas - Bryan College - Medical College of GA - Univ. of Denver - Chipola - Mercer Univ. Univ. of Georgia - Clemson Univ. Mississippi State Univ. - Univ. of Mobile Covenant College - North GA Univ. - Univ. of North Carolina - Darton State Oxford (England) - (Chapel Hill) - Duke Univ. Pensacola Christian College - Valdosta State Univ. - Faulkner College - Queens College - Wallace Community College

For more information about Grace Christian Academy, visit GCAcougars.org.
For more than 40 years, Bainbridge State College has provided higher education to the residents of Southwest Georgia and Northwest Florida.

As part of the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia, Bainbridge State College is the only institution in Georgia that can fulfill students’ needs from both academic and technical perspectives. Bainbridge State College offers an array of programs from a bachelor’s degree in management, associate level degrees designed for transfer to four-year programs, and technical programs for students who seek to enter the work place with the skills needed to excel.

The College prides itself in its integrated approach to learning by offering various course delivery methods for a bachelor's degree in business management, associates' degrees in art, science, and applied science; certificates in business and technical fields; non-credit continuing education courses; adult education; and cooperative degree programs with Georgia Southwestern State University, Thomas University and the University of Georgia.

For more information on Bainbridge State College and the programs offered, visit Bainbridge.edu.
Memorial Hospital and Manor serves the healthcare needs of Decatur County and surrounding communities.

MHM has been a pillar in Decatur County, providing quality care for over fifty years. Continuing renovations and updates to equipment and facilities provides for modernized care in a clean environment. MHM is a community hospital where each employee strives to evidence a culture of compassion and dedication to every patient every time. Memorial Hospital and Manor has many reasons to boast and is very proud of its connections to the communities it serves.

The quality care and great service MHM provides, extends beyond its 80-bed hospital and 107 bed long-term care facility to Willow Ridge, a 22-bed beautifully manicured inside and outside personal care facility to an expansive Family and Internal Medicine complex, Outpatient Rehabilitation, Pediatric, Ophthalmic, General Surgery, and Obstetrics/Gynecology practice.

Because the needs of the families in our community are always kept in mind, MHM is fortunate to be able to provide children direct access to pediatric primary care providers and emergency department staff via telehealth links, providing up to the minute care. The level of service MHM strives to provide is evidenced the minute you step through the door and is greeted by our smiling volunteer. Our mission is simply to deliver courteous, respectful, safe and quality care to every patient every time. When you need us, we'll be here doing our best, to give you our best because you are us, our neighbor, our family, our friend.

SERVICES OFFERED BY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL & MANOR:
• Patient Portal
• Coumadin Clinic
• Sleep Study Center
• Infusion Services
• Intensive Care Unit
• Women's Center
• Respiratory Services
• Wound Care
• Laboratory
• Inpatient Care
• Short Term Care
• Surgery
• Radiology
• Telehealth
• Community Health fairs
• Long Term Care
• Pediatric Services
• General Surgery
• Ophthalmic Services
• Emergency Services Care

For more information about Memorial Hospital and Manor, visit MH-M.org.
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF BAINBRIDGE

The Development Authority of Bainbridge and Decatur County functions as the primary Economic Development office for the City and County. As such, we promote our area industrial parks and available properties.

Along with our partners; Bainbridge, Decatur County, Bainbridge State College, Decatur County School System and the Chamber of Commerce, we work diligently to provide an atmosphere conductive to business. Through strong, stable leadership the Development Authority stays true to its primary purpose of supplying prospects with the information necessary for them to make a proper decision on locating their business.

Click here to learn more about the Development Authority.
The Bainbridge Decatur County Recreation Authority (BDCRA) offers quality athletic programs and events to the citizens of the Bainbridge area. Dedicated to the continued growth and quality of our athletic programs and events, we strive to promote team work, community and integrity in all we do.

The BDCRA holds sporting events and travel tournaments throughout the year at Bill Reynolds Sports Park located near Earle May Boat Basin. The well maintained complex features 16 ball fields and a tennis complex.

**The current athletic programs offered by BDCRA are:**
- T-Ball (ages 3 - 6)
- Baseball (ages 7 - 15)
- Softball (ages 7 - 18)
- Youth Football
- Cheerleading
- Adult Kickball
- Tennis

**Events offered throughout the year are:**
- Mud Buddy Fun Run
- Jingle Bell Jog
- Sprint on the Flint
- Films on the Flint
- River Town Days 5K and One Mile Fun Bike Ride... and more to come!

The BDCRA also facilitates the recreation activities of the Decatur County Senior Center.

To learn more about the BDCRA, visit playbainbridge.com or call 229-248-2010.
CONTACT INFORMATION

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
101 S. Broad St. | 229-243-8555

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
100 Boat Basin Circle | 229-246-4774
www.bainbridgegachamber.com

DOWNTOWN BAINBRIDGE
101 S. Broad St. | 229-400-9093
www.dowtownbainbridgega.com

FIREHOUSE CENTER & GALLERY
119 W. Water St. #2 | 229-243-1010
www.bainbridgeart.com

BAINBRIDGE LITTLE THEATRE
220 Troupe Street | 229-246-8345
www.bainbridgelittletheatre.com

DECATUR CO. HISTORICAL MUSEUM
127 E. Water St. | 229-515-1557

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
100 S. West St. | 229-248-2200
www.boe.dcboe.com

GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
1302 Lake Douglas Rd. | 229-243-8851
www.gcacougars.org

BAINBRIDGE STATE COLLEGE
2500 E. Shotwell St. | 229-243-6000
www.bainbridge.edu

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL & MANOR
1500 E. Shotwell St. | 229-246-3500
www.mh-m.org

DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
100 Boat Basin Circle | 229-246-4774
www.bainbridgedecaturga.com

BAINBRIDGE DECATUR CO. RECREATION AUTHORITY
1707 E. Shotwell St. | 229-248-2010
www.playbainbridge.com