

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Cairo-Grady County Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit organization that invests in our economic development by supporting existing businesses and welcoming new ones into our community. A board of directors represents over 200 businesses and individuals to support the growth of our local community.

Please contact us for information or questions about anything happening in Grady County.

961 N Broad Street, Cairo, GA  
P: 229-377-3663  
F: 229-377-3901  
E: [info@cairogachamber.com](mailto:info@cairogachamber.com)  
W: <http://cairogachamber.com>



Cairo City website: <http://syrupcity.net>  
Grady County website: <http://gradycountyga.gov>



WELCOME TO

# CAIRO-GRADY COUNTY

GEORGIA



EST. 1870

# WELCOME

Every day people discover Cairo and Grady County in the heart of southwest Georgia. Cairo, conveniently situated on the Georgia-Florida state line, was incorporated in 1870 and has a rich history of explorers, pioneers and settlers who have made the area home for hundreds of years. The Red Hills region's farmland and timber provide a scenic backdrop for a quaint small town, outstanding quality of life, friendly neighbors and community spirit.

Known as "The Hospitality City," Cairo is the seat of Grady County and is located 30 miles north of Tallahassee, Florida. Our area offers the best of two worlds. Our citizens are within travelling distance to the amenities of a college town and capital city as well as the surrounding national forests, wildlife refuges and gulf coast beaches. Just a short drive away are venues for Broadway productions, symphonies, art galleries and museums as well as major college sporting teams. Yet, you can come home and enjoy the sense of community which comes from living in a rural setting where you know your neighbors.

Cairo-Grady County offers a wide range of affordable housing, excellent schools, a technical college, a modern hospital and medical facilities, numerous public and private employment opportunities, diverse religious offerings, parks and recreation programs, a movie theater, an antique car museum, a public library, a county museum and history center, a newspaper, downtown shopping, locally-owned restaurants and more. Urban planners call this "livability." Longtime residents just call it "home."

Major national and international corporations have located facilities in our community. From light manufacturing to bioscience, agribusiness to distribution hubs, green technology companies to composite materials, Cairo-Grady County offers access to local, regional, national and global markets.

Today's economic success can be traced to several factors, including the community's commitment to support numerous academic and technical training programs, modern transportation infrastructure, internet service options with fiber optics to deliver 10 GB broadband speeds, leading-edge municipal utilities, commercial and industrial parks, a vibrant downtown shopping district and a "can-do" attitude.

Whether you are a business owner, prospective resident, new employee or first time visitor, we know you will love the Cairo and Grady County area. The Cairo-Grady County Chamber of Commerce looks forward to assisting you in any way possible to make your stay as enjoyable as possible.



# SEASONAL EVENTS & FESTIVALS

Cairo & Grady County is the perfect atmosphere in which to spend the day at one or more of our many festivals, parades and cultural events. Each event has significant meaning for Grady County, and is not only fun for the entire family, but enlightening as well. Live, learn and discover at our many exciting events in Grady County.

## **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade**

Broad Street, Downtown Cairo  
229-378-7512

This annual parade is a celebration marking the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. Come to downtown Cairo on MLK Day, the third Monday in January, to have a fun-filled day enjoying the parade.

## **Rattlesnake Round-Up**

Whigham Fair Grounds, US Highway 84, Downtown Whigham  
229-377-3663

This event is fun for the whole family, with arts and crafts, snake handling and demonstrations, concessions and other entertainment, including children's activities. The Rattlesnake Round-Up has been celebrated for over 50 years and is held on the last Saturday in January.

## **Gilliard's Store Spring Festival**

2275 GA Highway 93 N., Pelham, GA  
229-377-0544

Celebrated in March, this day is full of food, music and fun. The store opened in 1945 and has continued the tradition it is known for today, whole-hog sausage-making and fresh meats.

## **Great Southern Antique Auto Show & Rally**

Davis Park and Broad Street, Downtown Cairo  
229-377-3663

This antique car rally is a spin-off from the Great American Race that began in 1989. Starting with 70 participants, this weekend event has expanded to over 120 on average. Join us the second weekend in May where you will eat, ride and dance the nights away.



## **Tama Inter-Tribal Pow-Wow**

107 Tall Pine Drive, Whigham, GA  
229-762-3165 or 229-762-3169 or <http://lowermuskogee tribe.com>

This event is hosted by Muskogee Vocational Rehabilitation in conjunction with the Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe. Everyone is welcome to join in for a weekend filled with Native American crafts, food, dancing and music in October each year.

## **Mule Day Festival**

Georgia Hwy 111, Calvary, GA  
229-377-MULE (6853) or <http://calvarylionsmuleday.com>

Come join us on the first Saturday in November for a day of contests, arts, crafts and more. The Calvary Lions Club sponsors this 40-year-old event that attracts over 75,000 visitors each year. There is a parade that included mules and horses, as well as other activities and entertainment all day long.



## SEASONAL EVENTS & FESTIVALS

### Cairo Annual Christmas Parade

Broad Street, Downtown Cairo  
229-377-3663

Join us on the first Thursday in December for one of the largest Christmas parades in South Georgia. Downtown Cairo comes alive with holiday merriment with a parade of marching bands, floats, horses, beauty queens and, of course, Santa Claus.

### Tama Family Fun Day

107 Tall Pine Drive, Whigham, GA  
229-762-3169 or 229-762-3355 or <http://lowermuskogeetribes.com>

A day of excitement awaits you and your family in December at our Family Fun Day. There will be archery, arts and crafts, hay rides, games, face painting and more. Bring a wrapped present for a gift exchange following dinner. Please visit the website for more information.

### Tama Tribal Town

107 Tall Pine Drive, Whigham, GA  
229-762-3169 or 229-762-3355 or <http://lowermuskogeetribes.com>

Join us for a celebration and campout to bring in the New Year! There will be stomp dancing, a campfire, a wild game dinner and camping on New Year's Eve.



Photo Credit: Lou Kellenberger, Lou Kellenberger Photography

## OUTDOORS & NATURE

Deep in the beautiful rolling hills of South Georgia you will find Cairo & Grady County. The community is tucked between forests, waterways and wildlife where you will find a relaxing oasis to spend your day. Visit our nature centers, wildlife trails and gardens, or spend the day on the river.

### Wolf Creek Trout Lily Preserve

Wolf Creek Road, Cairo, GA (30.88963, -84.292305)  
229-377-4408 or <http://wolfcreektroutlilypreserve.org>

This beautiful, 140-acre nature preserve is home to the greatest expanse of trout lilies known to exist and is open for hiking all year, though blooming season is typically in late February. The trout lily is a rare flower, but an estimated 30-50 million can be found on the property, along with rare spotted trilliums, bloodroot, green fly orchids, violets and magnificent oak. Check the website for tour dates or give us a call.

### Birdsong Nature Center

2106 Meridian Road, Thomasville, GA (located in Cairo, GA)  
229-377-4408 or <http://birdsongnaturecenter.org>

Founded as a nature preserve and educational center in 1986, Birdsong boasts 565 acres and 12 miles of nature trails and is on the National Register of Historic Places. With both woodland and wetlands supporting birds and other wildlife, as well as a butterfly garden, you are bound to have a relaxing time while exploring nature.

### Southern Rivers Birding Trail

478-994-1438 (GA Nongame Endangered Wildlife Program)  
or <http://georgiawildlife.com>

Southern Rivers Birding Trail consists of driving routes through west central and southwest Georgia. Birdsong Nature Center is one of 30 designated sites along the routes. Of the estimated 385 species of birds found in Georgia, 262 kinds may be seen along the trail at certain times of the year. Trail maps and bird lists are available at local visitor centers and Georgia Welcome Centers.

## OUTDOORS & NATURE

### Ochlockonee River Landings

The Ochlockonee River begins in Worth County, Georgia and flows approximately 150 miles towards the Gulf of Mexico. The river crosses the Georgia/Florida line in Grady County. There are two boat ramps on the river in Grady County south of Cairo at GA Highway 93 S and at Hadley Ferry Road.

### The Farmhouse Daylily Garden

591 Strickland Road, Whigham, GA  
229-762-3135

The Daylily Garden consists of over fourteen hundred registered hybrid daylilies along with many other plants. It is open during blooming season to anyone who wants to enjoy the beauty of nature. The garden is also a nursery where you can purchase many different plants.



Photo Credit: Lynne Boyd, Tall Timbers Research Station

## PARKS & RECREATION

Cairo & Grady County is filled with fun and interesting things to do with your friends and family. Come play a round of golf, visit the Farmers Market, watch a movie, ride a bike trail or play and relax in one of our parks. No matter what you like to do for fun, Grady County has something for you to explore.

### Cairo Country Club

1701 US Highway 84 W, Cairo, GA  
229-377-4506

Surrounded by wildlife and boasting scenic fairways, Cairo Country Club's 18-hole championship golf course is the perfect way to spend any day. Whether you spend all day on the course, warm up at the driving range, practice on the putting green or relax in the pool, there is something here for everyone. There is also a spacious clubhouse, a PGA professional on staff that provides lessons and a pro shop. This semi-private club has a length of 6,909 yards and a 72 par.

### Valley Pines Golf Club

3000 US Highway 84 E, Cairo, GA  
229-377-2000

This public course offers 9 holes through the picturesque landscape. Built in 2007, this club has a driving range and a pro shop for all of your golfing needs. The length is 2,499 yards and the par is 35.

### Bike Trail

US Highway 84 E, Cairo, GA

The Georgia State Bicycle Route 10 (Southern Crossing) runs 246 miles from Lake Seminole east to Jekyll Island, running through the southern part of Georgia. The route passes through Bainbridge, Cairo, Thomasville, Quitman, Valdosta, Lakeland, Waycross, Nahunta and Brunswick. Rolling hills, miles of farmland, and plenty of wildlife will take you on your journey as you pedal 33 miles through Grady County.

## PARKS & RECREATION

### Davis Park

3rd Avenue NE, Cairo, GA

The three-acre tract in downtown Cairo was donated by Mrs. Walter Davis and her son, O.T. Davis in April 1926 for a park and playground. The recently renovated park has new landscaping, picnic tables, benches, a covered pavilion, paved walking trail and playground.

### Holder Park

Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue (between 4th & 5th Streets), Cairo, GA  
A neighborhood park with playground, picnic tables, ball field, swimming pool and off-street parking.

### Azalea Park

Between 7th & 8th Avenues, Cairo, GA

A neighborhood park with playground, picnic tables, multi-purpose ball field and off-street parking.

### Barber Park

N Broad Street & Long Branch Church Rd (17th Avenue NW), Cairo, GA  
A 15-acre multi-use recreational park with playground, picnic tables, off-street parking, soccer and football fields, six tennis courts and eight baseball and softball fields. The park land was donated by Mr. W.T. Barber and Miss Ruth Barber.

### Southern Terrace Park

1st Street SW & 13th Avenue SW, Cairo, GA

A neighborhood park with playground, picnic tables, ball field and off-street parking.

### Pocket Parks

Downtown Cairo has four beautiful mini-parks along its historic Broad Street. Amenities may include benches, tables, fountains and memorials.

Locations:

- 119 N Broad Street (North side of City Hall)
- 119 N Broad Street (South side of City Hall)
- 138 S Broad Street (Next to Bishop's Jewelry)
- 126 S Broad Street (Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park)

### Skate Towne of Cairo

21 20th Street NE, Cairo, GA  
229-377-1004

An indoor roller skating rink.

### Motocross

#### Millsaps Training Facility

867 Bold Springs Road, Cairo, GA  
229-377-8502 or <http://mtfmix.com>

Each year, dozens of professional and amateur motocross athletes train year-round at Millsaps Training Facility. The state of the art training facility features national caliber Motocross, Supercross and Arenacross tracks, as well as a professionally staffed world-class fitness center. The 50-acre facility also offers camps, classes and full-time training. Visiting hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

#### Georgia Training Facility

891 Bold Springs Road, Cairo, GA  
810-869-5314 or <http://gpfmix.com>

A seasonal limited-membership training facility for aspiring amateur and professional Motocross, Supercross and Arenacross athletes. The tracks are designed to accommodate all skill levels and disciplines of modern motocross. Visitors welcome Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 6:00pm.



# ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

This region has been home to Native American tribes, explorers, settlers, traders, slaves and farmers who transformed this territory into what is called the “New South.” With interesting places such as churches, parks, historic trails and the courthouse, Grady County has much to offer and exciting ways to explore the history of the community.

The definitive history of the area through 1910 is recorded in the 2006 book *The Genesis of Grady County, Georgia* by Gwendolyn Brock Waldorf, published by Sentry Press. Additional historical books and gifts can be found at the Grady County Museum and History Center.



## Grady County Museum & History Center

101 N Broad Street, Cairo, GA  
229-377-5142 or [gradyhistory@syrupcity.net](mailto:gradyhistory@syrupcity.net)  
<http://gradyhistorical.org>

Learn all about the heritage of our history-rich community in the center of downtown Cairo. There are photographs, collectables, antiques and other memorabilia that will take you through Grady County's journey. The museum also features an art gallery and work from local artists as well as a working “G” scale train model and railroad artifacts.

## Cairo Commercial Historic District

The City of Cairo was incorporated in 1870. On the National Register of Historic Places, the downtown district is roughly bounded by Broad Street, Railroad Avenue and Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, with adjacent buildings on 2nd Avenue and 1st Street. Architectural detailing includes decorative brick corbeling, large storefront windows, segmentally arched windows and brick pilasters. An eclectic mix of architectural influences is found throughout the district. The decorative turn-of-the-century buildings are Commercial Vernacular Victorian and the plain buildings are Stripped Classical and 20th Century Commercial style. There are also buildings with influences from the Neoclassical Revival and Art Deco styles.

## Roddenbery Memorial Library & Genealogy Center

320 N Broad Street, Cairo, GA  
229-377-3632 or <http://rmlibrary.org/genealogy>

If you think your family can be traced through Grady County, visit the Genealogy Center to explore your roots. Volunteers and research materials are available to aid you in your search. Genealogy materials include county and family histories, city directories, cemetery listings, church histories, maps, telephone books, obituaries, photographs, census records, access to computer databases and much more. This stunningly beautiful building contains one of the best children's libraries in the South, and its expansive collection is the largest number of books per capita of any library in Georgia. Take time to enjoy the interior formal courtyard and gardens at the eastside of the building.

## Zebulon Theater

207 N Broad Street, Cairo, GA  
229-377-3302 or <http://zebulontheater.org>

Built in 1935, this place is a real movie treat. The Zebulon is an Art Deco style, old-time theater that has been remodeled to continue bringing culture and film into the community. Check out local listings for movies and times.

## ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

### Cairo Antique Auto Museum

1125 US Highway 84 E, Cairo, GA  
229-377-3911

Come enjoy a day filled with a stunning array of antique cars, pedal cars, bicycles and motorcycles. The museum boasts cars from every decade since the 1900s and also includes a showroom with antique fire engines and memorabilia. Among the collection is the car from the classic film *Driving Miss Daisy*. The museum is also the hub for the Great Southern Antique Auto Show and Rally. Open for groups by appointment only.

### Grady Cultural Center

1011st Street, Cairo, GA  
229-377-3191 or <http://gradyculturalcenter.org>

The old syrup plant was built as a warehouse by W.G. Cannon in 1915 as an expansion to his syrup barrel manufacturing business. The adaptive re-use of this 14,000 square foot historic facility into a community cultural center pays homage to early 20th Century construction with exposed wood ceilings, giant timbers, exposed brick walls and concrete floor.



## HISTORIC CEMETERIES, CHURCHES & SCHOOLS

The history of Grady County can be traced through its many places of worship and schoolhouses. The earliest church, Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church, is noted to have been founded in 1828. Almost half of today's churches were founded before 1920. A total of six churches were founded between 1828 and 1845, 25 churches between 1860 and 1897 and eight between 1904 and 1919. Cairo, Whigham and other small communities in Grady County have 157 cemeteries marked and recorded in *The Cemeteries of Grady County, Georgia*, which was published in 2006.

### *On the National Register of Historic Places:*

#### Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church and School

232 Martin Avenue, Whigham, GA

The church, built in 1920, is a small frame building clad in beveled weatherboard and covered with a gable-front roof. The windows throughout the church are one-over-one-light sash windows. The historic wood pews remain in the sanctuary. The school, located adjacent to the church, was built circa 1930. It is a small-frame one-room building that is raised on concrete block piers and clad in weatherboard. The sides of the school are lined with four-over-four-light sash windows.



#### Evergreen Congregational Church

497 Meridian Road, Beachton, GA  
229-377-2036

Built in 1903, the Evergreen Church was demolished and rebuilt in 1928 with the addition of a classroom. The church is still a functioning place of worship and holds Sunday worship services. Andrew Young — mayor of Atlanta, member of Congress, Ambassador to the United States and leader in the Civil Rights Movement — first preached at Evergreen Church.

## GRADY GROWN

Grady County is one of the largest agricultural producers in the state of Georgia and the Southeast. Grady Grown products include peanuts, pecans, peas, beans, okra, bell peppers, banana and hot peppers, squash, eggplant, cabbage, greens, tomatoes, poultry, cotton, watermelon, sugar cane, timber/forest products, soybeans, corn, hay, straw, oats, rye, sorghum, wheat, blueberries, grapes, strawberries, beef, pork, dairy, poultry, goats, quail, sheep and honeybees.

Locally produced products include world-famous cane syrup, jams, jellies, whole-hog sausage, fresh meats, hot sauces, peanut brittle, honey and Mule Day Stone Ground Corn Meal, to name a few



### Bob's Open Air Market

Cairo State Farmers Market  
1110 N Broad Street, Cairo, GA  
229-377-4412

You will find local home-made specialties, cane syrup, jams, jellies, vegetables, fruits, pecans, peanuts raw, roasted & boiled, and garden seed at this local market. This is a seasonal market, so you are welcome to call ahead to see what products are available. Come help support the local Cairo economy and residents by buying some of the freshest and most delicious foods.

### Gilliard's Store

2275 GA Highway 93 N., Pelham, GA  
229-377-0544

Home of whole-hog sausage and fresh meats, serving breakfast & lunch.

### Meet the Merchant

146 S Broad Street, Cairo, GA  
229-378-1088 or 239-229-6436

Local artisans, food products and hand-made items in Grady County.

### Midway Country Store

2330 GA Highway 93 South, Cairo, GA  
229-377-7229  
Fresh sausage.

## MEMORIALS & MONUMENTS

Grady County was incorporated in 1905 and was named after Henry W. Grady, prominent editor of the *Atlanta Constitution* and national spokesman for the "New South." Many memorials and monuments share the grounds of the Grady County Courthouse on North Broad Street. The Courthouse grounds were designated Veterans' Square in 2003.



### « Grady County Courthouse Bell and Clock Tower

The bell is from the original 1908 Grady County Courthouse Clock Tower which burned in 1980. The courthouse was rebuilt on the original grounds.



### » Veterans of Foreign Wars Grady County Courthouse

In memory of Those who  
Paid the Supreme Sacrifice:

- World War I
- World War II
- Korean War
- Vietnam War



### » Veterans' Square (Grady County Courthouse)

The Grady Board of County Commissioners recognize that a large number of citizens of Grady County have served in different branches of the Armed Services of our nation; they also recognize that a substantial number of persons have suffered the ultimate sacrifice of death while serving in the Armed Forces. It is fitting that all of these service personnel be memorialized for their contributions to insuring a better way of life and maintaining the freedoms we now enjoy in Grady County and the rest of the Nation. It is so resolved, by the Grady County Board of Commissioners that the area surrounding the Grady County Courthouse, being that bounded on the west by North Broad Street, on the south by Second Avenue NE, on the east by First Street NE and on the north by Third Avenue be named "Veterans' Square." Adopted June 24, 2003.



### « Grady County Centennial Time Capsule

Grady County Centennial time capsule buried on January 7, 2006; to be opened in the year 2055. Placed by the Grady County Commissioners and the Grady County Historical Society.

## MEMORIALS & MONUMENTS



### ⌘ Confederate States of America Monument (Grady County Courthouse)

The inscriptions for this four-sided monument are as follows:

North side: CSA

South side: Sons of the Confederate Veterans 1896

East side: "They died in the consciousness of duty faithfully performed." -Robert E. Lee

West side: In the memory of the Confederate Soldier who served in the War Between the States, 1861-1865

The monument is surrounded by bricks engraved with the names of soldiers who served.



« Seaborn Anderson  
Roddenbery 1870-1913  
Member of Congress  
(Grady County  
Courthouse)  
Erected by The  
Women's Christian  
Temperance Union as a  
tribute of love to "Our  
Anderson."  
"Go tell it to the  
future generations  
that he lived and died  
contending for his  
convictions of justice  
and right."



### ⌘ Grady County Marker (photo on left)

*Grady County Courthouse*

This County, created by act of the Legislature August 17, 1905, is named for Henry W. Grady, nationally famous editor and "silver-tongued orator" of the New South. Born in Athens, Ga in 1850 and educated at the Universities of Georgia and Virginia, he died in 1889.

Among the first County Officers were: Sherriff D.W. Tyus, Ordinary P.H. Herring, Clerk of Superior Court W.T. Crawford, Tax Receiver W.R. Wynn, Tax Collector W.R. Ponder, Treasurer M.G. McManus, Surveyor D.A. Jones, Coronor E.G. Harrell, School Commissioner J.B. Wight and Reprentative R.R. Terrell.

### ⌘ Grady County Marker (photo on right)

*Grady County Courthouse*

"Original diversified Farming County of the Southeast" established January 1, 1906. The Courthouse and County Jail were built in 1908 and the County was organized under the general supervision of the following first Board of County Commissioners: Walter B. Roddenbery, Chairman; L.L. Berwick, Henry Mitchell, J.L. Pebbles and J.M. Sasser; M.L. Ledford, County Attorney; Alexander Blair, Architect; J.B. Carr Co., Contractor.

Elevation above sea level, 265 feet; Latitude 30.53; Longitude 84.12; Average Temperature 67.5

## MEMORIALS & MONUMENTS



« Vietnam Veteran Memorial Park  
South Broad Street  
K.I.A. Vietnam  
This plaque is erected in honor of all Vietnam Veterans from Grady County, Georgia and in loving memory of our fallen heroes. The supreme service and sacrifice of each man will not be forgotten.



» Vietnam War Memorial Helicopter  
Davis Park, behind Courthouse  
Helicopter in a 1969 Vietnam Era Huey VH1H Helicopter



» Birthplace of Jackie Robinson  
First African American in Major League Baseball  
Robinson was born here on January 31, 1919 before he and his family moved to California in 1920. After attending U.C.L.A., serving in the U.S. Army and playing in the Negro American Baseball and International Leagues, Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, breaking major league baseball's color barrier. Adding to his many sports accomplishments, he served as special assistant to New York Modern Bank/Freedom National Bank and provided housing for the underprivileged through his construction firm. Robinson died in 1972. The house burned in 1996.  
Marker erected by the Georgia Historical Society and The Jackie Robinson Cairo Memorial Institute, Inc.

