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# Hoover Historical Log

*The Official Newsletter of the Hoover Historical Society, Hoover, Alabama*



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## The Wright Brothers' time in Alabama: March program

The world celebrated the Wright Brothers' achievements during the US Centennial of Flight from December 12-17, 2003. In the decade that followed, a number of historians researched the remarkable history of aviation. Among them is Alabamian Winston Groom with *The Aviators*, 2013, David McCullough's *The Wright Brothers* in 2015, and Julie Hedgepeth Williams in *Wings of Opportunity: The Wright Brothers in Montgomery, Alabama 1910*, published in 2010 by NewSouth Books.

Samford Professor Julie H. Williams PhD is returning to visit the HHS on March 15, at the Hoover Public Library, to present her program on the Wright Brothers in Montgomery, Alabama 1910. Julie meticulously researched the brothers' time in Montgomery where they established a flying school, now the site of

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## The State of the City is sound

Mayor Gary Ivey visited several venues during January, delivering his State of the City address. On January 11, he addressed the Friends of Hoover at *The Egg and I Restaurant*.

Remarking on the recent tragic murder of a young father and Iraq war vet in Lake Cyrus, Mayor Ivey commented, "It was amazing to see how the city turned out yesterday for this young man [citizens lined Hwy. 150 to honor Mike Gilotti as his funeral took place.] However, the mayor continued, "We don't need to live in fear; be vigilant, conscious, and aware in your homes; lock your cars

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## Ross Bridge Fire Station #10 dedicated



The City of Hoover and the Department of Fire and Medical Services dedicated Hoover Fire Station #10 on February 7<sup>th</sup> during an Open House in Ross Bridge. Mayor Gary Ivey, Council member John Lyda, Executive Officer Rusty Lowe, and Chief Chuck Wingate were on hand to snip the yellow ‘fire line’ tape for the new station.



Hoover has much to be proud of with its Fire Department. “Of the 178 firefighters, approximately 162 are also paramedics—91%, more paramedics than any other fire department in the state,” said Chief Chuck Wingate. “This is important,” he added, “because 68% of our emergencies are medical calls, but everyone is dually trained.” Each unit responding to a call includes at least two paramedics.

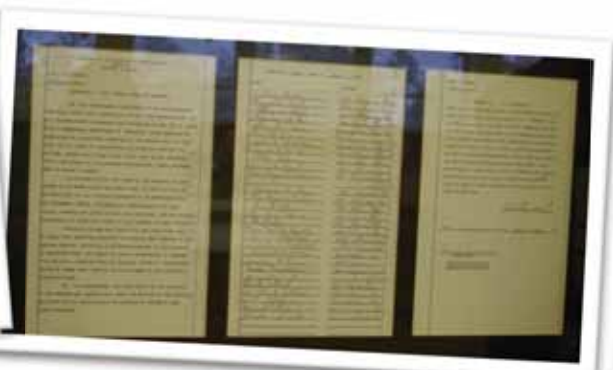
Mayor Ivey and Councilman John Lyda spoke, thanking all who made the Ross Bridge location a reality. Mayor Ivey stated that “public safety is on our minds, perhaps more than it should be [lately]...but we have a beautiful station that will help the city a lot.” Councilman John Lyda added, “A fire station can tell you a lot about a community—the Ross Bridge community is proud of this one.”



Executive Officer Rusty Lowe explained the phrase QUINT on the fire engine. The Quint performs five functions—aerial ladder, ground ladder, holding water, serving as a pumper, and a rescue vehicle. After the dedication, Executive Officer Lowe invited the guests to enjoy the food and fellowship as they toured the station and the truck. The event was catered by the Renaissance Ross Bridge Hotel.



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February Board meeting at the Archive; the incorporation papers received from Elsie Braddock, Carolyn Kolar.

## A message from our president...

Our March meeting will be March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Hoover Library. We begin with refreshments at 2 PM and program at 2:30. Julie Williams will present her program about the Wright Brothers' flight school in Montgomery. You may remember her great program on the Titanic family a few years ago. *(Please note the special starting time!)*

The business portion of the meeting includes the election of officers for next year. The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers:

President	Carolyn Kolar
1 <sup>st</sup> VP Programs	Delores Wilkinson
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP Membership	Pam Thompson
Recording Secretary	Inez McCollum
Corresponding Secty.	Betty Bagby
Treasurer	Ed Burnett
Asst. Treasurer	Anita Dillon

Nominations will be accepted from the floor but be sure you have the person's permission first! We conclude our year with the Annual May meeting.

Our group is busy gathering information for our History Book II. We have two chapters from the author and continue to conduct interviews with city officials, past and present. I interviewed Elsie Braddock (widow of former Mayor O. E. Braddock) who donated a framed copy of the 1967 incorporation papers for Hoover to our archives. Also, Arnold Singer and I recently interviewed Allen Pate.

The Scholarship Committee sent letters to our two high schools. We are grateful to donors who provided funding for the 2016 scholarships—Carlo

and Dianne Joseph for Hoover High School and Henry King of King Acura for Spain Park.

Pam Thompson, Carolyn Kolar, Debbie Burnett and others attend the monthly Chamber of Commerce luncheons. The Society donates copies of the first Hoover History book as door prizes. A recent winner, the Birmingham Islamic Center, joined us as a corporate sponsor. Our members also attend Friends of Hoover meetings hosted by our own Arnold Singer.

Debbie and I attended a Hoover Service Club meeting held at the Hoover-Randle house. Helen Holmes, daughter of Mr. Hoover, attended. Barbara Randle discussed her art and decorating ideas for her lovely and colorful home.

Our Time Cabinets will relocate to the Hoover Public Safety Center (courtesy of the City of Hoover) at a future date. The collections will be more visible there.

Invite your friends to attend our annual Membership Tea on April 10<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 PM at the Overseer's House, 393 Park Avenue, Hoover, AL 35226. We plan to have shuttle buses running from Shades Crest Baptist Church to the Tea. See you there!

*Carolyn*

Just A Reminder...  
**BOARD Meeting @ 10 AM**  
 March 8, at the Archives and  
**GENERAL Meeting @ 2:30 PM**  
 (2 PM for refreshments) March 15 @  
 Hoover Public Library



# International Day at Gwin Elementary celebrates diversity in Hoover

By Pam Thompson

Students of Harriette W. Gwin Elementary School gathered in the gym to celebrate International Day on January 22nd. The theme country this year was Brazil, since the Olympics will be held there in a few months. The gym was decorated with the Brazilian flag, a beach mosaic sidewalk, and colorful tropical displays. The parade began with children presenting the flags of their countries. Forty-four countries were represented. Children wore clothing from their native countries.



Principal Dr. Kim White welcomed guests John Lyda, Hoover City Councilman and Councilman RADM John Natter, who said he had visited over 100 countries in his naval career. Also in attendance was Brandon Gossett representing *Never Thirst*, a nonprofit organization that provides wells in areas where clean drinking water is not available. He received a check from the students at Gwin for \$3,237.32, which will provide water to communities in India.

Rebecca Salas, ESL Teacher and a committee of teachers at the school coordinated the International Day festivities. The school choir represented the USA, singing a song in Portuguese. There was a large group of children from Mexico, with many smiling parents in attendance, snapping pictures. One teacher, Mrs. Bryant, sang an aria in Italian. Another teacher told about living in France, and eating escargot! Mrs. Cavanaugh, a teacher from Ireland, confirmed that it does rain every day, but that is what makes her country so green!



Principal Dr. Kim White welcomed guests John Lyda, Hoover City Councilman and Councilman RADM John Natter, who said he had visited over 100 countries in his naval career. Also in attendance was Brandon Gossett representing *Never Thirst*, a nonprofit organization that provides wells in areas where clean drinking water is not available. He received a check from the students at Gwin for \$3,237.32, which will provide water to communities in India.

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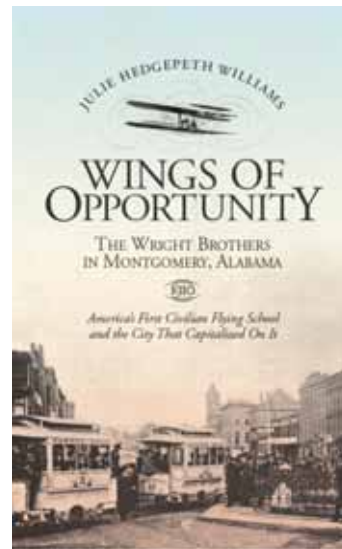
and keep garage doors down.” He added, “We are very good at public safety in Hoover, but we as citizens have to do our part. If you leave a car unlocked with items such as a briefcase, laptop, even guns, it will be taken.” District Attorney Charles Henderson who also attended the meeting reminded all “to be safe, you have to be smart.”

Mayor Ivey said the city is “sound financially, with good services and a great school system, the backbone of our city.” He cited the police and fire departments and the library as excellent examples of services provided. He said, “Hoover is a great place to raise a family.”

His talk enumerated many achievements over the last year ranging from hosting sports teams to Celebrate Hoover Day to charities to the coming SportsPlex facilities. Two freestanding emergency facilities opened this past year—the only two freestanding facilities of its kind in Alabama. He talked about the new county facility for drivers’ licenses and more new businesses such as *Field & Stream* and *Whole Foods*. He ended by stating, “I hope I make a difference in the city.” A ‘Q & A’ session followed his presentation.

Mayor Ivey continued his talk at the Friends of Hoover meeting of February 8<sup>th</sup>. Many new faces attended the gathering to learn more about the Hoover Sportsplex, which will be completed in two stages. The indoor complex is set for completion in May 2017 and the outdoor fields by May 2018.

The \$70 million bond issue will have interest-only payments for the first several years (until all other bonds have been repaid) followed by payments of about \$4 million per year. Check out the topics of the Friends of Hoover each month on Facebook!



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Maxwell Air Force Base.

Her slideshow on the Wright Brothers is approximately 40 minutes of fun entertainment (many of you will remember Julie in her one-woman show as Sylvia Caldwell ‘telling’ the story of her survival of the sinking of the *Titanic*) with a Q & A session to follow. Copies of both of Julie’s books will be available for purchase at the event (\$21 for the *Wright Brothers* and \$23 for *Titanic*.)

Refreshments will be served from 2-2:30 PM, with the program at 2:30 with a short business meeting to follow. Please join us at the Hoover Public Library (across the hall from the Library Theater) for this enlightening program. No reservations required, free parking! See you there!



The Wright Brothers in 1910



*You're Invited!*  
*HHS Spring Tea*  
*The Overseer's House*  
*393 Park Avenue*  
*April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016*  
*2PM-4 PM*  
*Park at Shades Crest*  
*Baptist Church*  
*Catch the Shuttle!*



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*Hoover  
Historical Society*

PO Box 360233 35236-0233  
571 Park Avenue  
Hoover, Alabama 35226  
Archive/Office 205-822-9392

[Recipient]

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Deborah Burtnett, Editor

[debbie.burtnett@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.burtnett@gmail.com)