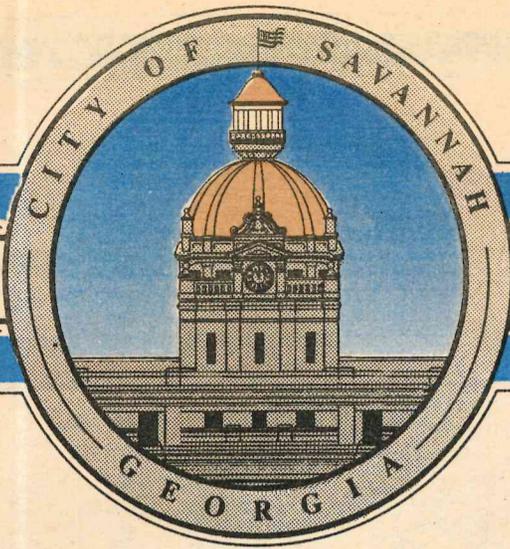


City of Savannah



Citizens' Report

August, 1992

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Changes at City Hall

On January 2, Mayor Susan Weiner and new Council members David Jones, Gwendolyn Goodman, Ellis Cook, and Judi Ross joined incumbents Floyd Adams, Dana Braun, Beth Sheehan, and Clifford Hardwick as Savannah's City Council for the next four years. Floyd Adams was elected Mayor Pro Tempore by a unanimous vote of Council. Dana Braun was elected Chairman of Council, and Beth Sheehan was elected Vice Chairman.

Savannah's City government operates under a council-manager system. Under this system, City Council sets the City's agenda and makes policy. It determines the programs the City will provide, levies taxes, and enacts legislation. Council's objectives include:

- encouraging economic growth and downtown revitalization;
- encouraging citizen participation in issues affecting their neighborhoods; and
- enhancing the quality of life for all Savannahians.

The City Manager is the City's chief executive officer and head of the administrative branch of City government. Appointed by City Council, he is responsible to the Mayor and Aldermen for implementing the programs and policies they adopt.

The new Savannah City Council at inauguration ceremonies on January 2, 1992. Pictured from left to right: 6th District Alderman Judi Ross, 5th District Alderman Clifford Hardwick, 4th District Alderman Elizabeth Sheehan, Alderman At-Large Dana Braun, Mayor Susan Weiner, Alderman At-Large Floyd Adams, 3rd District Alderman Ellis P. Cook, 2nd District Alderman Gwendolyn P. Goodman, and 1st District Alderman David Jones.



For the past several years the City of Savannah has produced a report to citizens. In addition to a printed report, the City is presenting a five-part series on various programs on the 6:00 p.m. news, and will conclude with a comprehensive thirty-minute presentation.

Downtown Development

A citywide effort to revitalize our downtown has begun. It involves the efforts of government leaders, civic groups, and citizens. The "Mayor's Institute on Urban Design and City Planning" is the first-of-its-kind program where everyone is invited to be part of the process in deciding the future of Broughton Street and other areas of downtown.

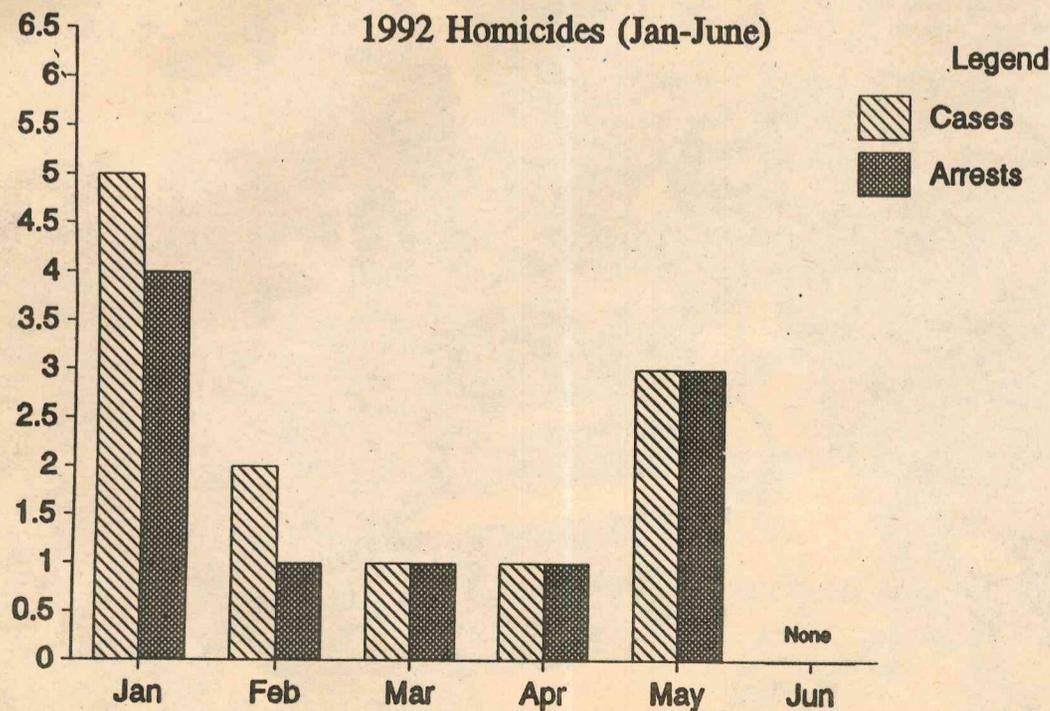
The program was launched on August 1st, but enthusiasm for downtown revitalization was already underway.

Several new downtown businesses have opened up shop this year. The City of Savannah's Broughton Municipal Building opened in January, drawing hundreds of citizens to Broughton Street each day and saving the City \$138,000 over the next 10 years. City Lights Theatre is in the process of renovating the old Avon Theatre.



Savannah Police Department

1992 Homicides (Jan-June)



Reduction in Crime

The Savannah Police Department has been reorganized, and a new anti-crime strategy, a \$2.5-million Crime Control Program, has been implemented. Government officials, community leaders, and citizens are working together to reduce crime. And it is working.

This direct assault on crime resulted in better than a 50% reduction in the homicide rate during the first half of 1992. For example, in June, 1992, there were no homicides. In June, 1991, there were nine.

These and other community issues are featured in the City of Savannah Citizens' Report.

Citizens' Report

the progress being made in City government. For the first time this year, in addition to the City. The programs will be aired on WTOC TV the week of August 24 during the week of August 28.



Drainage Improvements

Like many coastal cities, Savannah has areas with low elevations subject to flooding. When development occurred in these areas several decades ago, adequate drainage facilities were not installed. These areas began suffering from severe flooding during periods of moderate to heavy rainfall at high tides. There had always been a stormwater capital program, but it generally dealt with isolated problems rather than system-wide solutions. The effort to develop a long-range drainage improvement plan began in 1982, when approximately 50 structures were flooded in the Fell Street and Casey Canal North Basins.

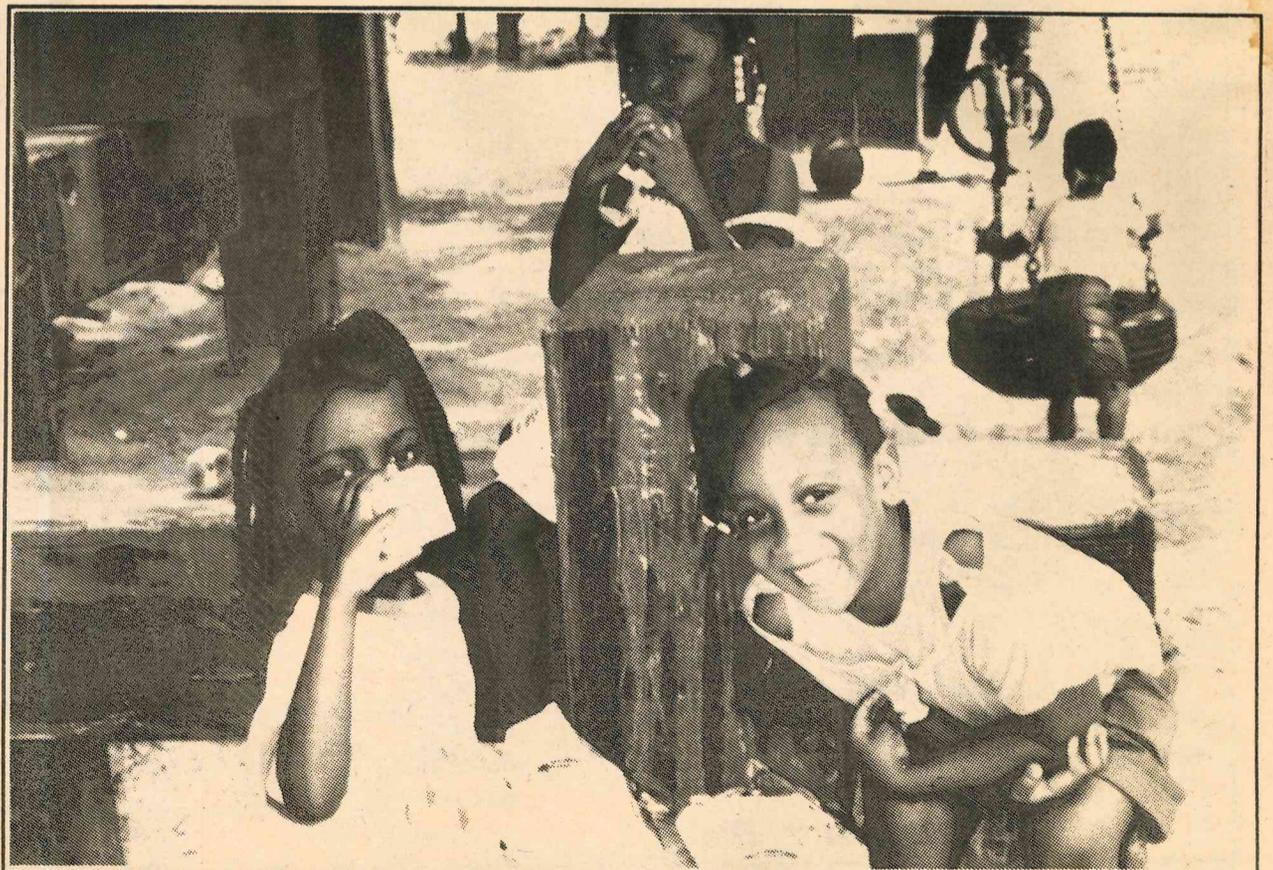
The City's \$35-million Drainage Improvement Program was developed in 1986 and implementation began in 1987. The project, designed to ensure that all neighborhoods in the City can handle a 10-year storm, is expected to be complete by 1995. Priority I projects are: Casey Canal North, Casey Canal South, Springfield Canal, and Abercorn Street.

Community Service

For the past 20 years, the City has sponsored the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program. More than 179-thousand free lunches are served to children at 70 parks, playgrounds, recreation centers, schools, and other sites in and around the City.

The City of Savannah funds a variety of human services such as neighborhood cultural arts programs, golden age centers, neighborhood recreation centers, therapeutics programs for handicapped citizens, housing aid for low-income and the homeless, and daycare programs.

These services are funded from a variety of sources including general funds and Community Development Block Grant funds.



discussed in greater detail during the week of August 24 - August 28, on WTOC TV's 6:00 news.

City of Savannah Financial Report

The City of Savannah is operating under a total budget of \$108,893,860 for 1992. The largest operating fund in the budget is the General Fund, which totals \$69,112,778 for 1992. The General Fund provides most of the essential public services such as police and fire protection, general maintenance of City properties and facilities, drainage and traffic, building and inspections, and arts and human services.



For Your Information...

...It costs \$50,000 to add one police officer and equipment.

...The average cost to repair one pothole is \$33. (880 potholes are repaired per year.)

...The annual cost of operating the E911 communications system is \$1,600,000.

...The average annual cost for sweeping one mile of street is \$28. (31,200 miles of Savannah streets are swept annually.)

...The cost to provide one gallon of safe drinking water is approximately one tenth of a cent. (19,000,000 gallons are delivered each day.)

...The average annual cost to provide one street light is \$133. (There are 11,675 street lights in the City.)

...The average cost for the Fire Department to respond to a false alarm is \$216. (In 1991 there were 690 false alarms.)

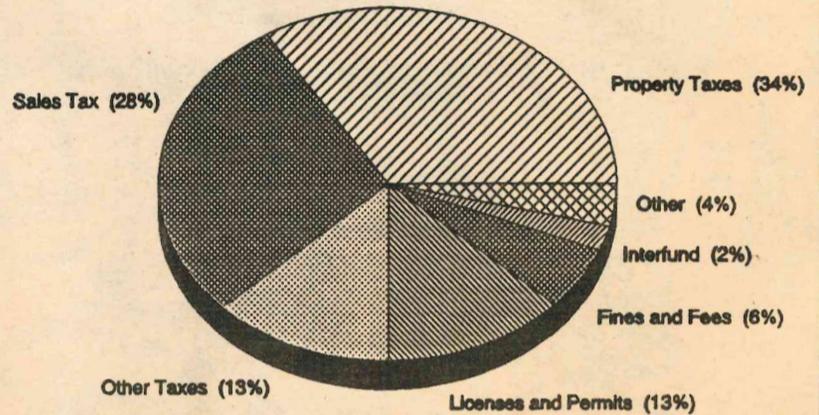
...The average annual cost to provide one household twice a week backyard trash collection is \$192. (50,026 households are served resulting in 5,202,704 collections a year.)

...The average annual cost to prune one tree is \$50. (The number of trees in the City's inventory is 100,000.)

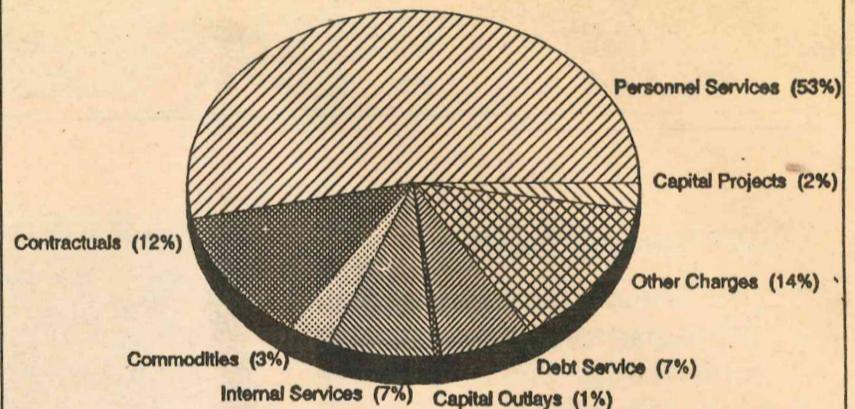
...The average cost to treat one gallon of wastewater is 17/100ths of a cent. (20,000,000 gallons are treated EACH day; 7,000,000,000 gallons are treated each year.)

...The daily cost to house one City prisoner in the County jail is \$36.50. (Annually the cost is \$13,322.50.)

Where the Money Comes From...



Where the Money Goes...



City Telephone Directory

Management and Financial Services	651-6420
Public Development	651-6520
Facilities Maintenance (Public Works)	651-6575
Sanitation	651-6581
Leisure Services	351-3837
Savannah Police Department	651-6676
Savannah Fire Department	651-6753
City Manager's Office	651-6415
Mayor's Office	651-6444
Public/Media Communications	651-6410
Service Request Desk	651-6565
Nights/weekends/holidays	651-6587
Cultural Affairs	651-6417

Emergency Dial 911

CALL CITY HALL 24-hour automated information

236-SAVH (236-7284)

This service may be accessed with touch tone phones. Topics include:

338-General Message Index	246-Savannah Fire Dept.
142-Savannah, Hostess City	245-City Fees and Taxes
137-Savannah Information	244-Utility Services
143-Area Government	243-Traffic, Roads, Sidewalks
144-City Government	242-Housing
145-Economic Development	342-Permits & Inspections
146-Savannah Police Dept.	343-Services for Special Needs

This report was produced by the City of Savannah's Public Information Office. Your comments are welcome:
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