

SAV.CM.01-1979

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ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

Mayor & Aldermen

1979

May, 1980

MAYOR

JOHN P. ROUSAKIS

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Frank Rossiter
Mayor Pro-Tempore

W. Brooks Stillwell

Roy Jackson

Harris Lentini

H.C. Morrison
Chairman of Council

Leo Center
Vice-Chairman of Council

Creighton Rhodes

Leon Chaplin

CITY MANAGER

Arthur A. Mendonsa

SAV. CM. 01-1979

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Dear Mayor and Aldermen :

The year 1979 was an eventful one for the city government.

On January 1, 1979, we acquired 30,000 new citizens through our annexation program and began supplying them with the full range of city services. Studies were also initiated to identify deficiencies in water and sewer service, streets and other conditions that require capital improvement expenditures to correct. These studies are scheduled for completion in 1980.

Hurricane David hit the City. Although it caused little property damage, many trees were blown down. A clean-up plan was devised and carried out in approximately sixty days. The City was assisted in this endeavor by equipment and manpower from Fort Stewart, by private contractors who donated equipment and manpower, by Union Camp corporation which provided men to cut up trees that were blocking roads, and by other individuals and groups.

The City's Community Development Block Grant program continued to move ahead. We applied for, and received approval of, an Urban Development Action Grant for a residential neighborhood improvement project.

The street paving program continued. Most importantly, we substantially accelerated our housing assistance program.

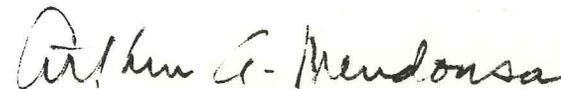
Park and recreational facility improvements were made in 1979. A contract to improve the Golf Course was awarded. Beautification and improvement contracts were awarded for Dixon Park and Baldwin Park. A redevelopment plan for Forsyth Park was completed and a plan for the new Bowles Ford Park was developed, with the assistance of a citizens' committee from the neighborhoods that will be served by the park.

The City ended the year in sound financial condition. The General Fund ended the year with a fund balance, as did all other funds. Our bond retirement program is on schedule and our General Obligation Bond debt is down to less than two percent of assessed values. More details about the City's financial condition are contained in the *Financial Report* for 1979.

These are some of the important events of 1979. These and other activities are described more fully in the *Annual Report* which follows.

In closing, I wish to commend our Bureau Heads, Department Heads and other city employees for their outstanding efforts during 1979. Their preparation and work made it possible to extend services to the annexed area with few, if any, hitches. Their dedication helped the City to quickly recover from the damage wrought by Hurricane David. Their ability, concern and initiative helped ensure that the citizens of this community received effective and efficient service.

Sincerely,



A. A. Mendonsa
City Manager

POLICE DEPARTMENT

During 1979 the Savannah Police Department continued to provide an excellent level of services to the residents of this community. These services include but are not limited to criminal investigations, crime control, expediting pedestrian and vehicular traffic flow, and providing emergency services when needed.

Two major challenges successfully met by this and many other departments of the City involved annexation and hurricane David. The Police Department made the transition on January 1st, 1979 to provide police protection to both the westside and southside annexed areas. These areas combined account for nearly 30,000 people. The provision of services to these areas was accomplished with minimum disruption and with moderate increases in expenditure and personnel. In order to assist with the provision of services to this area, a southside police station was opened in the Oglethorpe Mall.

Some 14,907 reported crimes were investigated by this Department in 1979. This evidenced an increase of 19.1% in the crime rate per 1000

population over 1978's figures. Two areas, larceny and auto theft account for a major portion of this rate increase. Larceny experienced a 27.6% rate increase while auto theft increased 44.7%. When these crimes against property are excluded from the overall crime figures, the increase stands at 6.2% over those figures for 1978. This rate indicates an incidence of crime of 40.8 per 1000 population. A further investigation of the crime rates and classifications reveals that property crime rates are up 24% while the rate of crimes against persons is down 4.7%.

In efforts to address the continually changing crime structure, the Department has revamped its patrol procedures to meet the changing needs of the community. In addition several high crime neighborhoods have been the target of special crime preventative measures. The result of this program of targeting high crime areas has resulted in the virtual elimination of robberies and burglaries for these areas.



Further efforts will be undertaken in 1980 to increase the effectiveness of crime preventative and investigative measures. These will include a review of the investigative processes with the ultimate result being an improved program with the most efficient utilization of existing resources.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT [CPD]

The primary goal of the Community Planning and Development Department through use of the CDBG is to acquire federal financial assistance for the overall improvement of the City's target areas by means of planning and development. There were many noteworthy achievements by the department in 1979.

Citizens continued to be involved in planning the use of Community Development Block Grant funds. Four (4) new neighborhood groups were organized bringing the city's total to 18 in the 28 planning units. CPD published its CORNERSTONE Newsletter which helped inform city residents of meetings, public hearings and special events. CPD staff worked diligently to explain new programs to neighborhood groups and concerned citizens and prompted them to attend neighborhood meetings. Finally, a December public hearing was held for the purpose of reviewing community development program progress and performance.

CPD developed goals for the city directed towards improving the city's park and recreation system. The goals developed were: balancing of services, and improvement of existing facilities and development of new facilities. Based on these goals CPD made an application to the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service for funds to improve Crawford Square, Live Oak Park, Tompkins Street Recreation Center and the May Street Center. The application was well received by the federal agency and the city was awarded \$322,000 for necessary improvements. The city also received an innovative grant that will enhance coordination efforts between the city and the Board of Education for the use of school recreation facilities by the general public. In addition to the Urban Parks award the city also received \$100,000 from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service to assist rehabilitation efforts in Forsyth Park. \$1.3 million in community development funds are also being used in Forsyth Park.

CPD has been working with The Beach Institute Neighborhood Association to develop a course of action for the revitalization of the Beach Institute area. CPD is currently assisting the group in preparing an application to the state for a planning grant. The grant will be used to develop a master plan for improving the area.

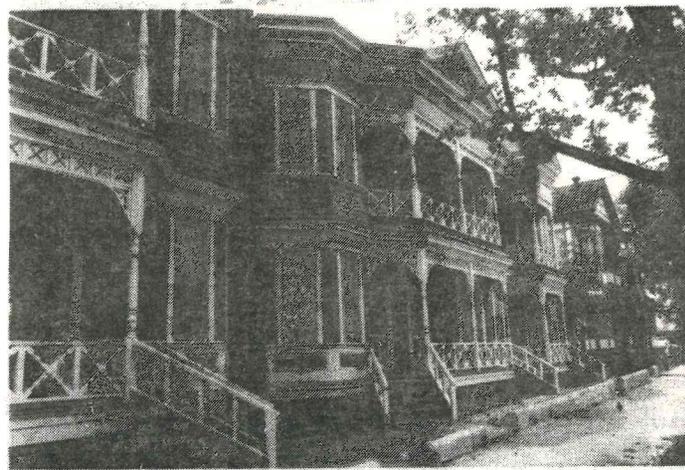
CPD gathered data to update the 1974 Responsive Public Services Program document. The program was designed to provide information, by neighborhood, to assist in developing plans for improving the delivery of city services. The basic thrust of the program is to maintain an acceptable quality of life for citizens of all city neighborhoods. Areas surveyed included housing and streets, police, fire, water and sewer, and recreation. Two (2) reports were released in 1979 in advance of the main document: (1) "The Housing Condition Update" and (2) "The Annexed Area Conditions Survey." The former presented compiled data on neighborhood physical conditions, housing and cleanliness. The

latter presented data on the city's newly annexed area to include the identification of capital needs. CPD will publish the updated Responsive Public Services Program documents in 1980.

One of the pitfalls of Capital Improvement Programs is that of timeliness. An untimely program causes the city to lose money with the ultimate loss being to the city's residents. To preclude the loss of money in capital projects and to protect the interest of the city and its residents CPD researched, designed and implemented a monitoring system directed at insuring the timeliness of capital projects. The system was approved by the federal Housing and Urban Development Department's Atlanta Regional Office.

CPD instituted a program that provided for direct funding to non-profit associations or organizations for selected activities that were consistent with community development goals and objectives. In 1979, funds were awarded for a S.A.F.E. Shelter to address the problem of battered wives and for a Parent-Child Development Center aimed at dealing with the problem of neglected and abused children. These funds can only be used for capital improvements and can only pay for 50% of the costs of the improvements.

CPD also designed and coordinated construction of an exhibit with the theme "Historic Savannah." The exhibit highlights three of Savannah's major development efforts -- Rousakis Riverfront Plaza, Historic District, and the Victorian District. The exhibit is suitable and available to local civic organizations and schools.



VICTORIAN DISTRICT

An Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) for \$650,000 was awarded for the Victorian District in March. As the private investment required for the grant, local lenders committed \$2.17 million for housing rehabilitation loans. The UDAG funds, to be used for sidewalk, lighting and park improvements, will be released when 50% of the private investments are completed or under construction.

In order to further stimulate private investment in the Victorian District, the Mayor and Aldermen adopted in October an interest subsidy program for housing rehabilitation loans. Though the recent rise in interest rates has slowed the program, by the end of December applications had been received on nine owner-occupied units and 46 rental units.

Under the vacant unit component of the program, Historic Savannah Foundation acquired 14 vacant residential units, to be marketed to prospective owners for rehabilitation and occupancy.

SANITATION DEPARTMENT

On January 2, 1979, the Sanitation Department initiated services for approximately 35,000 residents in the newly annexed area. Residential Refuse Collection was required to design, plan and service ten (10) new collection routes. Commercial Refuse Collection had to design, plan and service one additional collection route. Street Cleaning was required to establish new routes for the entire City so that the annexed area could be incorporated into the sector system for sweeping every two weeks. All of these tasks were completed and the programs were accomplished with a minimum of confusion and problems. A total of 46 new personnel and 19 new vehicles were required to service these annexed areas.

During the year, Sanitation provided men and equipment on several weekends to remove debris from certain neighborhoods during clean-up campaigns. The following areas were worked:

Baldwin Park
Hudson Hill
Tremont Park

East Savannah - Gwinnett Street to Iowa Street and Long Avenue to the City Limits

The Sanitary Landfill water monitoring program which was originated in 1977 continued in 1979. To date all tests of both surface and ground water have indicated that there is no contamination to either category. This indicated that our present landfill practices are non-polluting. However, floodplain criteria under new Federal guidelines may present a problem for further extension of the present site.

The City of Savannah was chosen as one of sixty-eight (68) communities to receive a cooperative agreement grant for resource recovery studies under the President's Urban Policy Program. This \$49,320 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, with the addition of cash and in-kind assistance from the City, will finance a nine month study to determine the feasibility of a solid waste resource recovery facility for Savannah to convert garbage and trash to energy. This study is proposed to begin in February 1980.

The Street Cleaning program is being redesigned to establish equal cleanliness levels within the entire City. Presently, the residential areas of the City are being swept once every two (2) weeks. The new system is being planned and developed to sweep streets based on an established need for sweeping. Some areas will be swept once each week, others once every two (2) weeks, and some once every four (4) weeks. This should ensure that there is a uniform standard of cleanliness.

Hurricane David created special problems for the Sanitation Department. Normal functions were curtailed in several activities. Residential Refuse continued normal garbage collections but also worked Wednesdays and weekends collecting and removing storm debris. Street Cleaning stopped all normal activity, both day and night, and assisted in the task of removing the debris. All Sanitation Code Inspectors were used in the cleanup as well. After two (2) months and 28,000 truck loads of storm debris later normal activity resumed.



In September, 1979, the new Clean Environment Activity was established within the Sanitation Department to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of City services designed to improve the City's living environment. Several existing programs were combined with one new service to form the Clean Environment Division of Sanitation. This Division now handles the Abandoned/Derelict Vehicle Removal Program, Sanitation Code Enforcement, Vacant Lot Inspection and Control, Dilapidated Structures Inspection and Control, and the Clean Community System Program.

The Clean Community System Program is designed to encourage citizen involvement in keeping the community clean by changing citizens behavior and attitudes. The program operates on five proven principles to achieve this goal. They are:

1. Updated Ordinances
2. Improved Technology
3. Continuous Education
4. Sensible Enforcement
5. Appropriate Recognition and Awards

The Clean Environment Division has the task of establishing an overall concept and management approach for systematically improving the cleanliness of the City.



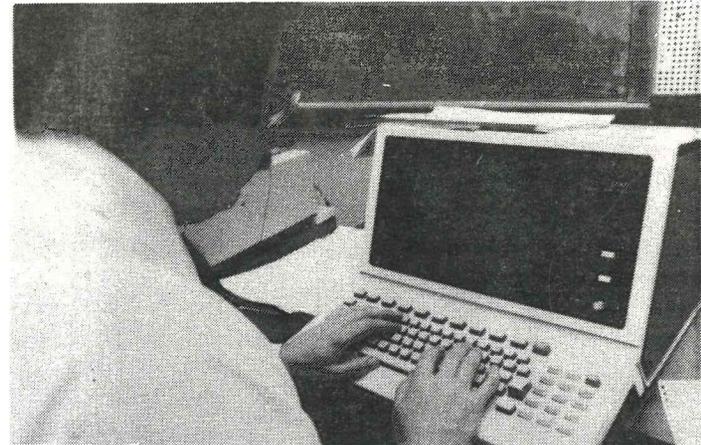
A Clean Community Advisory Council appointed by the Mayor and Aldermen was established and met for the first time in October. The program was accredited by "Keep America Beautiful" in November with a presentation to the Mayor.

RECORDER'S COURT

With 1979 came the appointment of the second judge for the Recorder's Court. A new court schedule was implemented that increased the number of sessions per week from 13 to 21. As a result, overcrowded courtrooms and extremely long court sessions were eliminated. Police officers can now resume their normal duties more rapidly than they could previously. With the additional sessions, court personnel spend more time preparing for court and handling the paperwork afterward but the benefits greatly outweigh this one shortcoming.

December of 1979 saw the first implementation of computer technology in the court system of Chatham County. The Recorder's Court altered the planned applications of the system and gained approval from the Department of Public Safety for access to state driving records. The court is currently requesting such information only on those defendants with serious driving violations. In these cases, the court has had good success in obtaining information relative to the determination of sentence. During 1980 a concerted effort will be made to increase the number of persons the check is made on and, eventually, a check will be requested for each traffic case received by the court. At the same time the records check is requested, an inquiry goes to GCIC and NCIC for outstanding wants and warrants nationwide. Savannah's Recorder's Court is the second court in the state to have these capabilities and the results received thus far have been outstanding.

The Recorder's Court processed 5,976 city criminal cases and 1,083 county criminal cases during 1979. The court also processed 35,584 traffic citations and prepared 2,341 dockets. Criminal warrants taken out in the judges' office increased by 24% over 1978 to a total of 4,737. 2,492 cases were bound over to a higher court for trial and revenue of \$596,927 was collected for the city while \$373,825 was collected for Chatham County.



COMPUTER SERVICES

This past year was one of changes in Data Processing. After converting all City programs to operate on the new computer many internal improvements were made, such as:

- An Automatic Magnetic Tape Tracking System to recycle 1,000 tapes per month;

- A Systems and Program Utilization System for project tracking, performance monitoring and data processing chargebacks;

- A disaster backup system to ensure copying twice per month of all critical files with off-site vault storage;

- An Operators work scheduling system and operations manual;

- A complete Data Processing equipment inventory system; and

- Tightened security at the site.

For the Criminal Justice Information System, ninety-six programs were developed or rewritten. In addition a data base of 756,000 records was developed and maintained. The year 1980 will see the installation of a Prosecutor's Management Information System (PROMIS) to be utilized by the Courts, the Prosecuting Attorney, and the Police Departments.

Data Processing conducted extensive staff training and surveyed the systems of all users. Extremely detailed information of all existing program was collected and analyzed. Then two new pieces of software were evaluated. The chosen system, MAPPER, should greatly speed development of applications. All existing systems will be completely redesigned and rewritten using MAPPER.

On-line systems will be introduced in the Treasurer's Office, Budget, and Vehicle maintenance in the first half of 1980.

HUMAN SERVICES

Human Services provides programs in community development target areas of the City to (1) assist formerly unemployed or underemployed residents of Savannah in securing and maintaining full-time employment and achieving economic independence; (2) to maintain and strengthen the home and family life of disabled or chronically ill adults; and (3) to provide a program for increasing recruitment, training and employment of minority and disadvantaged youth and adults in the construction trades. Total funding for this program was \$1,733,493.

During 1979, 929 citizens were provided services through the use of contracted services for several programs. Day Care served 464 children aged 18 months to 6 years. This program indirectly benefited parents who were either unemployed or underemployed. Funding for this program was \$1,080,082. Homemaker Services were provided to 309 primary care clients who were disabled or chronically ill. Funding for this program was \$428,625. Apprenticeship training served 125 individuals in CDBG target areas of high unemployment. Ten (10) completed training and 118 were placed on a job. Funding for this program was \$87,335.

The Day Care Program for Blind Adults provides a program for increasing the management, mobility, and communication skills of the disadvantaged visually impaired residents of Savannah. The caseload for 1979 was 55. Eighteen (18) clients completed training and are able to live independently. Funding for this program was \$215,794.

On April 1, 1979, Human Services assumed the responsibility for the accounting, compliance and planning functions related to employees on the CETA work force. For the program year beginning October 1, 1979, the City was allocated \$1,198,201 to provide employment for CETA participants.

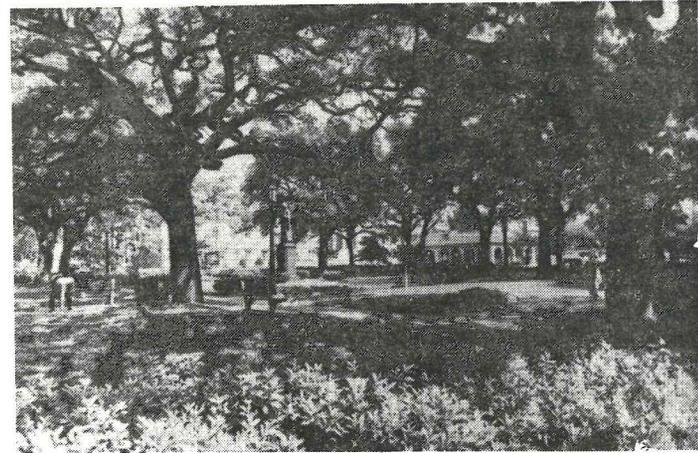
As of December 31, 1979, the first quarter spending level was 25%, with 107 participants employed. During 1979, seventy (70) CETA city employees were transitioned to unsubsidized employment. The City employed approximately 95% of those transitioned to unsubsidized employment.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

The local CETA Program is jointly sponsored by the City of Savannah and Chatham County. By formal agreement between the governments it is administered by the City's Department of Labor Resources Development. Fully funded by the Federal government under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, the program provides jobs and training opportunities to the economically disadvantaged unemployed members of this community who are most in need of such assistance.

During 1979, 4,236 Chatham Countians received CETA services. Of these, 2,235 or 53% terminated positively by entering permanent employment or returning to school; 1,564 or 37% were still on board at years end. 54% of the participants were female; 27% were high school dropouts; 79% were black; 14% were handicapped; *all* were unemployed or in school and *all* had a family income below the poverty level.

During 1979, CETA shifted its focus from emphasis on public sector activities with programs such as public service employment and work experience to the private sector on-the-job training and institutional training activities. The local program likewise is looking more than ever before to the private sector where 85% of all jobs are located to move the significant segments of the population into meaningful employment. The new Private Industry Council has become extremely active in this endeavor. The staff has been instructed to develop a contract to perform a labor market survey which will highlight such things as the skill needs of local employers, what social-economic factors comprise the local unemployed, where the unemployed area located, what services are required in order to become employed, etc. The survey will be completed during the first quarter, 1980.



PARK & TREE

During this past year the Park & Tree Department initiated efforts to revitalize several major parks. A complete irrigation system was installed as the initial phase of the Baldwin Park Revitalization. New sidewalks, a slate center court, and extensive landscaping are scheduled to complete this park restoration by late spring, 1980. This effort is a cooperative project with Baldwin Park Neighborhood Association members and "The Neighborhood" personnel assisting with the design.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the long awaited Dixon Park revitalization project were held in December, 1979. Work was initiated immediately with completion of this project anticipated in early spring, 1980. Extensive planning phases were initiated for the 37th Street median beautification project and for the Forsyth Park restoration. Both of these projects will be initiated during 1980. Grant requests were also forwarded for funds to assist in the restoration of the south portion of Laurel Grove Cemetery, a site listed on the National Register of Historic Sites.

Continuing efforts to beautify the downtown parks and squares were evidenced by the acquisition of over one hundred and sixty redwood trash containers. These will be installed in early 1980.



Plans for 1980 include the completion of the aforementioned projects as well as the beautification of the approach to the Talmadge Memorial Bridge. This project will be a cooperative effort of the State of Georgia, the Trustees Garden Club, the Coastal Highway District, and the City. The Trustees Garden Club will oversee the beautification project and the Park & Tree Department will take over maintenance upon completion.

In addition the Park & Tree Department plans to erect a greenhouse during 1980. This will be constructed on a site at the nursery and will mark efforts to plant and maintain more areas of the City with annual and perennial flower beds.

A master tree plan is being prepared for consideration by the Park & Tree Commission. This plan will designate the species and sizes of trees planted by the department in specific types of

planting sites, designate the priorities for areas to be planted, and establish regulations governing space, planting site width, limb heights, etc. Also during 1980 a tree inventory will be initiated while tree trimming crews will initiate a program of pre-trimming trees in order to increase efficiency and decrease the number of service requests.

ENGINEERING DIVISION

The following major capital improvements were completed during 1979: rehabilitation of the I & D Water Treatment Plant, expansion of the water and sewer system by about one mile, modifications to two wells and three pumping stations, construction of the Kayton stormwater pumping station, rehabilitation of the DeRenne Avenue storm line, 9.36 miles of street paving, 9.5 miles of resurfacing by the DOT under the LARP program, 4 tennis courts at Kennedy and Cloverdale parks, construction of a community center on Richard Street, 2 miles of school sidewalks, and various renovations and repairs to City property. A major expansion of the Water and Sewer System was started in the recently annexed areas on the west and south side of the City.

Special projects begun during 1979 and continuing during 1980 are the Expansion of the City Atlas and Storm Sewer Mapping into the annexed areas. The development of a Public Facilities Manual, for the purpose of defining guidelines governing the design of those facilities which must be constructed to serve new development was started, but much work remains to be done.

For 1980, the major thrust of capital improvements will be concentrated on expanding and improving the Water and Sewer System, street paving, and drainage improvements.

WATER & SEWER

During 1979 water distribution crews repaired 3,488 leaks. On December 31, 1979 an all time low backlog of 26 unrepaired leaks was recorded. New meter installations for the year totaled 772.

A total of 505 PVC laterals were also installed during this period. This continuing program is designed to eliminate water leaks caused by acidic soils reactions on galvanized service lines. Approximately 820 of the 3,500 affected residents have benefited from this program since its 1978 initiation.

A new water line was extended over 400 feet to loop the main line in the Nottingham Woods Subdivision in order to provide the area with higher water pressure. A number of new fire hydrants were installed in the newly annexed areas of Liberty City and Woodville.

Efforts to conserve energy continued with the water supply function realizing a reduction in KWH usage. These efforts were initiated in 1978 and resulted in a 7.7% KWH reduction. This years efforts resulted in an additional reduction of 3.6% or 488,610 KWH. Since the initiation of this program

(1978) consumption has been reduced a total of 11% for a savings of 1,624,837 KWH.

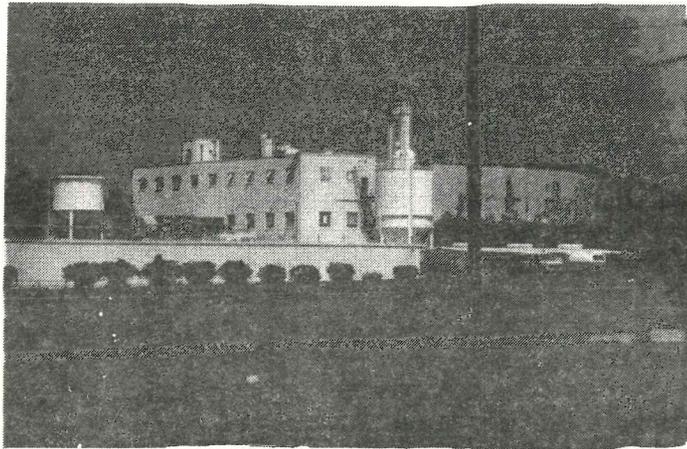
Nearly twelve miles or 62,834 linear feet of sewer collector lines were preventatively maintained during this period. Emergency cleanings of sewer lines totaled 408,619 linear feet, or a total of seventy sewer miles. This was an increase of 141,000 linear feet over 1978's emergency cleanings.

In addition to the above, sewer maintenance built or replaced 98 manholes and repaired or adjusted 214 manholes. This work was accomplished with one foreman and CETA personnel who were trained to perform this specific work.

Permanent bypasses were constructed at lift stations at Largo Drive, Berkshire West, McAlpin, Oglethorpe Park, and Oakdale. More of these bypasses are scheduled for construction during 1980. These bypasses will allow wastewater to be maintained within the City's system while any necessary repairs are being made in the station equipment. This is in lieu of allowing this water to flow in the storm drainage system. Complete rehabilitations were completed on lift stations in Cloverdale, Lamara Apartments, Carver Village, and Flatman. Work on a second lift station in Cloverdale and one at McAlpin is scheduled to be completed early in 1980.

Plans were finalized for an additional aeration system to be installed at the President Street Pollution Treatment Plant. Funds have been provided for most of this by the Environmental Protection Agency. Work is scheduled to begin in early 1980 with completion scheduled for the fall.

A number of organizational changes were implemented at the President Street Plant which have resulted in more emphasis being placed on maintaining a continuous mode of operation.



The Industrial and Domestic Water production system continued to undergo revisions during 1979. Plant personnel conducted two "poly-pig" cleaning runs on the 48 inch water line. By keeping this line clear the plant was able to operate under most circumstances without the use of the large booster pumps. This in effect increased the productivity of the plant and reduced electric consumption. During 1979 over 12 billion gallons of water were produced through the use of 13.5 million KWH of electricity. This evidenced a 4.52% decrease in electricity consumption over 1978. Slightly over 905 gallons of water was produced per KWH in 1979. The ratio for the previous year was 866 gallons per KWH. "Poly-pig" cleaning runs are planned on a quarterly basis during 1980.

Water and Sewer Rate Changes. Effective January 1, 1979, the water and sewer rate structure was modified to comply with EPA requirements that the water and sewer systems be separately self-supporting. Also effective January 1, 1979, the overall water and sewer rates were increased by approximately 20%, the first rate increase since January, 1975.

MANAGEMENT SERVICES BUREAU

In 1979 the Departments of Budget and Management Analysis continued development of the City's budgeting and reporting system. The 1980 Budget includes effectiveness measures and goals for benefits to the community and citizens. Each program of work is designed to meet specific public benefits. In addition, the Monthly Reports to the City Manager will be revised to relate the department's progress toward meeting its production goals.

The Resource Management and Control (RMAC) program continued to produce savings through productivity improvements. Over \$500,000 in new savings were approved and implemented in 1979. The total saved since the initiation of the program in 1977 is now well over \$1,000,000.

Two major challenges were met by Vehicle Maintenance in 1979. Fuel prices rose from 54 cents per gallon for unleaded gasoline and 42 cents for diesel at the beginning of the year to 90 cents and 89 cents respectively, by the end of 1979. Between 1977 and 1979 fuel as a percentage of Vehicle Maintenance's budget rose from 15% to 26%. In spite of these extreme inflationary pressures Vehicle Maintenance finished 1979 with a budget surplus. If labor and fuel costs are excluded Vehicle Maintenance expenditures decreased by \$219,143 between 1976 and 1979. This is more impressive when one considers the inflation for that period and the growth in the City fleet due to annexation in 1979. More work was handled in-house causing a \$25,000 increase in overtime. However, this was offset by a savings of \$150,000 in Outside Repair costs. A rebuilding program contributed to a \$170,000 parts budget surplus. Following Hurricane David the majority of the City's heavy trucks were engaged in seven days a week, often sixteen hour day, clean-up operations. The overall condition of the City fleet was tested and proven during this period of intensive usage.

The Central Services Activities made a number of improvements in addition to performing their regular maintenance and service functions. City Hall was rewired. Building and Electrical Maintenance established a new planning, scheduling and prioritizing system which resulted in a large increase in completed jobs. A photocopying study produced new equipment which upgraded our photocopying capabilities while reducing the cost by \$5,000. Through changes in our insurance program Central Services reduced our 1979 costs - self insured losses and insurance - by \$40,000.

The Personnel Department was certified as being in compliance with the Federal Merit System Standards for Personnel Administration. Both the breadth and depth of the City's annual pay study were increased in 1979. To better relate those employee classifications not included in the wage and benefit survey to the benchmark classes all City bureaus participated in a job evaluation. All classes in a job family were ranked and these classes were then integrated into a ranking from low to high. In this way the relative value of each job was established. Personnel also implemented two significant improvements in benefits to the employees - unemployment compensation and maternity.

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The City's housing rehabilitation program was significantly improved in 1979, resulting in a marked increase in the number of housing units rehabilitated. The most significant increase in the housing program was implemented by City Council action in July, 1979, which increased the loan limits from \$7,500 to \$25,000.

In the six months since the increase was effected, the number of homeowners receiving loans and grants rose from 11 in 1978 to 27 in 1979, an increase

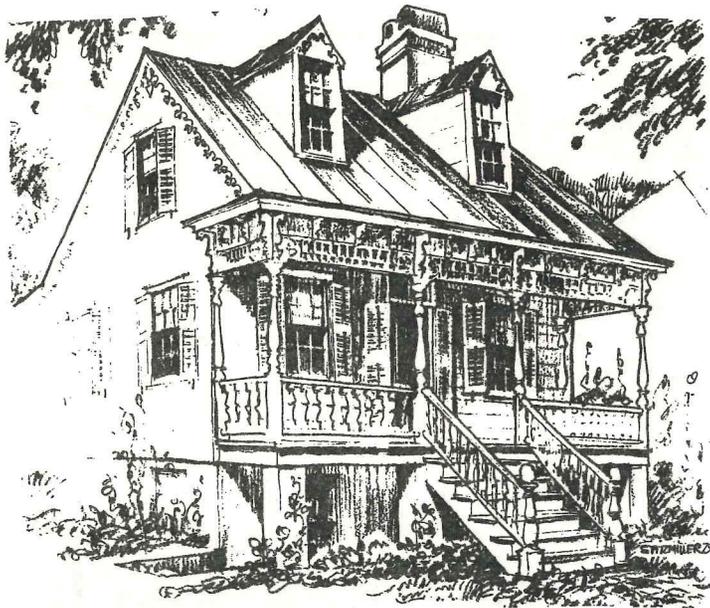
of 67%. The spending rate rose from \$32,165 in the first two years of Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance Program (HRAP) to \$311,297 in 1979. The spending rate increased 91% since the limits were raised. Further, the housing program is sufficiently established so that rehabilitation will occur at a rate of 8 units per month. At this rate, rehabilitation in one month exceeds total rehabilitation for any previous year.

Last year, the City received its largest Section 312 allocation for homeowners and its first Section 312 multifamily allocation since implementation of the housing rehabilitation program. From the homeowner allocation, the City processed 20 loans at \$394,100. Two multifamily applications totaling 12 units were approved at \$274,100. In addition to the funds allocated to Savannah through normal procedures, the City processed 24 Section 312 applications for Savannah Landmark Rehabilitation Project, Inc., at a cost of \$1,336,050 bringing the total number of Landmark units rehabilitated under this program to 64. Total Section 312 expenditures by the City of Savannah in 1979 were \$2,004,250.

The City was granted local loan approval for owner-occupied Section 312 loans of one to four units. Local loan approval will cut the processing time by one month. Savannah is the second city in the state to be given such approval.

The Victorian District Revitalization Project was implemented in 1979. Under this project, 500 housing units for low and moderate income families will be repaired through the Section 8 Substantial Rehabilitation Program. Applications for 150 of the 500 Section 8 units were submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the fall. Another 20 applications totaling 75 units are currently being processed and will be submitted before June 30, 1980.

The Interest Subsidy Program was adopted by City Council; five (5) lending institutions have agreed to participate. Presently, applications totaling 49 units are in process.



The Housing Department worked with the Yamacraw Branch of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History to move and renovate the Tisdell house, which was located on Ott Street in the Wheaton Street Urban Renewal Area. On behalf of the Association, an application to the Governor's Discretionary Fund for \$16,000 was prepared and approved. An additional \$80,000 was provided by City Council to complete renovation of the house as a museum and office for the Association.

In conjunction with the Metropolitan Planning Commission, Historic Savannah Foundation and Savannah Landmark, the City sponsored a field survey in the Victorian District by the Historic American Building Survey (HABS), a division of the United States Department of the Interior. Floor plans and elevations were prepared on about 20 houses which were selected as outstanding examples of architecture or as representatives of the District. The material gathered through this study will be made a permanent part of the HABS archives, and copies of all drawings and photographs will be given to the City.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department responded to a total of 2,667 calls in 1979 which are categorized as follows: Fires 1,382, False Alarms 404, Rescue 56, Public Service 825. The total fire loss for the year was \$3,771,275. The total value of property saved, which represents that property directly jeopardized by these fires was \$329,069,810. Two major fires accounted for 30% of the year's fire losses.

Arson fires and suspicious fires contributed significantly to the total fire loss. Of the 1,382 fires, 100 were determined to be arson and 9 were labeled suspicious. A fire at the Victory Bowling Lanes resulted in an \$800,000 loss. The cause of this fire has been classed as suspicious. A fire at Victory Heights Apartments resulted in a \$325,000 loss and the cause was determined to be arson. The fire loss for these categories was \$1,858,722 or 49% of the total fire loss.

There were 5,494 home fire prevention inspections made during the year. During the last six months of the year, the Home Inspection Program was concentrated in Planning Unit #19: the area of the City with the highest fire incidents. A comparison of the fires in Planning Unit #19 for the last six months of 1978 with the last six months of 1979 revealed a reduction in the number of structural fires from 49 to 45. In addition the number of fires with causes which could possibly have been prevented through Home Inspection decreased from 13 to 8.

The Training Program encompassed a variety of fire prevention and suppression subjects and a total of 43,810 man hours of training were conducted. All firefighters received state certification for 1979.

The P.T.I. Fire Station Location Project was initiated in 1979. This project involves: dividing the city into fire demand zones which are determined by the extent of the life and fire hazards; and organizing the physical layout of the city into a system of links

and nodes which represent city streets and the speed and distance traveled to reach any fire demand zone. All this information was incorporated into a computer program which can evaluate the response from any possible fire station location to any fire demand zone. Our goal for 1980 is to use this program to formulate possible changes in fire station locations which will: (1) Improve I.S.O. rating in a newly annexed area of the City; (2) Reduce costs by possible consolidation of stations; and (3) Improve overall average response times.

Special programs for 1980 include: (1) Expansion of Home Fire Prevention Inspection Program into Planning Unit #21 with a goal of reducing fires from 18.54 per 1000 residents to 17.56 per 1000 residents. (2) Reduce the number of residential fires in the City from 3.28 fires per 1000 residents to 3.1 fires per 1000 residents through public education programs such as school visits and lectures, annual fire prevention show, and media fire prevention programs. (3) Reduce the number of fire related deaths from five in 1979 to none in 1980.

Without any increase in equipment or personnel, the Savannah Fire Department took over the responsibility for the westside annexed areas.

Coverage for the Southside Area was contracted to the Southside Fire Department. Records were monitored monthly by the Savannah Fire Department for this area. In addition, the Savannah Fire Department's South Battalion Chief responded to all structural fires in this area and the Savannah Fire Department's Investigation Unit investigated the causes of all fires except those where past experience indicated investigation was not necessary. Both of these functions were done without any increase to the Savannah Fire Department's equipment or personnel.

The Southside Fire Department responded to 297 Fire Calls, 78 False Alarms and 119 Public Service Calls during 1979.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

The year 1979 saw the initiation of a coordinated, comprehensive downtown planning effort, focusing on means of stimulating public and private investment in the downtown area. The Land Design/Research study entitled "Program for Economic Growth in Downtown Savannah", published in March, identified several projects with strong development potential, particularly in the Northwest Quadrant.



Following a recommendation of the Land Design/Research study, the Bureau of Public Development created an Economic Development Department, charged with working directly with the private sector in planning and implementing downtown development projects. In addition to securing private investors for submission of an Urban Development Action Grant application for the Northwest Quadrant, the Department has initiated basic economic and market data studies to guide future downtown planning.

In December the Mayor and Aldermen appointed an Advisory Council on Downtown Economic Development, composed of business and civic leaders in the community. This group will assist in the development of long range goals and strategies to help promote economic vitality within the Downtown Area.

Additionally, the Mayor's Downtown Parking Committee, working with the Metropolitan Planning Commission, developed methods of alleviating parking problems downtown, notably the fringe area parking and shuttle bus system, to begin service in March, 1980.

STREETS & TRAFFIC

Street Maintenance Services were extended to the annexed areas as of January 1. This involved takeover of 31 miles of unpaved streets and 101 miles of paved streets. Over 450 street lights were installed during 1979 in the annexed area. Extensive sign surveys were made in the annexed area and signs erected or replaced as required.

In order to take full advantage of the Georgia Department of Transportation's L.A.R.P. program a street resurfacing priority program was developed in conjunction with the Engineering Department. Approximately 16 miles of City streets were overlaid during 1979 as part of this program.

Improved grass cutting schedules were developed as part of the RMC study. These will become effective during 1980. Approximately two months of 1979 grass cutting season was affected by hurricane cleanup.

An interconnected traffic signal system was installed on Abercorn Street Extension during 1979. This required close coordination with County officials and the signal contractor. Operating and maintenance procedures have been learned by appropriate personnel. The system is currently operating as designed. Other signal modifications included improvements at White Bluff-Montgomery Crossroads, Columbus-Habersham, and Abercorn-Montgomery Crossroads. The traffic signal at DeRenne and Waters Avenue was relocated as required for construction of the DeRenne Avenue Widening Project. Three additional signals along DeRenne will require adjustments in 1980 to match the configuration of this project.

Hurricane David severely damaged several traffic signals requiring the expenditure of approximately \$6,600. Timely repairs were accomplished at all locations except for Abercorn and Henry Streets. Two steel poles were destroyed necessitating a temporary signal installation. Street Maintenance personnel played a major role in clearing storm debris after hurricane David. Approximately 21,000 man hours including 6,000 hours of overtime were required for this task. The storm caused \$1500 in damage to streets and sidewalks.

LEISURE SERVICES

Leisure Services had a banner year in 1979. More citizens than ever before took part in a variety of programs. Partly because of an expanded variety of programs, partly because of an increased population, and partly because more people are staying at home for their recreational pursuits.

As usual the athletic programs attracted the most active participation. Baseball was one of the most active programs, with Little League, Junior League, Senior League, and Adult League accounting for over 1700 games. Nearly one hundred and ten teams participated during the season and involved over 1,650 different players.

Softball was one of the most active programs conducted by the Leisure Services department. Eighty-six softball teams played a total of 2,228 games during the spring & summer season. This activity involved over thirteen hundred individual players. Four separate leagues competed in the Leisure Services Basketball program. A total of sixty four teams, representing approximately six hundred participants played in a total of nearly seven hundred

different games of basketball. Soccer and Volleyball were also very active sports, with a total of 24 and 12 teams, respectively, participating in various programs.

The Seige of Savannah Bowl topped off a very active football season with participating teams from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maryland, and North Carolina to play our local champions. During the regular season over 480 games are played by the Pee Wee, Midget, and Senior teams, This sport involves over seven hundred participants.

Savannah once again served as the host city for the World Invitational Half Rubber Tournament. This year's activity attracted a total of 56 teams. Of course golf is always a popular leisure time activity, and during 1979 a total of 43,842 rounds were played at Bacon Park. Late in the year work was initiated on the construction of three new holes. This project is scheduled for completion in the summer of 1980.

Programs for the elderly continued to blossom. The Adult Day Care was moved from the Connie Wymberly Center to Candler-Central Hospital. These quarters enable the accommodation of more participants and the program is now in complete compliance with the Department of Human Resources guidelines. Nearly eleven thousand round trips were provided to this center, and an average of fifty meals are served at this facility each day.

The Golden Age centers continued to be extremely active. The W. W. Law Golden Age Club was moved to the Wimberly Center in order to accommodate more participants. A total of 260 meals are served daily at the seven Golden Age Centers. The average daily participation percenter is approximately 60 people. These centers are operated fifty-one weeks per year, five days per week, eight hours per day, to provide a maximum opportunity for participation. Each one of these centers has a waiting list for participation.

During 1979 the therapeutic recreation program continued to provide services for more physically and mentally handicapped youngsters and adults. A wide

variety of programs were scheduled on a regular basis for the deaf, blind, mentally retarded, and those with limited physical mobility. These programs includes swimming instruction, supervised games, and a summer camp.

During the hot summer months, the City's eight swimming pools were very busy. A total of 800 swimming instruction classes were held with an average daily attendance of 80 participants. The nearly 1,500 free swimming sessions proved to be very popular events and attracted an average daily participation of nearly 400 participants.

Organized activities at a number of the area playgrounds were provided for interested citizens. Nearly 1,000 arts and crafts sessions, over 4,000 games, and 125 cultural arts events were scheduled at neighborhood playgrounds. At the neighborhood centers (Tompkins, May Street, W. W. Law, Savannah Gardens, Westside, Richard Street) a variety of organized activities were conducted. Over 1,700 Arts & Crafts Activities, 3,000 various games, 350 cultural arts activities, and 225 ceramic sessions were held.

The Civic Center continued to attract record events and crowds. Included were conventions and/or conferences, classical performances, numerous public hearings and/or meetings, rock shows, circus performances, ice shows, etc. Work has begun on making safety improvements including installation of exit doors, fire walls and overhead fire sprinklers. In addition, a contract was awarded for completion of replacing the fabric covered seats in the arena. Scheduled time for completion is in early 1980 for all projects.

CULTURAL ARTS

Over the past few years the City of Savannah has initiated a unique program of contracting for service with arts related agencies. Many governments provide outright grants to support the arts, and as a result, they have no method to measure the effectiveness of these funds. In an effort to receive some definable benefits, the City of Savannah has initiated a program of contractual grants for Arts agencies. Basically, the arts agency will present to the City Manager's Office a series of proposals for specific funding levels. After discussion with these agencies, the City Manager develops a recommendation on funding levels to City Council. Council reviews these proposals as part of their normal budget process.

The program has been very successful and it has proved to be popular both with the general public, and with the Arts community.

During 1979 such organizations as the Savannah Symphony, the Savannah Ballet Guild, the Ballet South, the Little Theatre, the Savannah Science Museum, the Telfair Academy, and the Coastal Heritage Society participated in this program. Nearly ten thousand people attended a series of three Savannah Symphony Concerts sponsored under this program. The concerts were the springtime performance of "1812 Overture" on Rousakis Riverfront Plaza, a program of holiday music at Thanksgiving, and a program of contemporary and classical music held in October in Forsyth Park. All of these performances were free to the public.

A number of additional cultural activities were made available free-of-charge to residents of this community through this program. These events included performances by the Savannah Ballet and Ballet South, exhibits and programs at both the Science Museum and the Telfair, and living history programs at Old Fort Jackson.

Selected audiences are also targeted through this program. Examples include visits of performing groups to the City's Golden Age Centers and to our neighborhood recreation centers. Presentations range from ballet and theatrics to art instruction.

Savannah continued to move forward this year with innovations in the Cultural Arts field by becoming one of the few municipalities in the State to appoint an Arts Council, and to participate in the Georgia Council for the Arts and Humanities Community Arts Council program. The program is scheduled for three years, with the State providing a portion of the funding necessary to hire a director for the Arts Council program.

The overall thrust of this program will be the development and implementation of a community-wide comprehensive arts plan. The basic plan would review existing resources, survey citizens attitudes and needs, and develop a program to address these issues. The ultimate goal will be the implementation of a program which will help the Arts to contribute significantly to the overall improvement of the quality of life of our citizens.