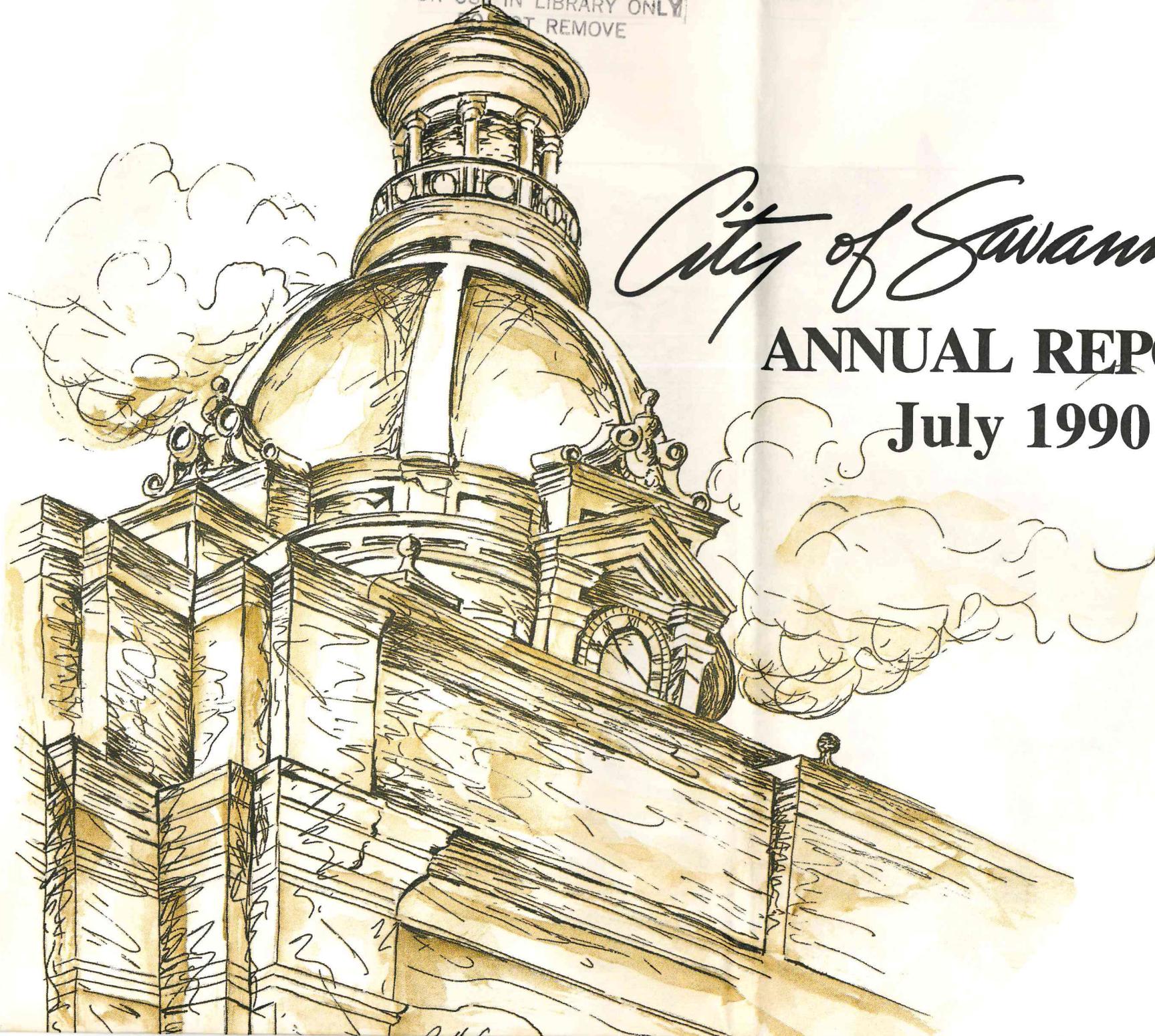


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City of Savannah

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1990

Savannah's Neighborhoods

Savannah is known worldwide for its neighborhoods. The beauty and charm of our downtown parks and squares, the historical and architectural significance of our buildings, homes, and monuments – all contribute to Savannah's reputation of being the "Hostess City of the South."

Our neighborhoods and the people who live in them make our city unique. But all cities are made up of neighborhoods and all cities, including Savannah, are only as lovely, charming and livable as the individual neighborhoods which make them up. Cleanliness, safety, adequate and affordable housing, and recreational facilities are vital components of an attractive, livable neighborhood.

Through a variety of services and programs, many of which involve the neighborhood residents themselves, the City of Savannah continues to provide and improve these amenities, equitably and responsively, in all our neighborhoods.

Message From the Mayor

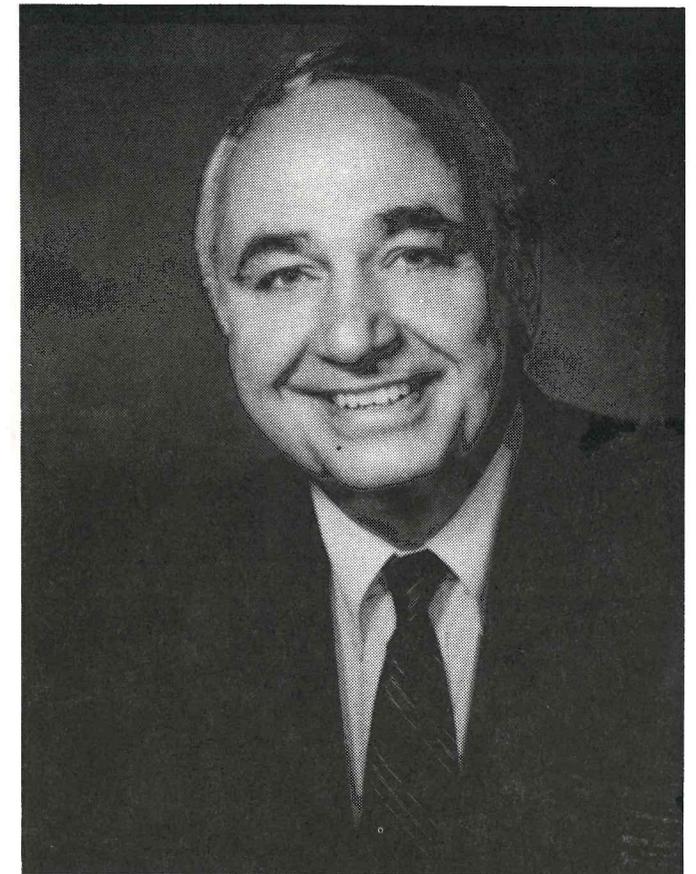
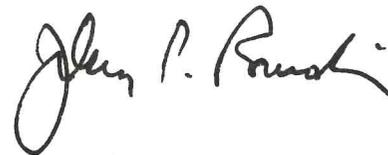
On behalf of Savannah's City Council, greetings and happy anniversary!

Savannah's City Government is 200 years old and this year we are officially celebrating our municipal birthday. Our 200th year has been a progressive and eventful year. Some of the many highlights of the past 12 months are described in this report. As you'll see, City Council's emphasis this year, through the budget and annual program of work, continues to be on our neighborhoods and on improving and enhancing the quality of life for all Savannahians.

A neighborhood should be a place where you can get to know the folks who live across the street. It should be a place where your children can play without fear. A neighborhood should be attractive and clean, and it should contain decent and affordable housing. The City Council has as its priority the establishment of policies and programs to ensure that these conditions are present in all of Savannah's neighborhoods and that every neighborhood in the City is a clean, safe, pleasant place to live.

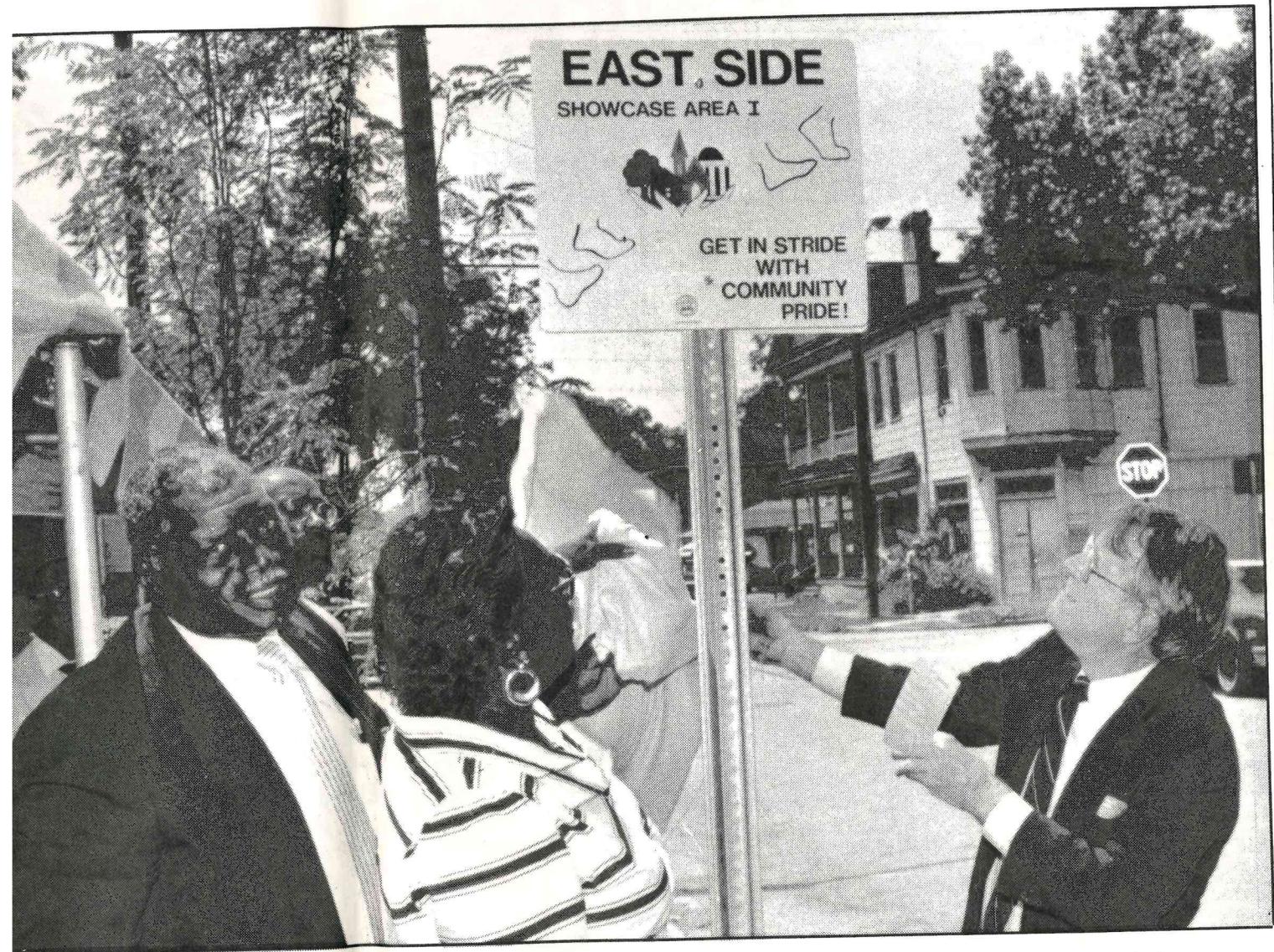
And we couldn't do it without you! The slogan for the City's Showcase Neighborhood Program is "Get in Stride with Community Pride." It's evident throughout that this slogan is being taken to heart and that community pride is contagious! From the historic district to the City's growing southside, citizens and neighbors are getting involved, taking charge, and playing an active role in the future of their neighborhoods and their City.

When our City government celebrates its 300th birthday in 2090, I'm sure our neighborhoods will set the world standard for quality urban living. Then, as now, our citizens will take a great deal of pride in being Savannahians!



Mayor John Rousakis

City of Savannah Annual Report



City Manager Don Mendonsa and residents of the Showcase Area I Neighborhood unveil the first of many signs designating the area as one of Savannah's "Showcase" communities. The Showcase areas have been targeted by the City for special attention with respect to their overall cleanliness.



Community leaders and City officials tour the new Robbie Robinson Homes (SNAP IV) project. The National Corporation for Housing Partnerships, together with the Ford Foundation, private investment, and \$1.49 million in Community Development Block Grant funding, is renovating 144 downtown housing units and building another 50 apartments in the historic district. The \$9.6 million housing project, approved by Council in 1989, is intended to improve blighted neighborhoods while providing quality, affordable housing for low and moderate income families.

Neighborhood Housing

There are more than 2,000 severely dilapidated housing units north of Victory Drive. Through the years the City has attempted to address these conditions with Community Development Block Grant funds targeting public improvements followed by rehabilitation activities. More than \$16.9 million has been invested in these neighborhoods. However, approximately 980 families are still living in substandard conditions and approximately 1,200 housing units are still vacant, dilapidated and condemned.

Decent, affordable housing is not a luxury. It is a basic human need which the City is trying to meet through numerous rehabilitation and funding programs.

A policy of tougher laws and increased code enforcement is one strategy. Neighborhood programs, such as the City's Showcase Neighborhoods and NeighborWorks (Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.) are being used to address the problem. New and innovative funding programs such as the Community Housing Services Agency program (CHSA) also are being used. The CHSA is a partnership between the City, local financial institutions, community residents and the local housing industry established to create affordable housing by making low interest loans to rehabilitate substandard housing throughout the City.

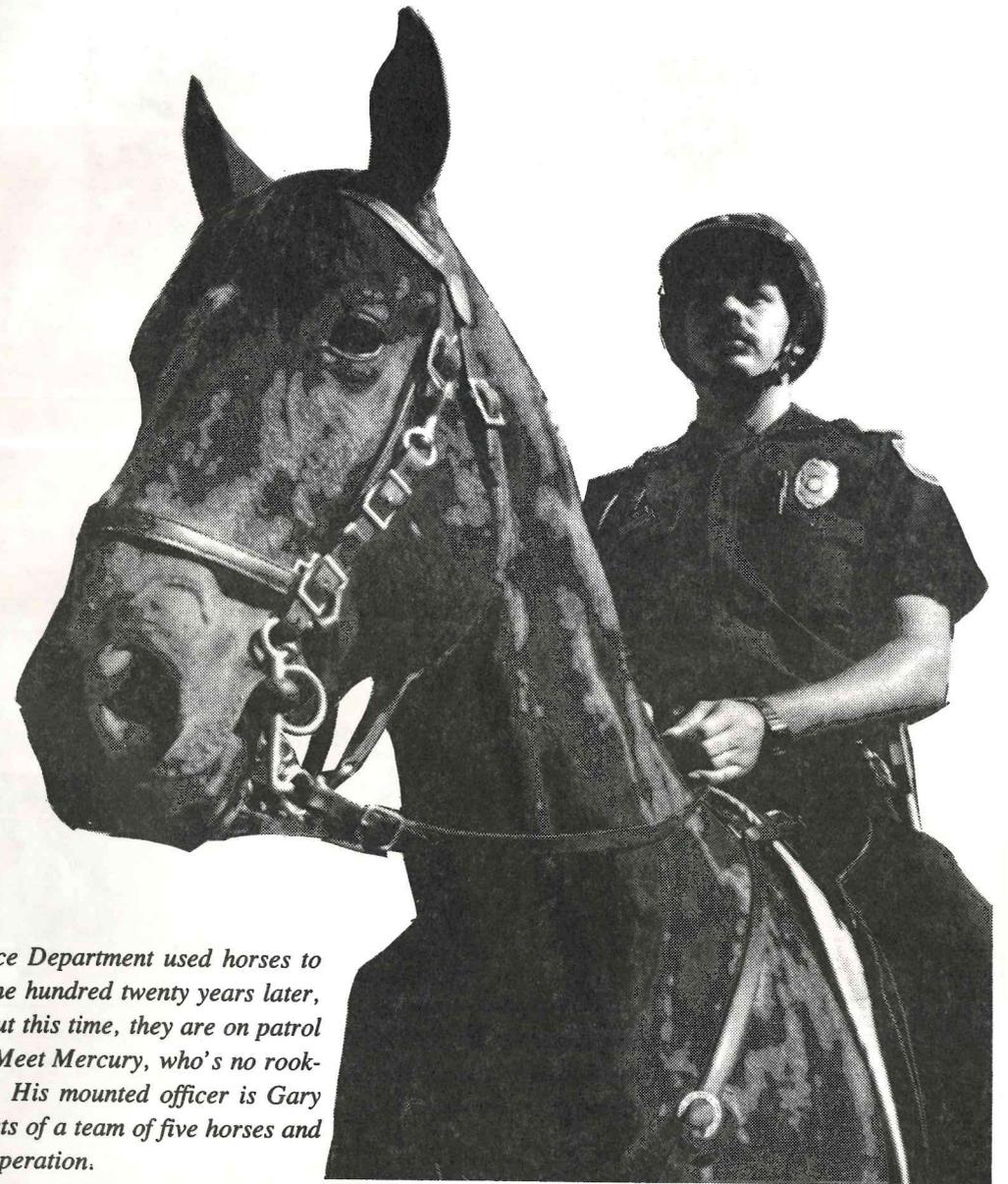
Neighborhood Safety

The City has placed major emphasis on reducing crime in our community and increasing citizens' awareness and perception of their own safety. Specific strategies over the past two years have included the development of a domestic violence protocol and the implementation of the P.O.P., or Problem-Oriented Policing, a crime analysis program used in developing crime control and prevention strategies in specific neighborhoods.

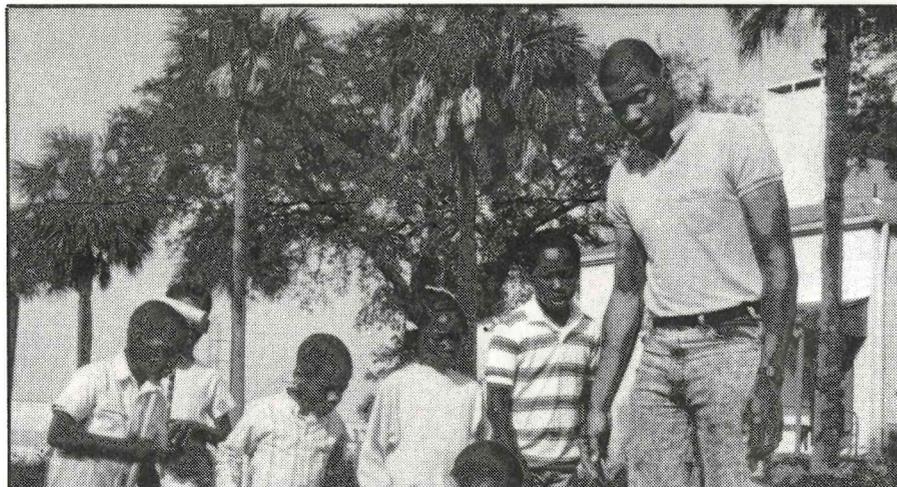
Other strategies include:

- The active involvement of SPD in neighborhood organizations and block clubs, including the City's Showcase neighborhoods;
- The expansion of the Neighborhood Watch program;
- The addition of uniformed and civilian personnel;
- The establishment of four SPD mini-stations, one on Broughton Street and three in public housing neighborhoods;
- The establishment of a five-team horse patrol to increase police presence and visibility in the downtown area;
- The continued emphasis on community outreach and programs for youth.

More than ever, our Police Department is visible and involved in the community, on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis. In addition, the department was recognized nationally in 1989, when the SPD became one of 100 law enforcement agencies in the country to become nationally accredited.



Back in 1869, the Savannah Police Department used horses to patrol the outskirts of the City. One hundred twenty years later, the horses are back on the beat, but this time, they are on patrol in our downtown neighborhoods. Meet Mercury, who's no rookie on the Savannah police force. His mounted officer is Gary Morris. The mounted patrol consists of a team of five horses and riders and is a seven-day-a-week operation.



Neighborhood Livability

Savannah's lush urban forest is an important part of what makes our neighborhoods livable and our community an enjoyable place to live, work and visit. Savannah's tree inventory is estimated to be in excess of 200,000 trees, with many of the majestic live oaks dating back to well before the Civil War. The City's Park and Tree Department is responsible for managing our urban forest, as well as all monuments, statuary and publicly-owned land, such as medians and rights-of-way. The Department's program is used as a model in cities throughout the country. In addition, in 1989, City Council adopted a comprehensive tree ordinance designed to protect our trees and ensure that our urban forest is maintained and preserved.

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Leisure Services provides recreational facilities and activities in neighborhoods throughout the community including our public housing neighborhoods. In February, the City of Savannah established the Yamacraw Village Youth Sports Club using a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Constructive supervised activities are being provided after school and on weekends in neighborhoods considered to be at-risk. The Yamacraw Village Youth Sports Club is a pilot program, and will be the basis for expanding into other public housing communities.

Neighborhood Recreation

Recreational facilities and activities are another important component of neighborhood livability. The City's Leisure Services Bureau provides a variety of programs throughout the City for all Savannahians, regardless of age, race, level of ability or ability to pay. The City's numerous programs and facilities include neighborhood recreation centers, Golden Age centers, playgrounds and sporting facilities and supervised activities and educational and cultural programs.

Leisure Services has also been involved in the City's Showcase Neighborhood program, bringing recreational, educational and cultural activities into the targeted areas. In addition, in 1989, the City opened two after-school centers, and initiated a summer youth program as part of the City's ongoing support of the New Futures Initiative. The New Futures Initiative is a community-wide effort to address the problems of Savannah's at-risk youth. City Council has committed a total of \$2.5 million in new funding to the 5-year program, and a matching amount in in-kind contributions.

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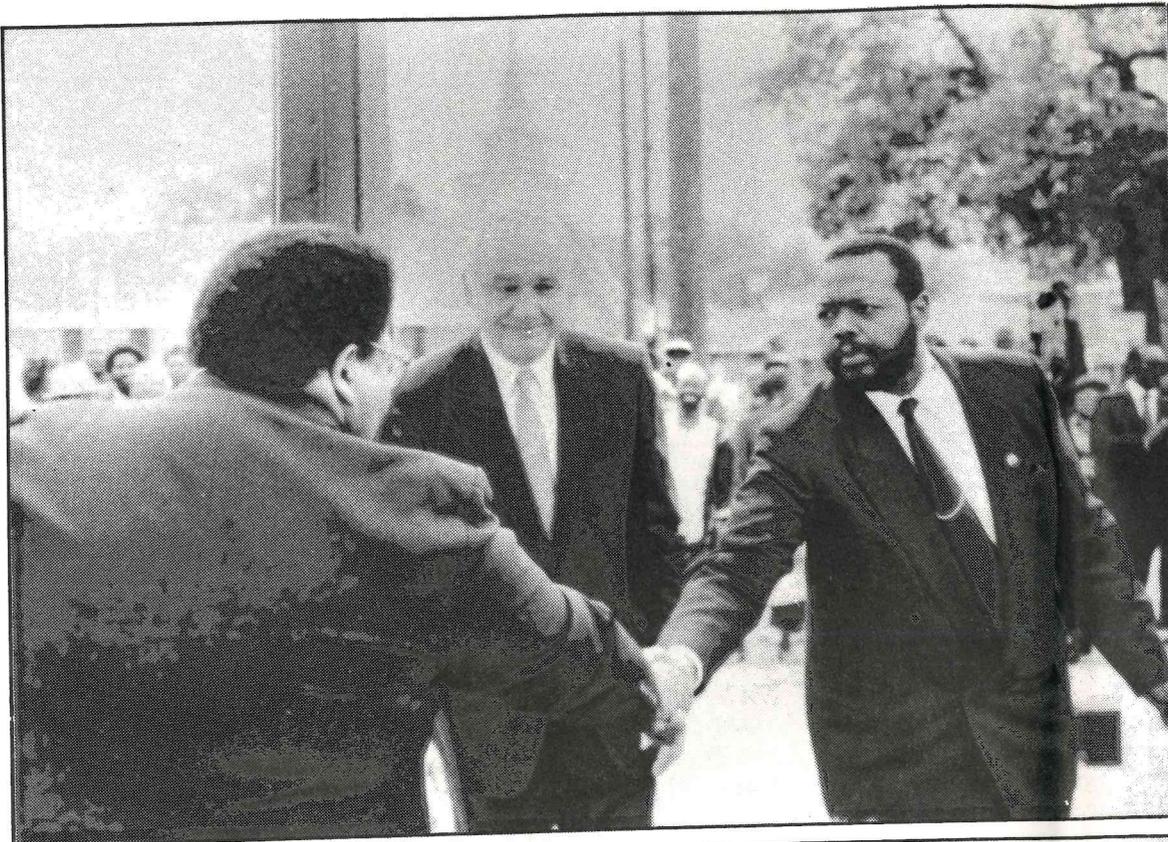
An estimated 50 percent of the City's tree inventory is located north of Victory Drive. Due to development on the southside over the past decade, there has been a general decrease in tree inventory in that part of our city. This year, as a part of its ongoing tree planting program, the City will plant some 1,000 new trees. Roughly 70 percent of those trees will be planted on the southside of the City.



The City's Park and Tree Department is targeting Savannah's southside this year in its tree planting program. Here, workers are planting a black gum tree on Dyches Drive.

Significa

Here are a few of the events of the past



Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

In March of this year, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard became a reality. The renaming of West Broad Street came about as a result of citizens' efforts to create another lasting memorial to the civil rights leader.

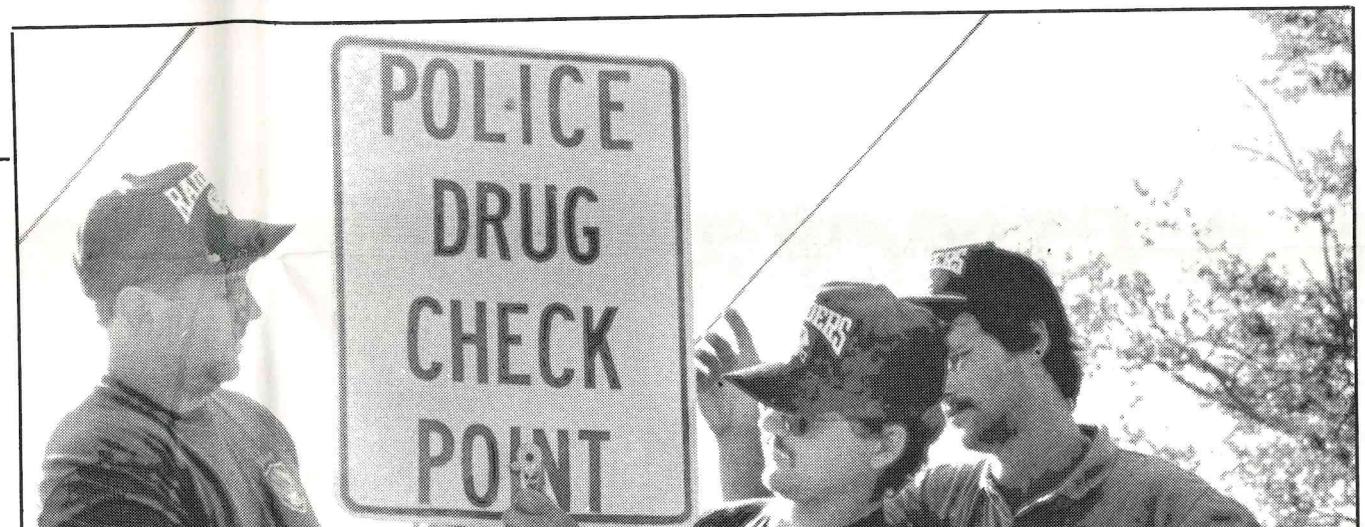
City Council chose to rename West Broad Street because of its significance to the heritage of our black citizens and the civil rights movement. The renaming is also seen as a positive step for the continued efforts to revitalize this street.



Hundreds turned out in March for the official dedication ceremony of the new Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. Here, Mayor Rousakis and 1st District Alderman Floyd Adams are joined by Reverend Bennie Mitchell as the new street sign is unveiled.

Police Outreach

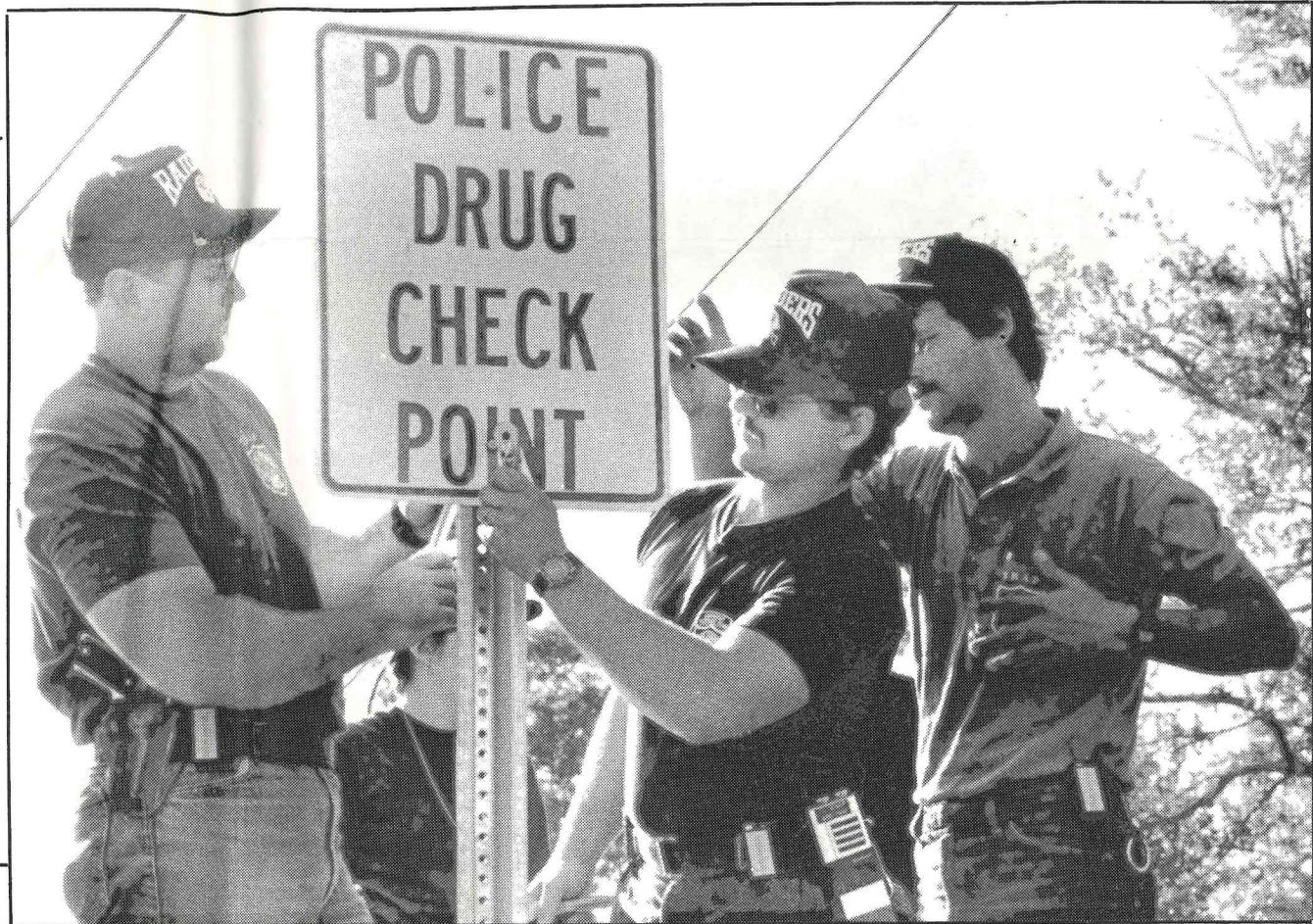
Illegal drugs are the contributing factors behind the majority of crimes in this community, and the Savannah Police Department is fighting the drug menace on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis. The Savannah Police Department has conducted several "saturation raids" in neighborhoods which have a growing problem with illegal drug ac-



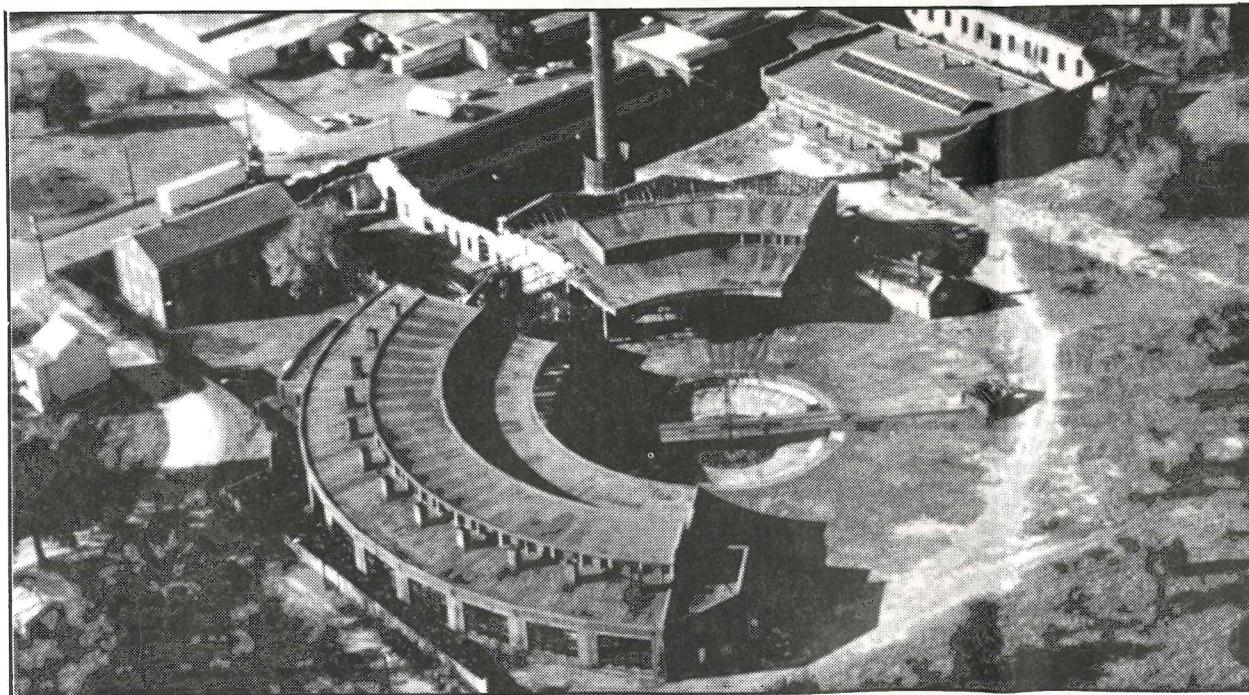
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In addition, the increased presence of police in these downtown and midtown neighborhoods has helped to re-establish a sense of neighborhood ownership among the residents and a feeling of community which has not always been present.



Savannah Police officers have established drug "checkpoints" throughout targeted neighborhoods.



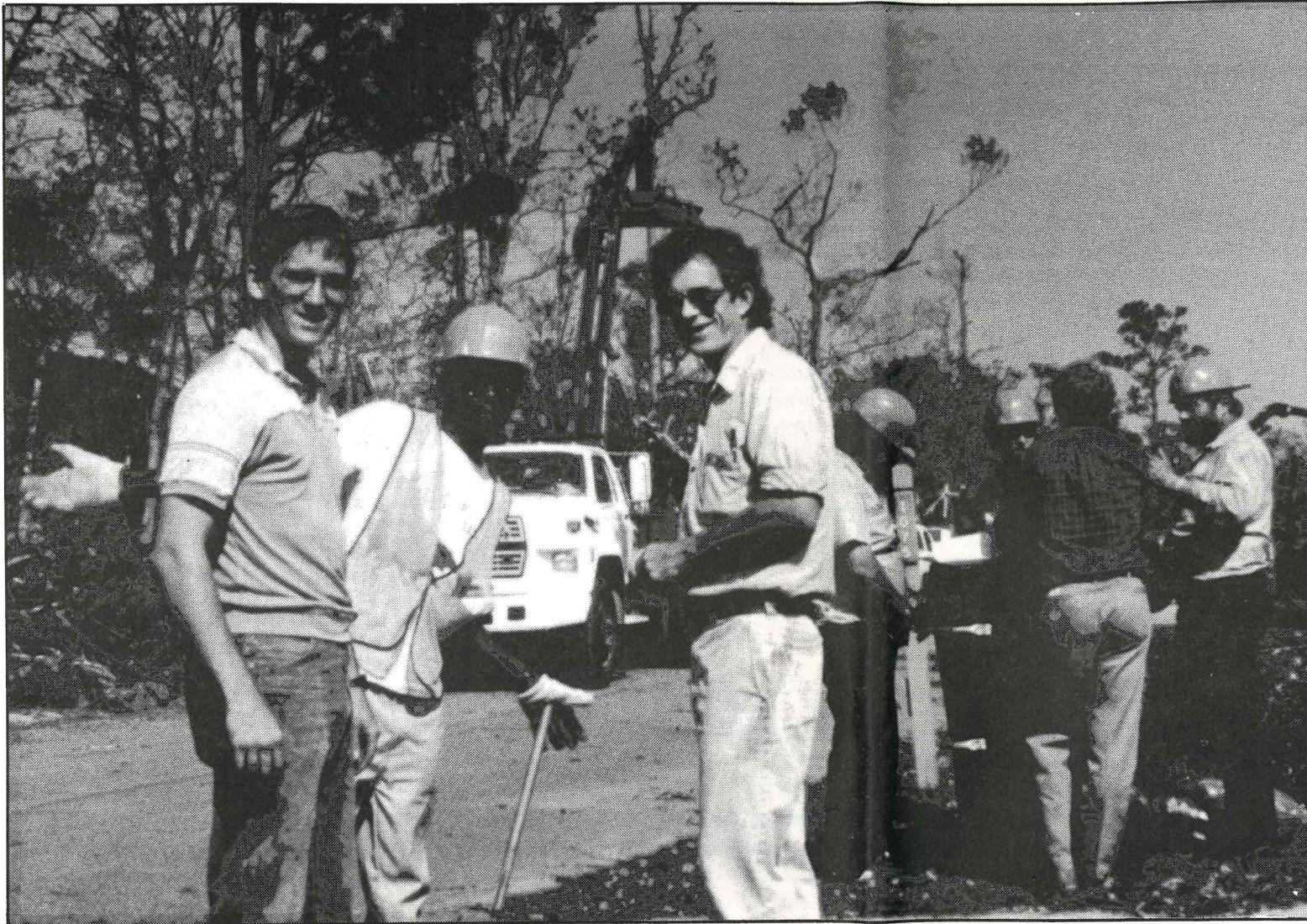
Built before the Civil War as a repair facility for steam locomotives, the old Central of Georgia Roundhouse is coming back to life in the 1990s. The site was re-opened to the public in February, 1990.

Roundhouse

Historic preservation took a great leap forward in February, when the old Central of Georgia Railroad Roundhouse was re-opened to the public. Through a contract approved by Council, the roundhouse is now under the care of the Coastal Heritage Society and is scheduled to undergo more than \$300,000 worth of preservation work this year. Future plans include displays of locomotives and other railroad rolling stock, as well as a working blacksmith shop, tool display area, and gift shop.

nt Events

many highlights and significant
velve months.



Several crews of City volunteers took part in the relief effort for more than a month. In addition, dozens of City employees volunteered as individuals. Here, City crews help out in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., a town of 15,000 which sustained heavy damage from Hugo.

Hugo Relief

For two days in September of 1989, forecasters predicted that Hurricane Hugo, with winds exceeding 125 m.p.h., would slam ashore at Savannah. Fortunately, our community was spared. Our neighbors to the north were not so lucky.

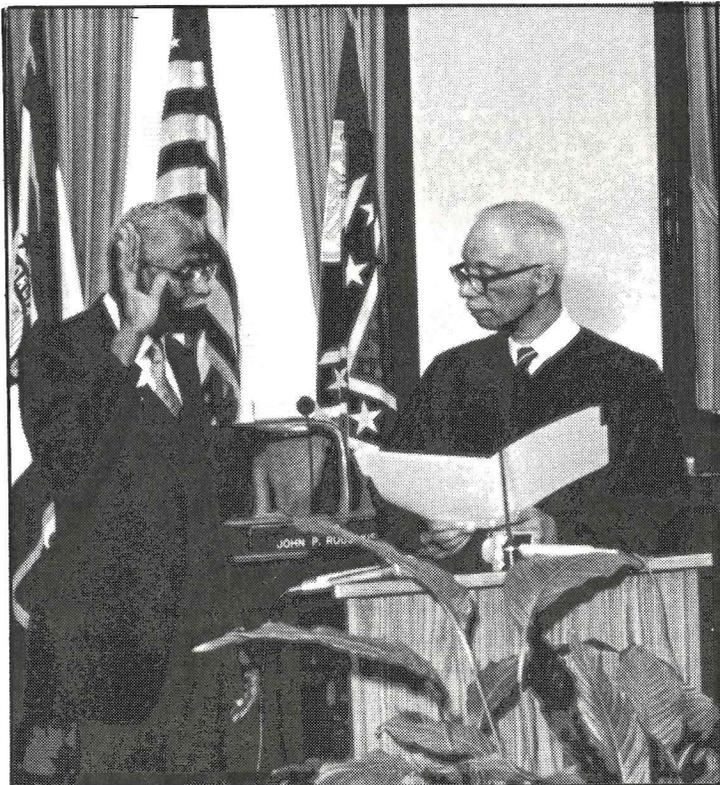
The City sent several crews, on a rotating basis, to help in the massive relief effort underway in South Carolina following Hurricane Hugo. City volunteers took trucks, log haulers, chain saws and other heavy equipment to use in the effort. The community pitched in as well, collecting and transporting tons of food and supplies to hard-hit areas throughout coastal South Carolina.

Changes on Council

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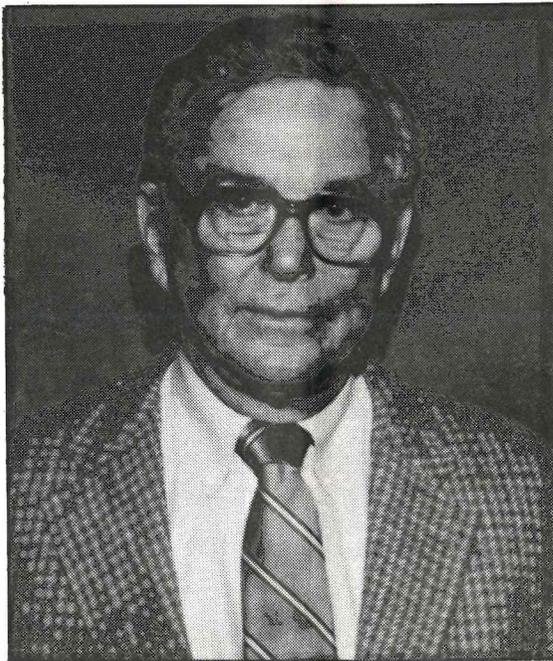
Alderman Clifford Hardwick, III is sworn-in by Judge Eugene Gadsden.

Changes on Council

The past year has seen several changes in City Council. In March, Savannah's 5th District Aldermanic Seat was filled when Dr. Clifford Hardwick, III was sworn in at ceremonies in Council Chambers. Hardwick brings to Council many years of experience as an educator and school administrator.

In April, the Council, along with citizens of our City, said farewell to longtime Council member Leo Center, one of two Aldermen elected to Council at-large. Mr. Center retired after serving on Council since 1970. His five-term tenure included numerous accomplishments, such as his work in the National League of Cities and the Georgia Municipal Association. Mr. Center served as Mayor Pro-Tem, a position he was elected to in 1983.

Local attorney Dana Braun was appointed by Council to fill the seat vacated by retiring Alderman Leo Center. Braun is a native of Georgia, and has resided in Savannah since 1978. He is active in numerous cultural and service organizations.



Five-term Alderman Leo Center.



Alderman Dana Braun is sworn-in by Judge B. Avant Edenfield.

City of Savannah Annual Report

Mayor and Aldermen
City Hall
Savannah, Georgia

Dear Mayor and Aldermen:

You have placed a high priority on ensuring that all neighborhoods within the City are socially, physically and environmentally healthy places to live. To this end you authorize and fund programs: to keep neighborhoods clean; to keep them safe from crime and fire; to keep them free of blight and deterioration; to serve them with the amenities of paved streets, playgrounds, street trees, street lights and properly functioning drainage systems and water and sewer services.

You have placed a high priority on helping to ensure that only decent and affordable housing exists in the neighborhoods. To accomplish this goal you provided funds to create more decent and affordable rental housing and to repair and improve owner-occupied housing.

You have promoted and encouraged the residents of neighborhoods to join in a partnership with the City to improve and maintain their neighborhoods. In response to this, Neighborhood Watch groups have been organized to work with the police in controlling crime, and neighborhood associations have undertaken programs to clean-up and fix-up their neighborhoods.

You have emphasized quality in the distribution of the benefits of services and facilities provided by the City to enhance neighborhood livability. From this emphasis the City's responsive public services program was established to rate the livability conditions of each neighborhood and target deficient neighborhoods for attention.

A review of the changes that have occurred in the neighborhoods of this City over the past 20 years will show that these policies and programs are working. Most of the unpaved streets have been eliminated; parks and playgrounds have been installed; drainage has been improved; litter, debris and junked cars have been reduced; properties have been improved, and paint-up and clean-up has occurred.

The neighborhoods that were once at the bottom of the livability scale are today more livable and attractive. The people in these neighborhoods are more involved with neighborhood concerns. And the City is more actively involved with the people in these neighborhoods as a partner.

This annual report is about neighborhoods and about the City's partnership with the people in neighborhoods. The story it tells is that good things happen when people work together to make them happen.



City Manager Arthur A. (Don) Mendonsa

Sincerely,

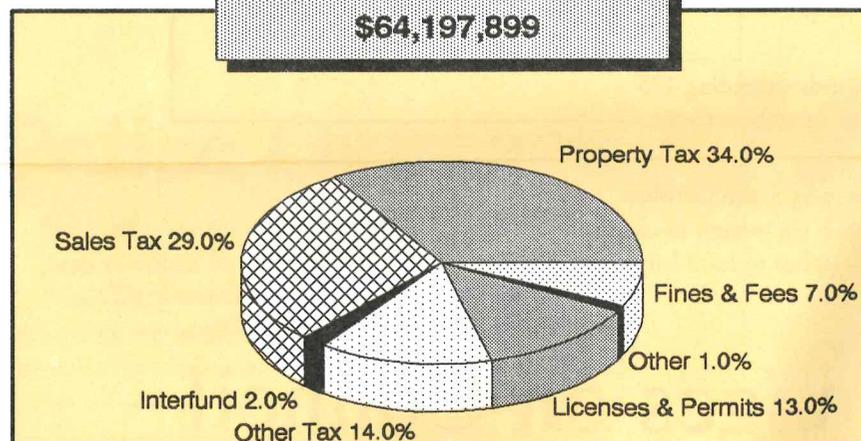
Don Mendonsa

Arthur A. Mendonsa
City Manager

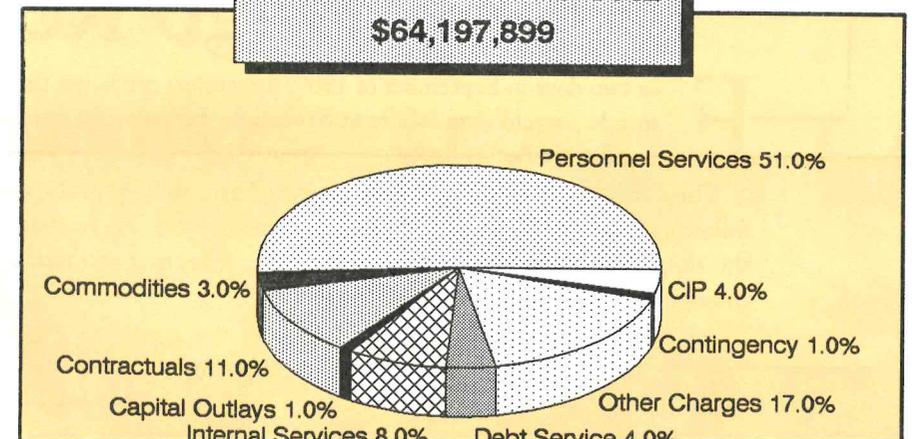
City Budget

City Council approved, and the City is operating under a total 1990 budget of \$129,638,486. The most important fund is the General Fund, which provides the basic public services, such as Police, Fire, Traffic and Streets. The 1990 General Fund budget is \$64,197,899. The following charts illustrate how this fund is collected and dispensed.

1990 GENERAL FUND
\$64,197,899



1990 GENERAL FUND
\$64,197,899



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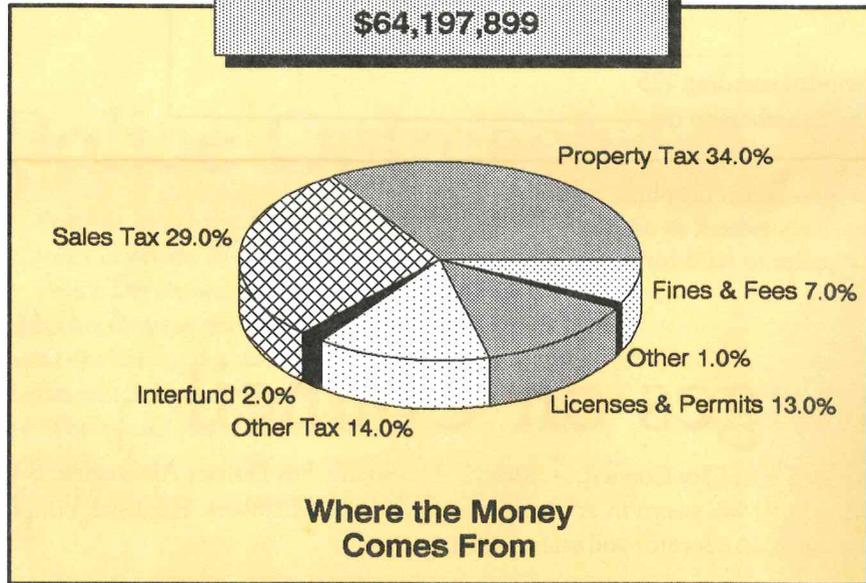


Chart A reflects the way each tax dollar is collected to go toward the various programs and services provided by the City.

1990 GENERAL FUND
\$64,197,899

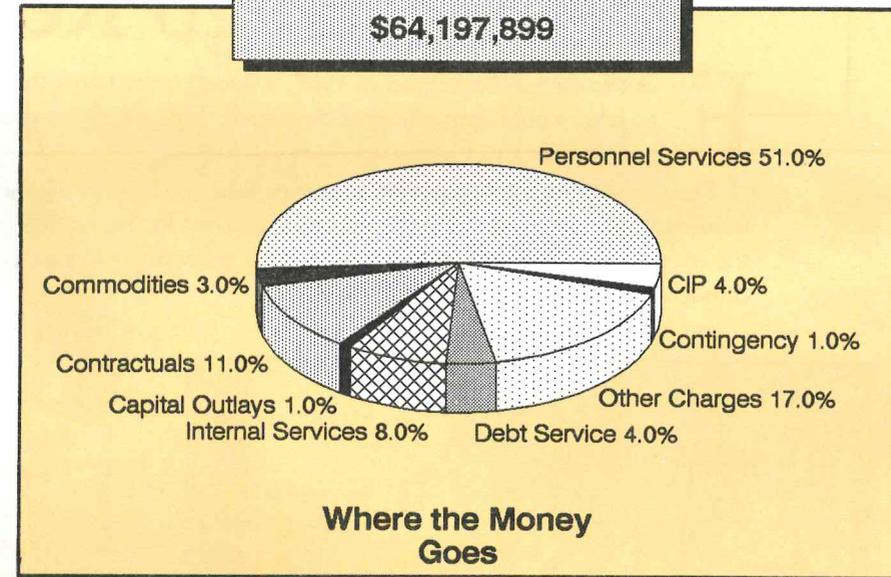
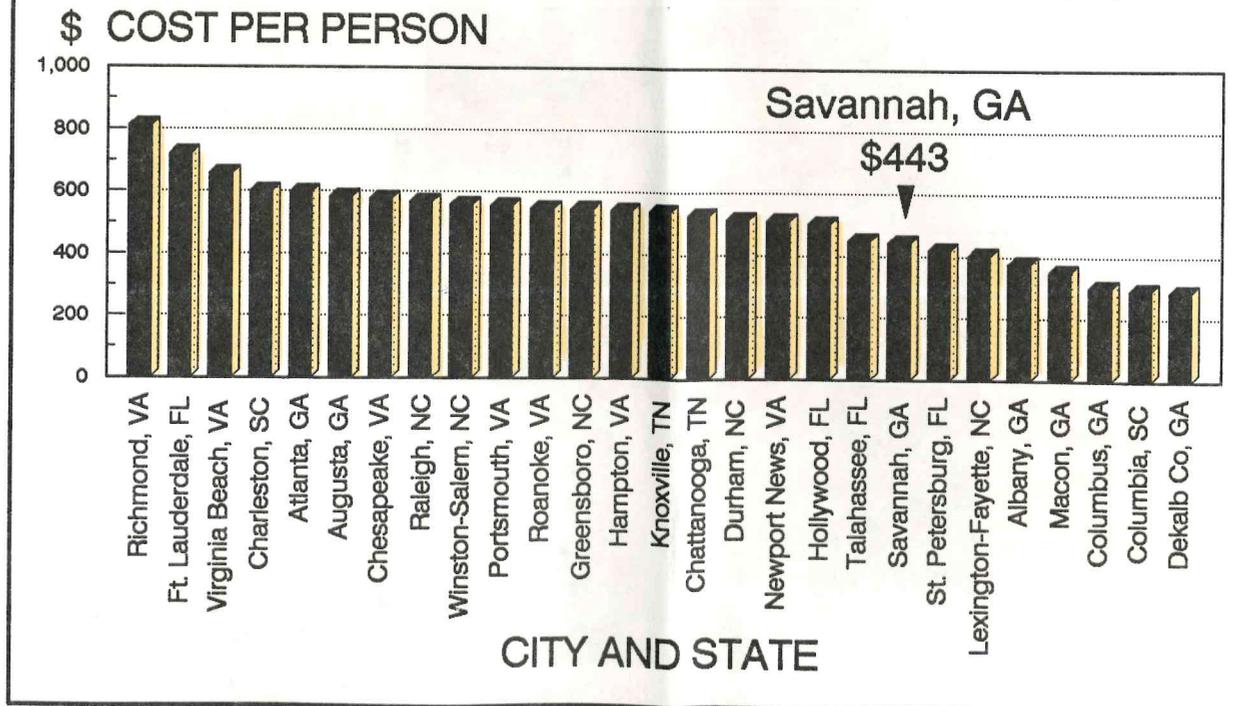
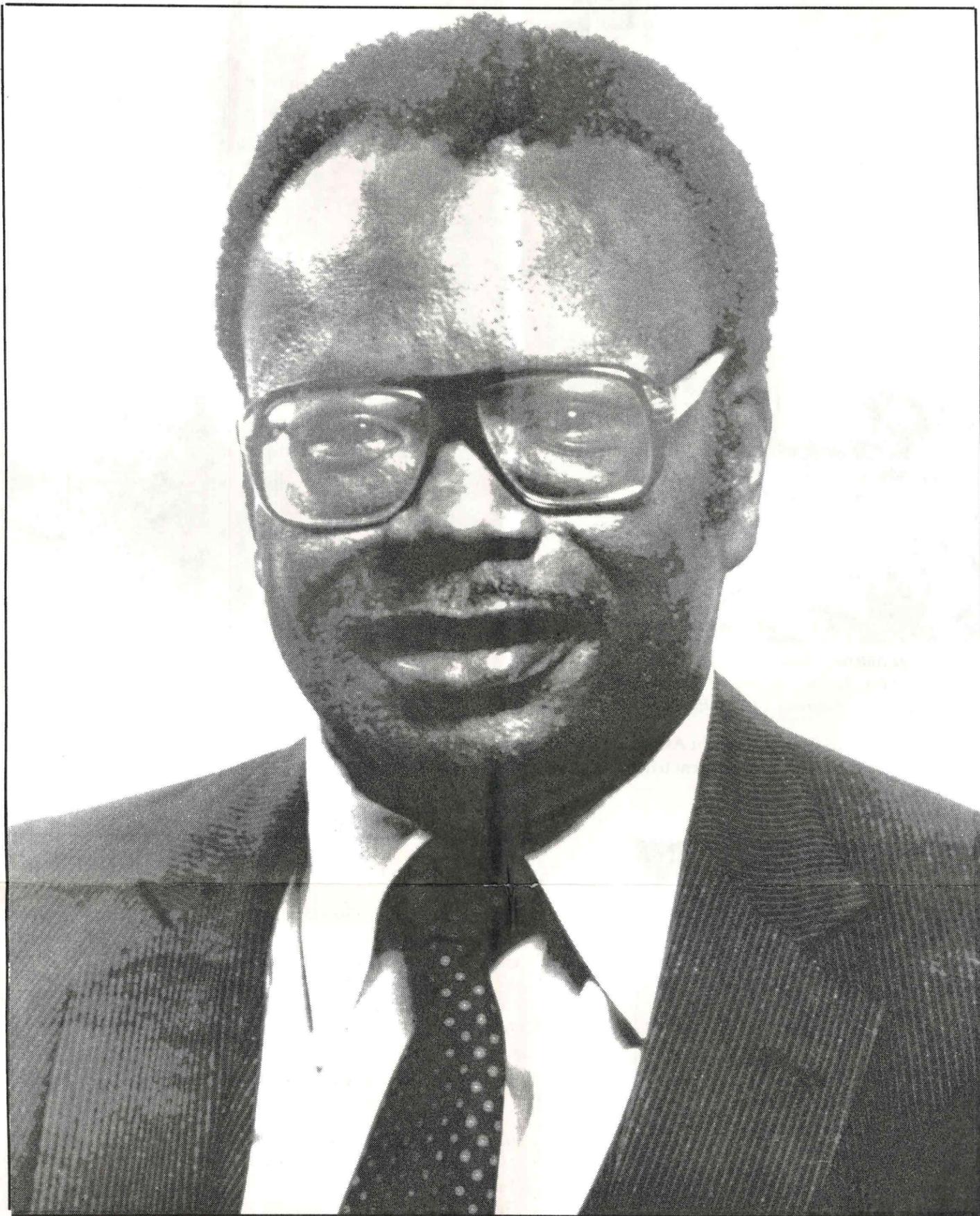


Chart B reflects how each tax dollar is spent in the various programs and services of the City.

PER PERSON COST OF GOVERNMENT



Savannah spends \$443 per citizen in providing city services. That is 13 percent less, or \$68 less per person, to run the City than the average of \$511 it costs to run similar cities in the Southeast. These cities were selected because their size, budget, and services are similar to Savannah's and because they are geographically and demographically comparable.



Robert E. Robinson

July 30, 1947 - December 18, 1989

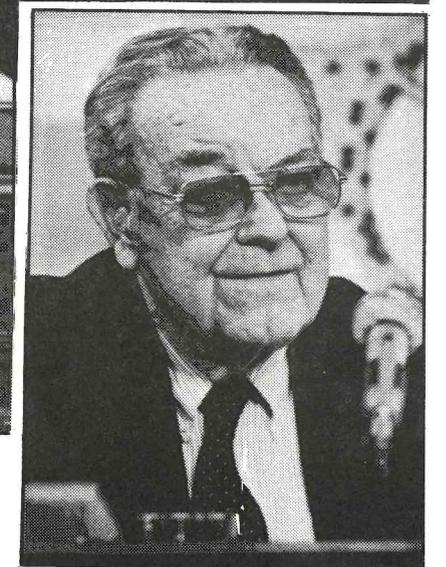
When he first ran for his aldermanic seat in 1982, his campaign slogan was "Robbie Loves People." Not only was it a campaign slogan, it was a motto that Robbie Robinson lived by every day of his life. The 5th District is the neighborhood in which Robbie was born. In his own quiet and good-natured way, he tackled any issue — no matter how big or small — for his constituents. He worked on behalf of minority contractors and business owners. He pushed for programs and funding to provide adequate and affordable housing. He worked to get more parks and recreational facilities in his District. He led efforts to assist the less fortunate and economically disadvantaged.

Robbie Robinson was one of the first black Savannahians to graduate from Savannah High School. He served in the U.S. Air Force. He graduated from the University of Georgia Law School and had his own law practice here in Savannah. He was active in the local NAACP, and was a member of the Westside Urban Health Center Board of Directors, the Metropolitan Planning Commission, and the Savannah Transit Authority. He served on the Task Force for Social Planning.

City of Savannah Annual Report

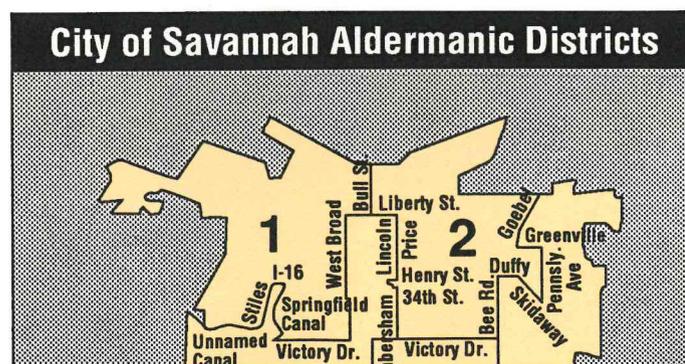


From left to right: At-large Alderman Dana F. Braun, District 2 Alderman Willie E. Brown, District 4 Alderman Elizabeth M. Sheehan, Mayor John P. Rousakis, Mayor Pro-Tem W. Brooks Stillwell, District 1 Alderman Floyd Adams, Jr., District 6 Alderman George A. Zettler, and District 5 Alderman Clifford Hardwick, III.



3rd District Alderman Harley C. (Nippy) Morrison.

The City Council consists of a Mayor and eight Aldermen. The Mayor and two Aldermen are elected at-large, and six Aldermen are elected by district. All serve concurrent terms of four years. City Council meets every other Thursday on the second floor of City Hall, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

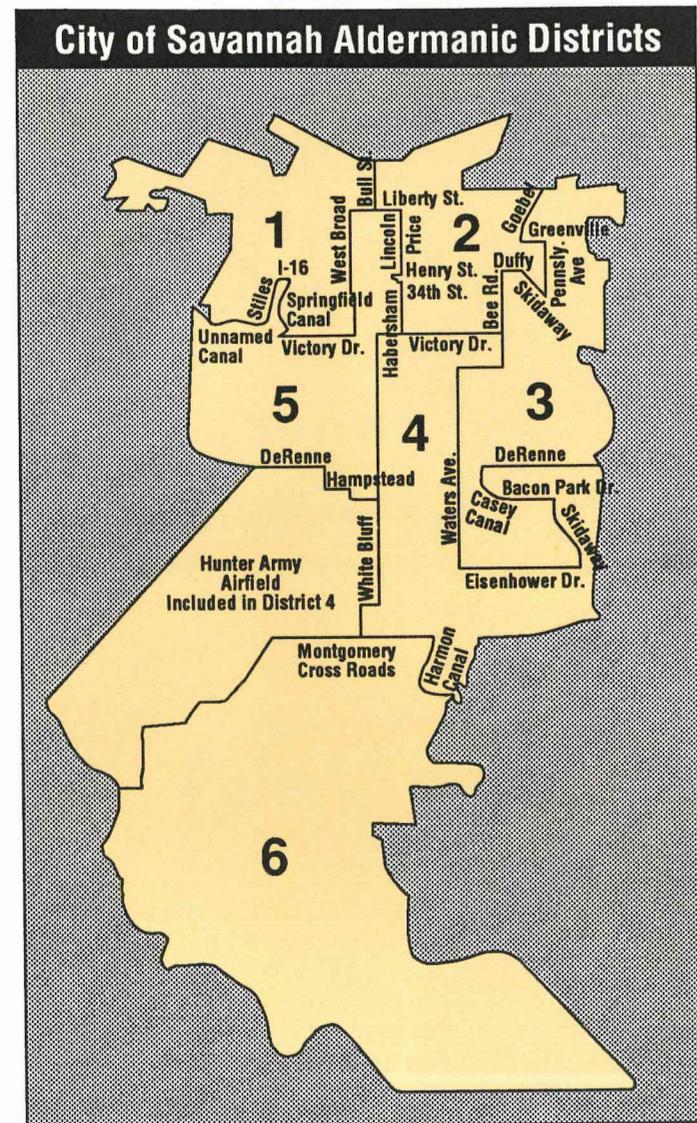


CITY OF SAVANNAH TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Local Government Information:	233-9321
"Call City Hall" Automated Information:	236-SAVH (7284)
Customer Service Desk:	235-4200
after 5 p.m., weekends, holidays:	235-4241
Civic Center Box Office:	234-6666
Arts Information:	233-ARTS (2787)
Jobs Line:	235-4112

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Business Licenses: 235-4040
 Inspections & Building Permits: 235-4170
 Metropolitan Planning Commission: 236-9523
 Parking Services: 235-4005
 Tax Office: 235-4035
 Water Service Office: 235-4020
 Zoning Appeals: 236-9523



Non-Emergency Numbers:
 Savannah Police Department: 235-4337
 Savannah Fire Department: 232-5121



EMERGENCY DIAL 911

Need help and don't know who to call?
Try FIRST CALL FOR HELP at 232-3383
 (A community referral service sponsored by the United Way)

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Cover Artwork: Ruth George

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- Mondays at 8 p.m.
- Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
- Thursdays at 1 p.m.
- Fridays at 3 p.m.

Your comments are welcome.
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