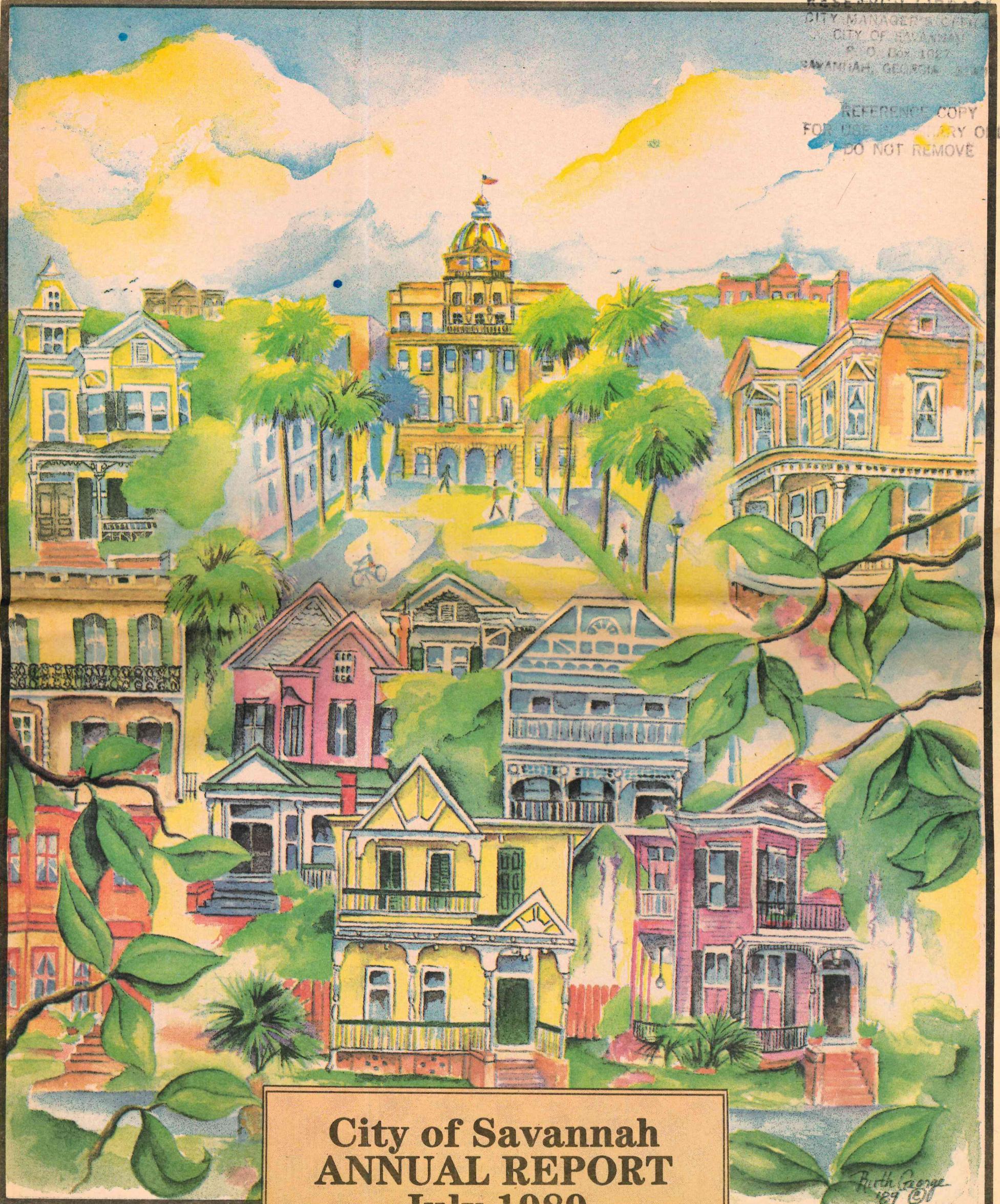


SAV. CM. 01-1988

RESEARCH LIBRARY  
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
CITY OF SAVANNAH  
P. O. Box 1027  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

REFERENCE COPY  
FOR USE ONLY  
DO NOT REMOVE



**City of Savannah  
ANNUAL REPORT  
July 1989**

*Burt George  
1989 ©*

## On the Cover

During the fall of 1988, Savannah City Council participated in an unprecedented series of meetings called, collectively, a strategic planning retreat. The purpose of these work sessions was to establish a unified and common 'vision' for Savannah and the future of our community, and to establish specific goals aimed at making that 'vision' a reality.

The Mayor and Aldermen, and key appointed officials, participated in these planning sessions and emerged with a common direction. This common direction, or 'vision,' has become the basis for the programs and projects being planned and carried out by the City government.

The goals set by the City encourage alignment and cooperation between all segments of this community, including private, individual, organizational, non-profit and governmental efforts. It is the hope of the Council that their 'vision' of our City is one that we can all embrace and work together to achieve - so that, by the year 2000, Savannah is the kind of place we envision and hope it will be:

### City Council's Vision For Savannah

--A City that is clean, safe, and attractive;

--A City in which all neighborhoods contain only decent and affordable housing, and which have all the amenities required to protect and promote the health, safety, and welfare of the people living in them;

--A City that has preserved and maintained its historic plan and architecture;

--A City with a vibrant downtown that contains a compatible, aesthetically pleasing, and responsive mix of institutional, residential, and commercial uses and structures; which is supported by the amenities of parks, cleanliness and parking; and, which is filled with residents, tourists, and shoppers;

--A City that is served by a modern and responsive public transit system, and a modern, visually pleasing, well maintained, safe and congestion-free network of streets and roads;

--A City that has the infrastructure facilities needed to support and enhance the health, safety, convenience and welfare of the citizens, and needed to promote and attract economic development;

--A City of involved and enlightened citizens, who have joined in active partnerships with local governments, the media, business, and service organizations to improve, maintain, and promote Savannah as a good place to live, establish a business, raise a family, and spend time as a tourist, conventioner, or visitor.

**Artwork:** The artwork on the cover of this Annual Report was rendered by Ruth George. Ms. George is employed by the Board of Education as an art teacher in the public schools, and is a member of the Savannah Artists' Guild and the Savannah Art Association.

## Mayor's Message

July, 1989

Dear Friend and Savannahian,

We are all very fortunate to call Savannah our home. Savannah has charm, beauty, a rich and varied history, a healthy economy, a mild coastal climate, and an urban forest unequalled in the nation. Most important, our City is made-up of caring and committed people.

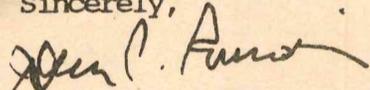
On January 1st, we entered the last decade of the 20th Century. If present trends continue, our City will be a much different place at the turn of the century than it is today. Savannah will continue to grow, and our standing in the economy of the state, region and nation will be greatly strengthened. This growth however, will take planning, control, and vision--not only by community leaders and elected officials--but by all of us. We must share a vision for our community, and I believe we do:

Savannah should be a prosperous, clean, safe and attractive City, with enlightened citizens who feel pride in their community.

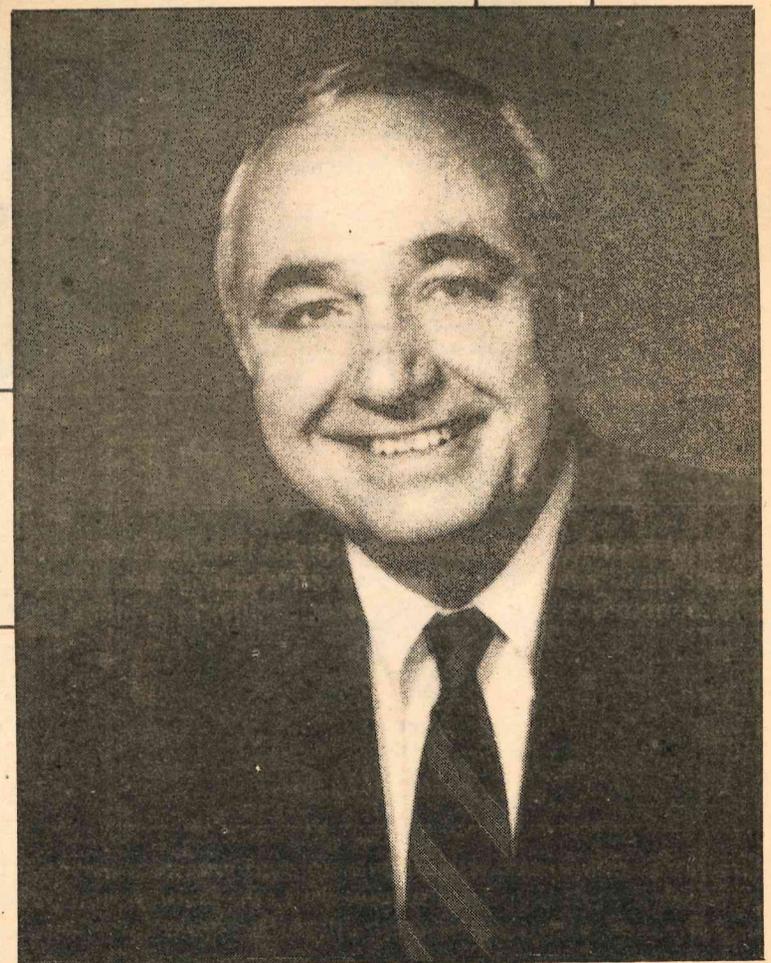
I believe we are well on our way to achieving this goal and making this vision of our City a reality.

We must keep in mind though, that the kind of place our community will be in the year 2000 depends on all of us. Let's continue to work together, as active participants, to ensure that Savannah will be the kind of place we want it to be...for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren.

Sincerely,



John P. Rousakis  
Mayor



# City Council



**Alderman Brooks Stillwell**  
At-Large  
Fourth Term



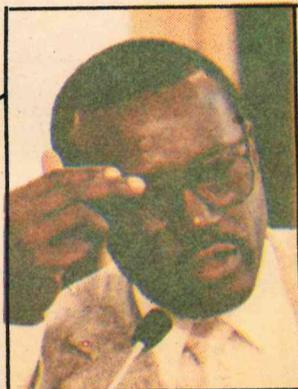
**Mayor John P. Rousakis**  
Fifth Term



**Leo P. Center, Mayor Pro Tem**  
At-Large  
Fifth Term

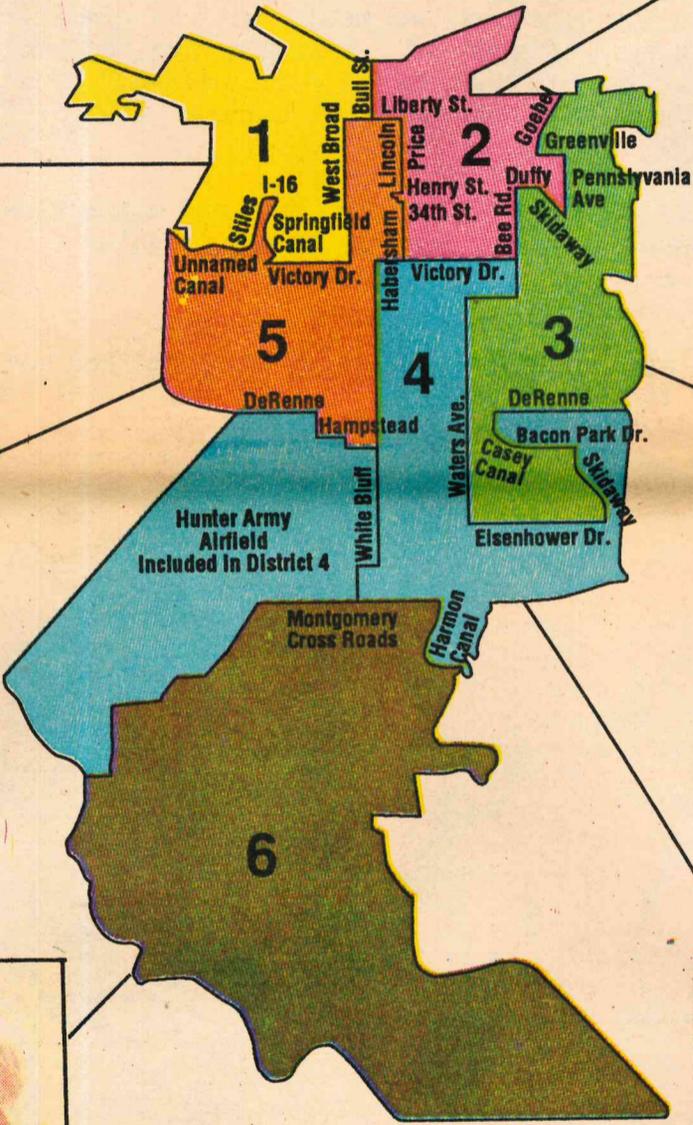


**Floyd Adams, Vice Chairman**  
First District  
Second Term



**Alderman Willie Brown**  
Second District  
First Term

## City of Savannah Aldermanic Districts



**Robert E. Robinson, Vice Chairman**  
Fifth District  
Second Term



**Harley C. Morrison, Chairman**  
Third District  
Fifth Term

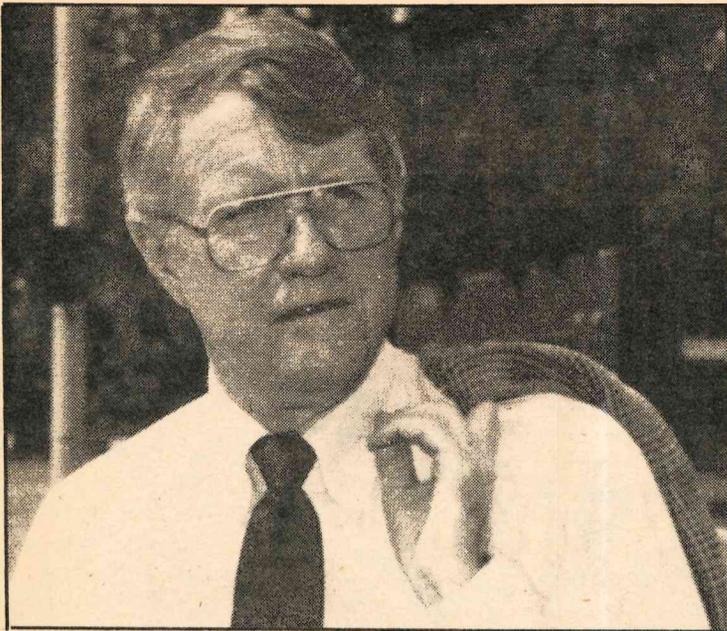


**Alderman George A. Zettler**  
Sixth District  
Second Term



**Alderman Elizabeth M. Sheehan**  
Fourth District  
First Term

Savannah City Council consists of a Mayor and eight Aldermen. The Mayor and two of the Aldermen are elected citywide and six of the Aldermen are elected by districts.  
The Council meets every other Thursday afternoon at 2 p.m. in Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall.



**Don Mendonsa**  
City Manager

## Savannah's City Government

Since 1954, Savannah's City government has operated 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 to formalize the programs and policies it has established.

The City Manager is the City's chief executive officer and head of the administrative branch of City government. Appointed by the City Council, he is responsible to the Mayor and Aldermen for implementing the programs and policies they adopt. He recommends the annual budget and work program and advises the Council on policy and legislative matters.

July, 1989

Mayor and Aldermen  
City of Savannah  
Savannah, Georgia

Dear Council Members:

The attached report summarizes the activities and accomplishments of the various bureaus and departments of the City government during 1988 and this year to date, under the program of work and budget plan authorized by you.

Some of these accomplishments include:

- Reduction in the City's Part I Crime rate, to its lowest level in the past ten years;
- Support of downtown revitalization efforts, including Broughton Street, Waters Avenue, the Lucas Theatre restoration and the Northwest Quadrant, among others;
- Support of the New Futures Initiative and other human service agencies that are aimed at addressing the social problems facing this community;
- Establishment of a small business development program;
- Implementation of an extensive and far-reaching housing rehabilitation program designed to make low interest housing loans available to low and moderate income families; and
- Expansion and reorganization of the City's Neighborhood Services into a comprehensive department directed to creating a partnership between the City and neighborhood residents to improve and maintain neighborhood liveability.

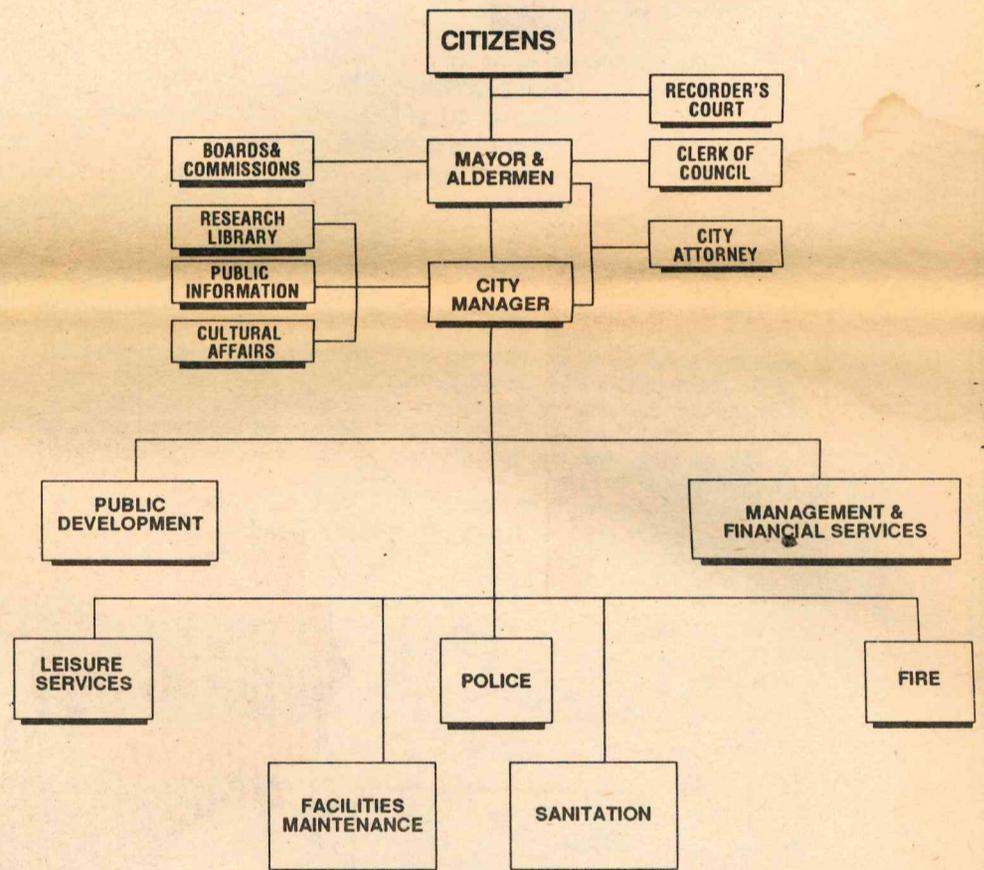
We have begun 1989 with an aggressive program of work, based on the vision statement you wrote collectively during your recent planning retreat. The progress being made toward the realization of your vision is outlined in this report under three broad headings:

- A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY;
- SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOODS;
- COMMUNITY PRIDE

Again this year, we are distributing the Annual Report to all the citizens of this community. After reading this report, I think you, and they, will agree that program objectives are being met efficiently and responsively, and that the heads of our City departments and their staffs are serving the citizens of Savannah with dedication and pride.

Sincerely,

Arthur A. Mendonsa  
City Manager



**Management and Finance:**  
Oversees the day-to-day business dealings of the City, including the annual budget, revenues, purchasing, personnel, data processing and the ongoing maintenance of City buildings, facilities and properties.

**Public Development:**  
Oversees all human services, economic development and physical improvement programs administered by the City for the betterment of the community.

**Facilities Maintenance:**  
Providing, maintaining and improving services to Savannah's citizens, including water, sewerage, streets, paving, drainage and all public facilities of the City.

**Sanitation:**  
Providing cleanliness... from residential

and commercial trash collection, to street sweeping, litter control, Resource Recovery and recycling.

**Police Department:**  
Providing for a safer City by preventing crime, apprehending violators, maintaining public order and controlling traffic through enforcement of traffic laws.

**Fire Department:**  
One of the most highly trained departments in the state, providing fire protection throughout the City... with emphasis on fire prevention.

**Leisure Services:**  
Providing leisure time programs and facilities for all the citizens of this community, regardless of race, religion, age or handicapped condition.

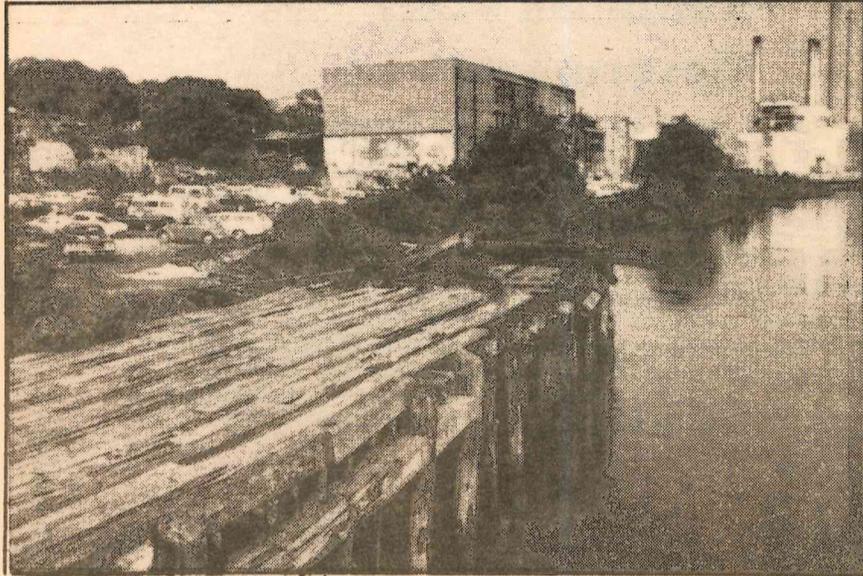
## A Prosperous Community

The natural beauty of our City – its architecture, its rich and varied heritage, its historical significance, the charm of our parks and squares – until only recently, these aspects of our community were well-kept secrets. This is no longer the case.

Savannah is now a world-class city. It has become a tourist and convention center which draws visitors from around the world, visitors who collectively spend millions of dollars a year

in and around this community. In fact, current estimates indicate that *more than 4-million people visit our City in a single year, spending close to \$500 million.*

If we continue to support and enhance this industry, and if we continue to promote Savannah and all this City has to offer, we can create almost 600 new jobs and generate an additional one million dollars in tax revenues in the coming year alone.



BEFORE



AFTER

One gigantic shot-in-the-arm to Savannah's tourism industry was the restoration and renovation of Savannah's riverfront in 1977. The \$7.5 million restoration project has generated more than \$60 million in private investments, has altered and improved the complexion and character of this City, and has permanently enhanced our economic standing.

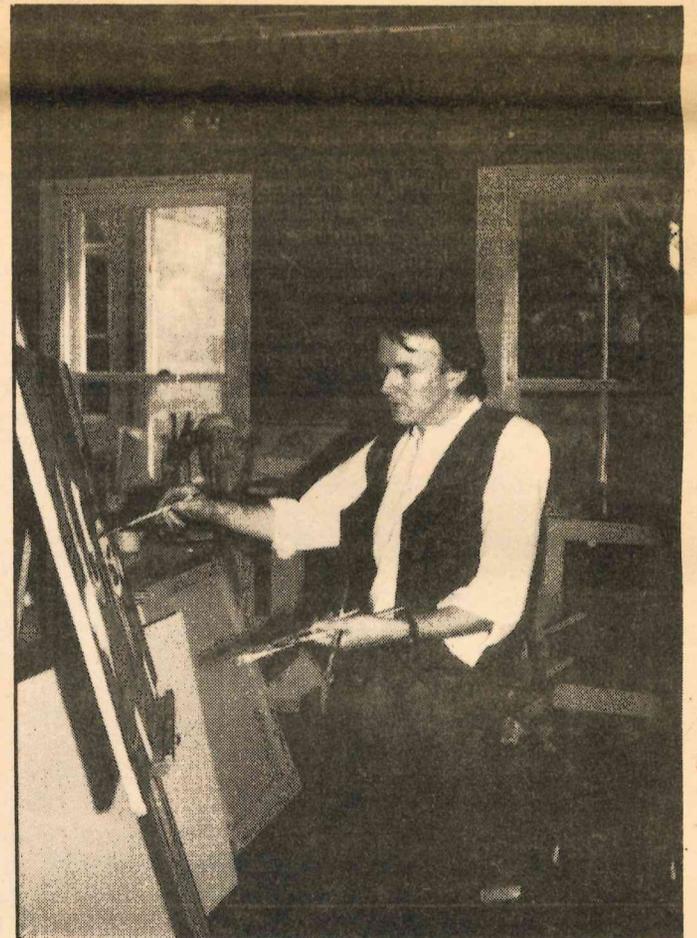
## Downtown Revitalization

Tourism is our fastest growing industry, and it is well documented that the primary reason people come from far and wide to visit Savannah is our City's well-preserved heritage, its historic neighborhoods, parks and squares, and the old Southern flavor and charm of our City. The unique character of our City is one of our most marketable commodities; our historical district is one of the largest registered districts in the country, and our preservation efforts are used as standards throughout the world.

City Council's vision for our City includes growth and development, but this growth must be clean and controlled, enhancing Savannah's liveability and quality of life, while at the same time preserving our historic architecture and city plan.



The City continues to support the Old City Market project as a necessary and vital component of a healthy and prosperous downtown. The net result of this support has been the completed restoration of four square blocks of our downtown, four blocks that were badly deteriorated and a blight on our City. Through a joint financing effort, using Community Development Block Grants and funds from private sources, those four blocks have been renewed, the buildings refurbished and the space leased out.



To further support City Market, as well as the arts, City Council voted in January of this year to allocate additional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to the project. In return, City Market developers agreed to establish an Arts Center where Savannah's visual artists, such as professor Patrick McCay, can work, show and sell their crafts to tourists and area residents.

# A Prosperous Community



The magnificent Lucas Theatre, when it is restored, will help the downtown and Broughton Street economies by bringing area residents, regional arts patrons and tourists to the downtown area for entertainment and leisure activities. City Council approved a \$300,000 short-term acquisition loan to the Lucas Theatre for the Arts, Inc., . . . at zero percent interest.



## Downtown Revitalization

### Visitors' Center/Great Savannah Exposition:

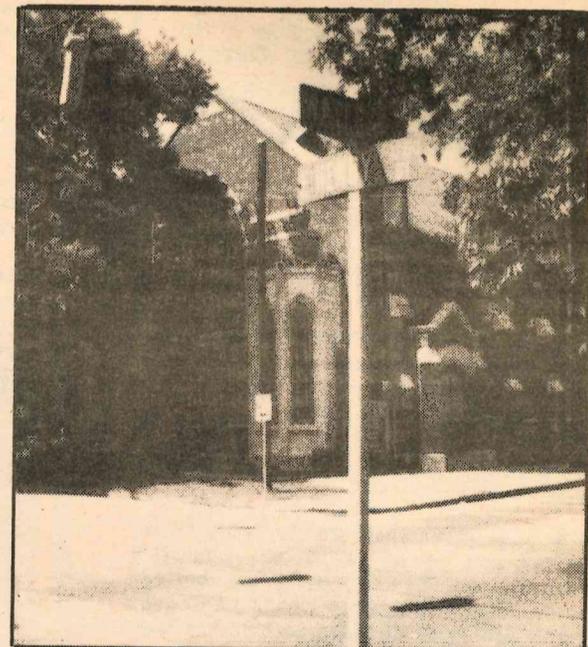
During the past year, a number of strategies have been implemented at the Visitors' Center/Great Savannah Exposition, in efforts to increase customer turnover and decrease the City's subsidy. These efforts are paying off. Some of the strategies include:

- cutting ticket prices in half, making the facility more affordable for families, and attracting return visits from local patrons;
- changing the inventory in the gift shop to tourist-related items;
- adding fast food to the restaurant menu; and,
- emphasizing the Expo as a tasteful, top-notch caterer and location for special events.

So far this year, total revenues at the facility are UP by 34 percent as compared to the same period during 1988.



As of January of this year, Broughton Street was continuing to hold its own with a 72 percent occupancy rate. Although unfortunate, the decision by several retailers to leave Broughton Street has not been a fatal blow. The City continues to work with property owners and merchants on strategies to ensure the area's renewal and economic viability.



The City continues to be actively involved with the Waters Avenue Business Association, with primary emphasis on community issues and resident involvement. With CDBG funds, new sidewalks and trash receptacles have been installed along the Waters Avenue Business strip, and several low-interest loans have been made to businesses along the corridor to assist them in making improvements. In addition, facade improvements have been made.

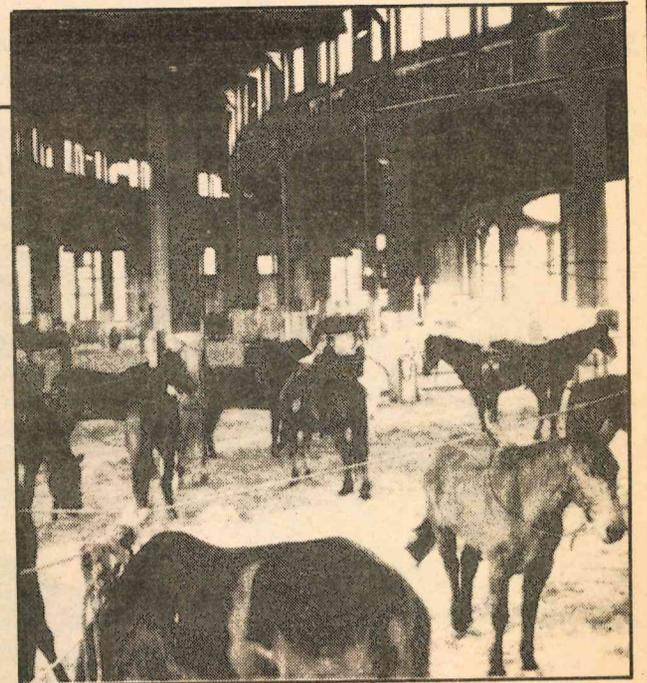
# A Prosperous Community



## Roundhouse

The Central of Georgia Railroad, established in 1833, was the first railroad chartered in the state. The West Broad Street maintenance yard (more commonly known as the Roundhouse) was built in the early 1860's on the site of a major Revolutionary War battle - the Siege of Savannah in 1779.

Community attention was focused again on the facility this year, when "Glory," a major motion picture, used it as a setting for some of its Civil War scenes. The City has contracted with the Coastal Heritage Society to provide appropriate activities and programs at the site, beginning this summer. The types and sizes of the events to be held at the Roundhouse will evolve as additional sections of the facility are repaired and made safe for public use.



## Small Business Development

Small business is big business in Savannah. In fact, of the 5,491 businesses in Chatham County, 72 percent are small businesses with fewer than ten employees. The City government has been instrumental in planning a Small Business Development program, aimed at assisting small businesses, especially those operated by minorities and females.

The program, under the auspices of the Savannah Certified Development Corporation, is being implemented this year. The City will provide administrative support services, at no cost, to the Corporation.

## Minority Purchasing

The City of Savannah makes every effort to solicit and involve small and minority-owned business interests in its purchasing process. The Purchasing Department has several strategies in place to increase the dollar volume placed with minority vendors, including pre-bid conferences and workshops, distribution of workbooks and manuals, advertising, etc. As you can see from the accompanying chart, these strategies have paid off over the past few years in more purchases and increased dollar volumes placed with minority vendors.

	1985	1986	1987	1988
<b>A. Total Bids/Quotes Processed by Purchasing Department</b>	\$7,010,351	\$6,408,773	\$9,977,897	\$8,514,570
<b>B. Less: Purchases available only out-of-town</b>	-(996,075)	-(986,043)	-(1,042,159)	-(1,085,474)
<b>C. Purchases available locally</b>	\$6,014,276	\$5,422,730	\$8,935,738	\$7,429,096
<b>D. Less: Products not offered by known minority vendors</b>	-(4,272,486)	-(3,463,033)	-(7,079,364)	-(4,832,544)
<b>E. Purchases available for competition by minority vendors</b>	\$1,741,790	\$1,959,697	\$1,856,374	\$2,596,552
<b>F. Purchases actually awarded to minority vendors</b>	\$300,000	\$515,937	\$606,432	\$1,156,411
<b>G. Percent of purchases available from minority vendors actually awarded to minority vendors</b>	17.2%	26.3%	32.6%	44.5%

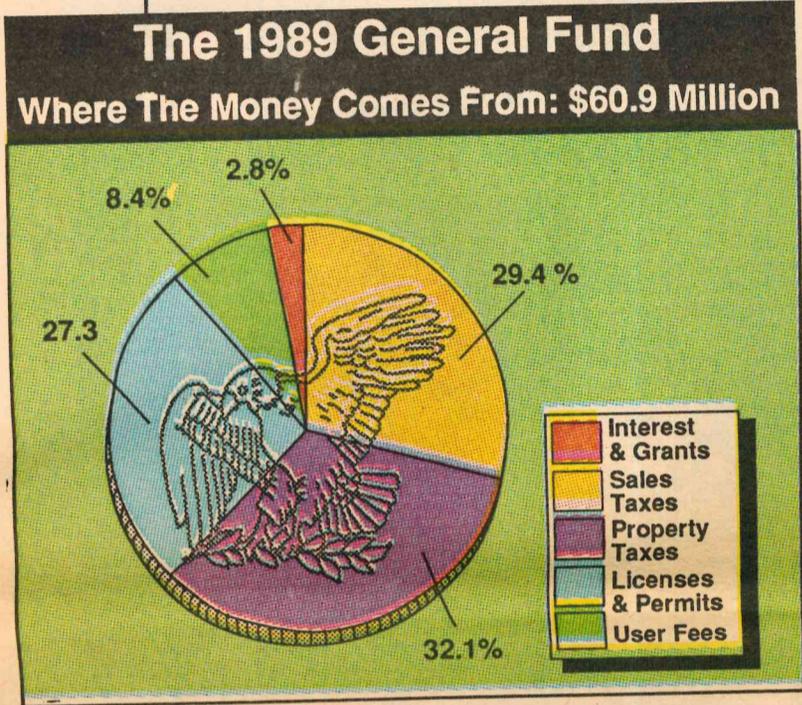
1988 was the best year in recent history for placing City purchases with competitive minority vendors. The 1988 dollar volume of \$1,156,411 represents a 90.7 percent INCREASE over 1987. Also, the percent of purchases available from minority vendors which were actually placed with minority vendors was at an all-time high of 44.5 percent in 1988.

## Management Services

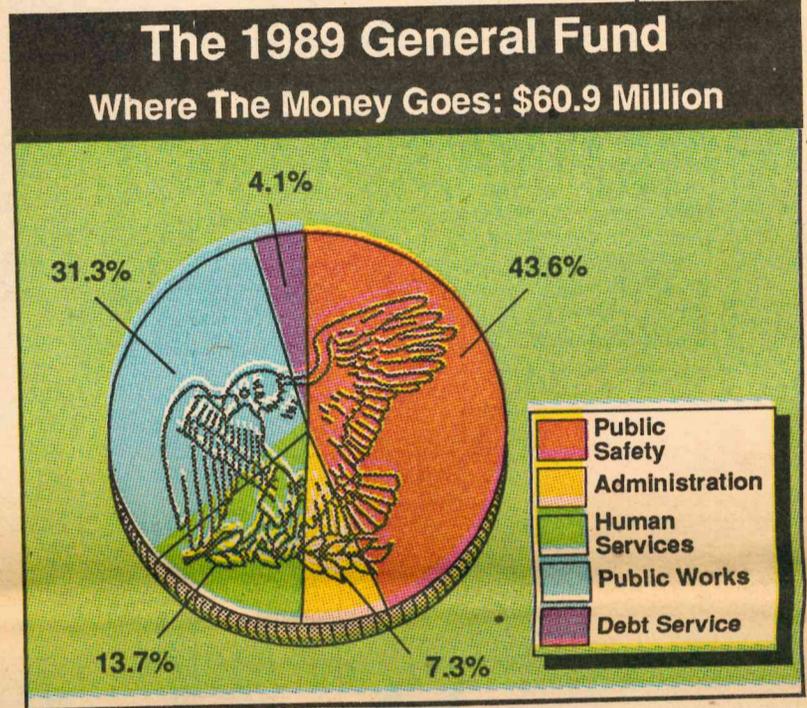
One of the most important functions of the City's Management Services Bureau is the development, preparation and administration of the annual budget. This process determines what services the City can provide, at what level, and how funds will be provided to finance these services.

For the City government, revenue growth is slowing, while at the same time, expenditures are increasing. Nevertheless, the City continues to stay within the established annual budget. A long-range plan has been established to bring current revenues and expenditures into balance and increase financial reserves.

City Council approved, and the City is currently operating under a total 1989 budget of \$115,995,226. The most important fund is the General Fund, which provides the basic public services such as Police, Fire, Traffic and Streets. The 1989 General Fund budget is \$60,855,957.



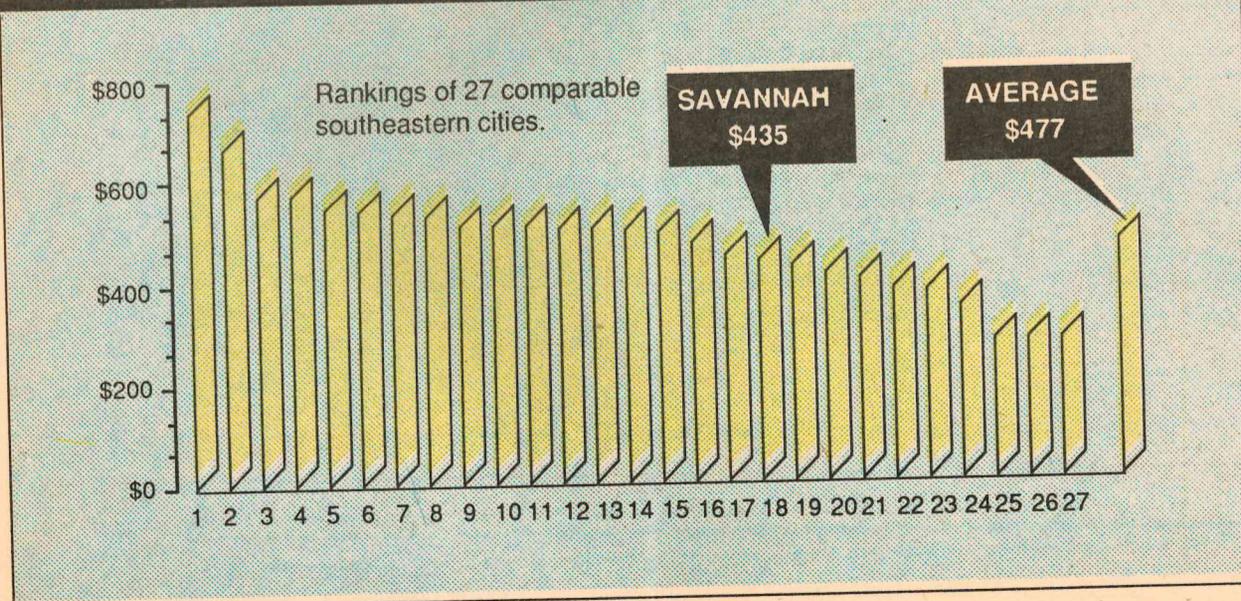
**GRAPH A** reflects the way each tax dollar is collected to go toward the various programs and services provided by the City government.



**GRAPH B** reflects how each of those tax dollars is spent.

The per capita cost of City government (PCCG) is the cost, per person, for running the City and providing services. Savannah's per capita cost, when compared with other cities of similar size in the Southeast, shows that our services are being provided at a lower per capita cost than the same services in other cities. The City undertakes a PCCG study each year, and each year our standing continues to be above average in providing services, and below average in what those services cost. As you can see from the graph below, Savannah spends \$435 per citizen in providing City services. That compares to the average of \$477. The list of cities was chosen because they are characteristically and demographically similar to Savannah.

## Per Capita Cost of Government



## PCCG Ranking by City

Rank	City & State
1	Richmond, Va.
2	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
3	Virginia Beach, Va.
4	Raleigh, N.C.
5	Atlanta, Ga.
6	Chesapeake, Va.
7	Charleston, S.C.
8	Augusta, Ga.
9	Hampton, Va.
10	Portsmouth, Va.
11	Knoxville, Tenn.
12	Winston-Salem, N.C.
13	Chattanooga, Tenn.
14	Roanoke, Va.
15	Greensboro, N.C.
16	Durham, N.C.
17	Hollywood, Fla.
18	Savannah, Ga.
19	Newport News, Va.
20	Tallahassee, Fla.
21	St. Petersburg, Fla.
22	Albany, Ga.
23	Lexington-Fayette Co. Ky.
24	Macon, Ga.
25	Columbus, Ga.
26	Columbia, S.C.
27	Dekalb Co., Ga.

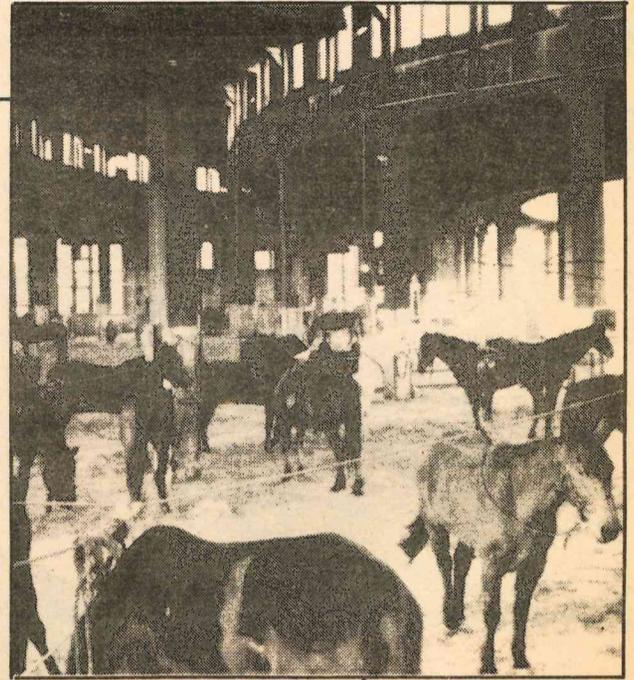
# A Prosperous Community



## Roundhouse

The Central of Georgia Railroad, established in 1833, was the first railroad chartered in the state. The West Broad Street maintenance yard (more commonly known as the Roundhouse) was built in the early 1860's on the site of a major Revolutionary War battle - the Siege of Savannah in 1779.

Community attention was focused again on the facility this year, when "Glory," a major motion picture, used it as a setting for some of its Civil War scenes. The City has contracted with the Coastal Heritage Society to provide appropriate activities and programs at the site, beginning this summer. The types and sizes of the events to be held at the Roundhouse will evolve as additional sections of the facility are repaired and made safe for public use.



## Small Business Development

Small business is big business in Savannah. In fact, of the 5,491 businesses in Chatham County, 72 percent are small businesses with fewer than ten employees. The City government has been instrumental in planning a Small Business Development program, aimed at assisting small businesses, especially those operated by minorities and females.

The program, under the auspices of the Savannah Certified Development Corporation, is being implemented this year. The City will provide administrative support services, at no cost, to the Corporation.

## Minority Purchasing

The City of Savannah makes every effort to solicit and involve small and minority-owned business interests in its purchasing process. The Purchasing Department has several strategies in place to increase the dollar volume placed with minority vendors, including pre-bid conferences and workshops, distribution of workbooks and manuals, advertising, etc. As you can see from the accompanying chart, these strategies have paid off over the past few years in more purchases and increased dollar volumes placed with minority vendors.

	1985	1986	1987	1988
<b>A. Total Bids/Quotes Processed by Purchasing Department</b>	\$7,010,351	\$6,408,773	\$9,977,897	\$8,514,570
<b>B. Less: Purchases available only out-of-town</b>	-(996,075)	-(986,043)	-(1,042,159)	-(1,085,474)
<b>C. Purchases available locally</b>	\$6,014,276	\$5,422,730	\$8,935,738	\$7,429,096
<b>D. Less: Products not offered by known minority vendors</b>	-(4,272,486)	-(3,463,033)	-(7,079,364)	-(4,832,544)
<b>E. Purchases available for competition by minority vendors</b>	\$1,741,790	\$1,959,697	\$1,856,374	\$2,596,552
<b>F. Purchases actually awarded to minority vendors</b>	\$300,000	\$515,937	\$606,432	\$1,156,411
<b>G. Percent of purchases available from minority vendors actually awarded to minority vendors</b>	17.2%	26.3%	32.6%	44.5%

1988 was the best year in recent history for placing City purchases with competitive minority vendors. The 1988 dollar volume of \$1,156,411 represents a 90.7 percent INCREASE over 1987. Also, the percent of purchases available from minority vendors which were actually placed with minority vendors was at an all-time high of 44.5 percent in 1988.

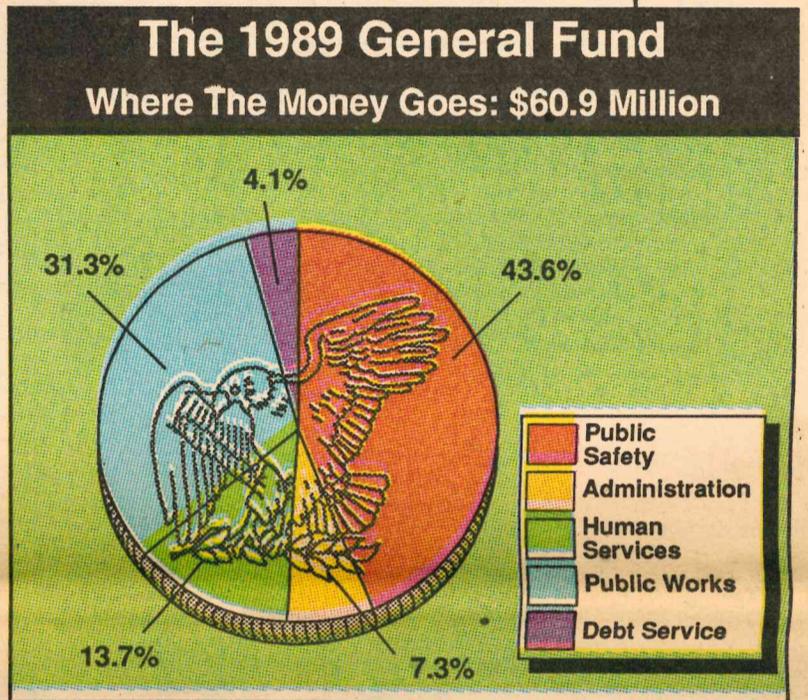
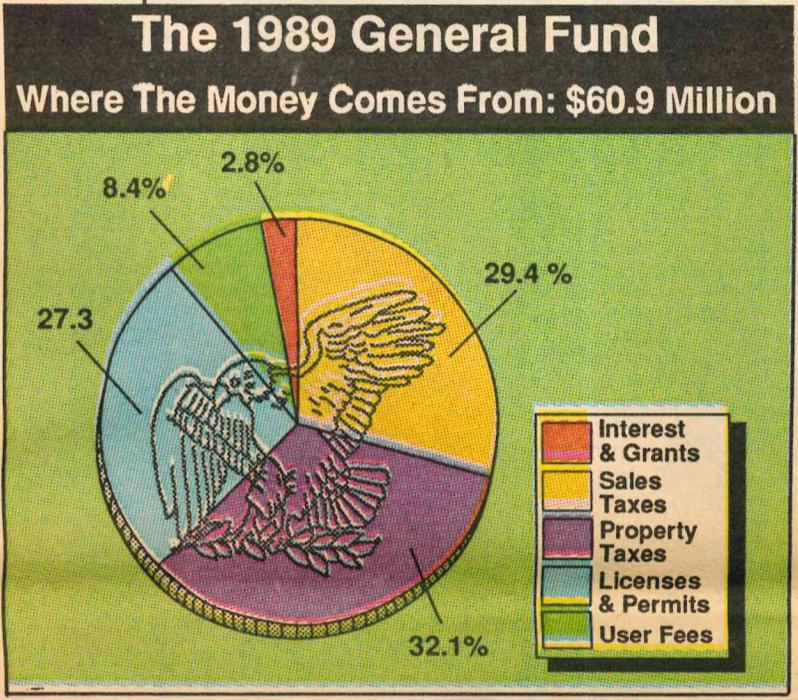
# A Prosperous Community

## Management Services

One of the most important functions of the City's Management Services Bureau is the development, preparation and administration of the annual budget. This process determines what services the City can provide, at what level, and how funds will be provided to finance these services.

For the City government, revenue growth is slowing, while at the same time, expenditures are increasing. Nevertheless, the City continues to stay within the established annual budget. A long-range plan has been established to bring current revenues and expenditures into balance and increase financial reserves.

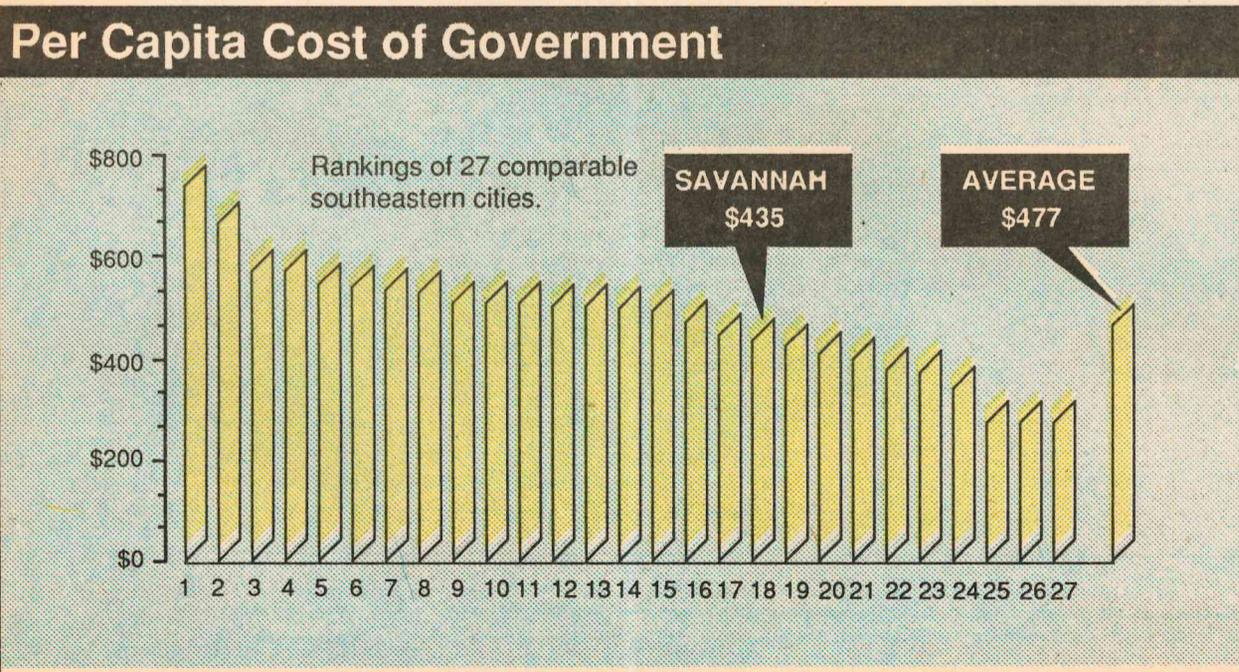
City Council approved, and the City is currently operating under a total 1989 budget of \$115,995,226. The most important fund is the General Fund, which provides the basic public services such as Police, Fire, Traffic and Streets. The 1989 General Fund budget is \$60,855,957.



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

**GRAPH B** reflects how each of those tax dollars is spent.

The per capita cost of City government (PCCG) is the cost, per person, for running the City and providing services. Savannah's per capita cost, when compared with other cities of similar size in the Southeast, shows that our services are being provided at a lower per capita cost than the same services in other cities. The City undertakes a PCCG study each year, and each year our standing continues to be above average in providing services, and below average in what those services cost. As you can see from the graph below, Savannah spends \$435 per citizen in providing City services. That compares to the average of \$477. The list of cities was chosen because they are characteristically and demographically similar to Savannah.



### PCCG Ranking by City

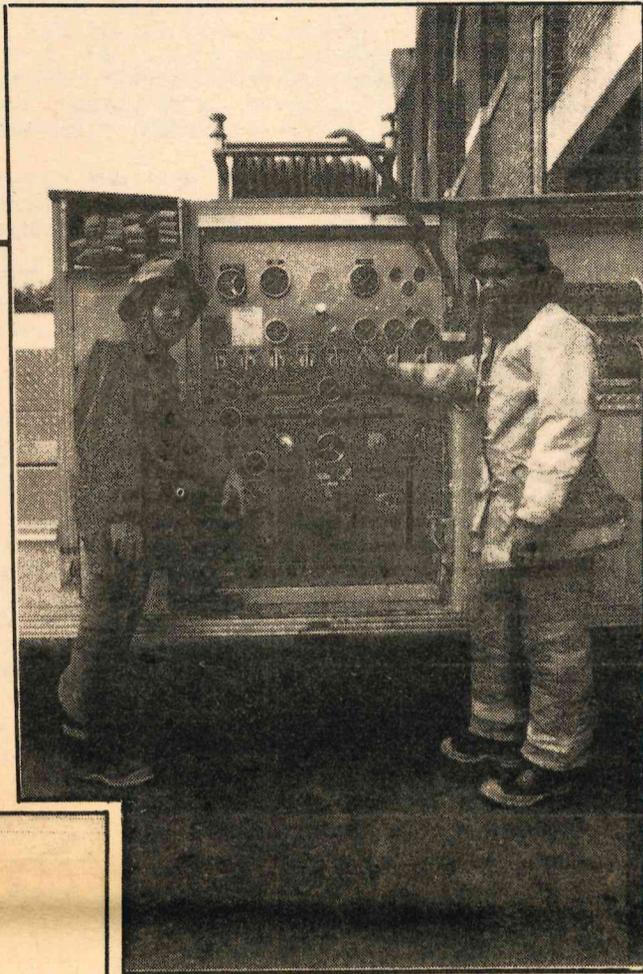
Rank	City & State
1	Richmond, Va.
2	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
3	Virginia Beach, Va.
4	Raleigh, N.C.
5	Atlanta, Ga.
6	Chesapeake, Va.
7	Charleston, S.C.
8	Augusta, Ga.
9	Hampton, Va.
10	Portsmouth, Va.
11	Knoxville, Tenn.
12	Winston-Salem, N.C.
13	Chattanooga, Tenn.
14	Roanoke, Va.
15	Greensboro, N.C.
16	Durham, N.C.
17	Hollywood, Fla.
18	Savannah, Ga.
19	Newport News, Va.
20	Tallahassee, Fla.
21	St. Petersburg, Fla.
22	Albany, Ga.
23	Lexington-Fayette Co. Ky.
24	Macon, Ga.
25	Columbus, Ga.
26	Columbia, S.C.
27	Dekalb Co., Ga.

# Serving Savannah

The City is one of this area's largest employers, with approximately 1800 workers. Regardless of the job they do, it is the responsibility of every City employee to serve the citizens of this community, and to serve them with efficiency, effectiveness, courtesy and pride.

During the past year, the City has implemented a Customer Relations Improvement plan, called "SERVING SAVANNAH." The program was developed by a team of City employees. Its purpose is to emphasize and reinforce the fact that the citizens we serve are valued "customers," and important stockholders of this community. As employees of the City government, our mission is to serve the citizens effectively and efficiently, and provide them with the services needed to protect and enhance the quality of life they enjoy in this community and in the neighborhoods where they live.

Highlights of the "SERVING SAVANNAH" program include audits of current customer services; revisions, as needed, of service standards; customer service training for all City employees; and an automated telephone information system for callers needing general information.



# Serving Savannah



These photographs depict a variety of City employees at work. They were taken by well-known local artist Jack Leigh, whose black and white photography is nationally recognized.

Whether outdoors or at a desk, be it a blue-collar or white-collar occupation, all City employees are encouraged to take pride in their work, and in the knowledge that they are "SERVING SAVANNAH."

## A Safe, Clean Community

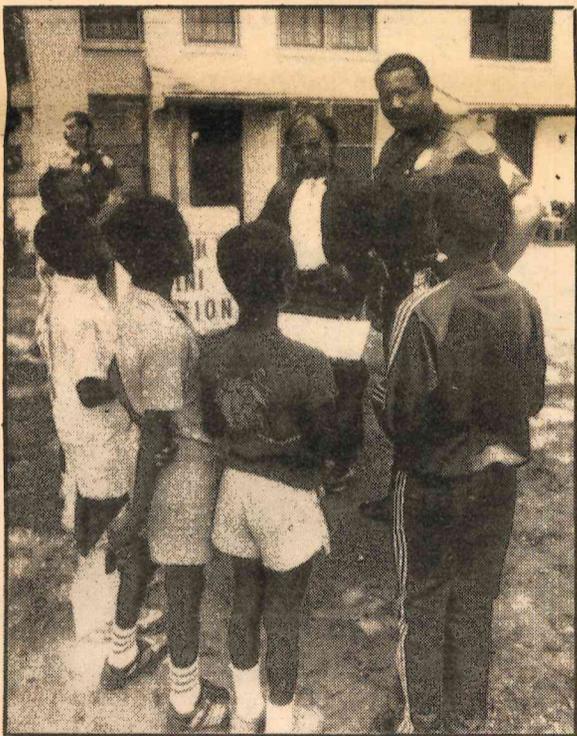
### Savannah Police Department

Early in 1989, Savannah's Police Department was accredited by the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), becoming one of only 110 (of approximately 40,000 law enforcement agencies in the country) which have been so honored. In order to be accredited, the Police Department must measure up to more than 700 standards set by the CALEA. In the final assessment, our Police Department either met or exceeded all of these standards.

Police accreditation benefits the entire community. One of the advantages to the department itself is an increase in overall professionalism. Accredited law enforcement agencies tend to be the target of fewer lawsuits, and most of those filed are unsuccessful since improved procedures result in fewer mistakes. Accreditation also improves management procedures, police reputation and morale, and it assures a more efficient use of police resources.



Savannah Police Chief David Gellatly (left) receives a certificate of accreditation and a handshake from Ken Mederios, Executive Director of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. The official presentation was made before City Council on May 18, 1989.



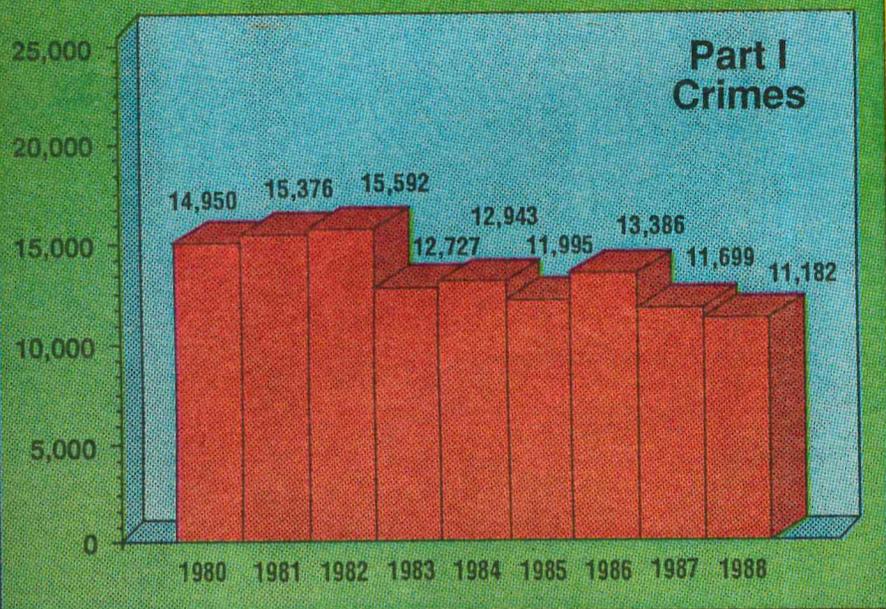
The SPD mini-stations have reported up to 150 walk-ins from citizens in a single month. This mini-station is one of three in our public housing neighborhoods. There is also an SPD mini-station on Broughton Street, serving downtown.



Improving the citizens' *perception* of safety through increased police visibility has become a major priority of the SPD, and several programs have been implemented to increase police presence throughout the City. One of the strategies to increase police visibility has been the establishment of the Savannah Police Horse Patrol, which made its debut in April. Mounted officers patrol the Historic District and public housing areas seven days a week, regardless of the weather.

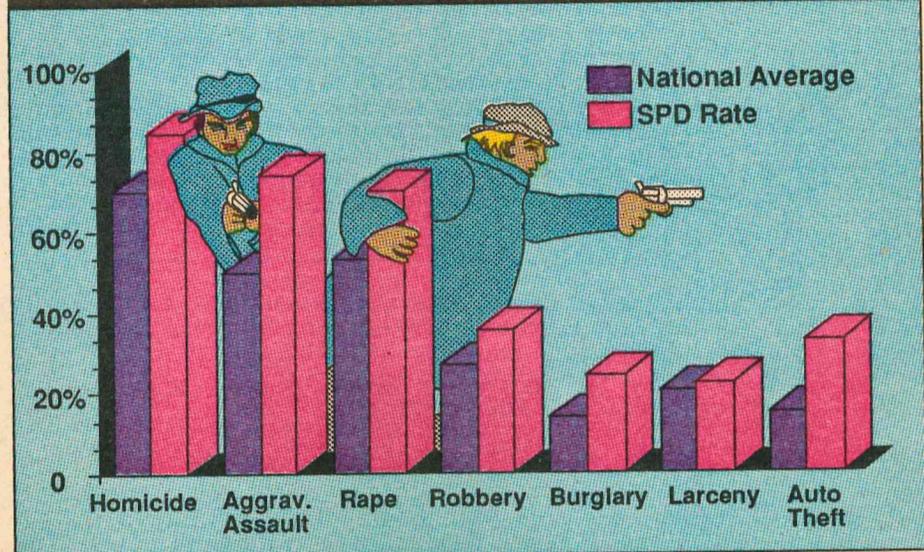
# A Safe, Clean Community

## Crime In Savannah: 1980 - 1988



In 1988, thanks in part to the dedicated efforts of the SPD, the number of Part I crime incidents in Savannah dropped to the lowest level in a decade. Although not as dramatic as the 13 percent decrease in 1987 from 1986, the four percent decrease in 1988 over 1987 was still significant. Reductions in reported incidents occurred in homicides, robberies, aggravated assaults and burglaries.

## Crime Clearance: 1988



The overall decline in Savannah's crime rate was coupled with another year of increased crime clearance rates by the department. (A case is considered "cleared" either by arrest, the crime being unfounded, or by the victim refusing to prosecute.) During 1988, Savannah police exceeded the national average for clearance of cases in every major crime category, a record that speaks well of the dedication of every Savannah police officer. SPD officers investigate and attempt to solve every crime; and, while the total number of crimes committed in 1988 went down, the actual number of arrests by police went up in nearly every major crime category.



## Fire Department

Keeping our communities safe is the top priority of the Savannah Fire Department, which is in the business of fire prevention as well as fire fighting.

The fire department offers a free home safety inspection to any homeowner who requests it. Fire inspectors visited more than 1200 homes during the first three months of 1989 - nearly double the number of homes inspected for the same period last year.

North of Victory Drive, where homes are at a higher risk of fire because of their wooden structures, nearly 80 percent of all residences have been surveyed and inspected. Close to 200 smoke detectors have been installed. In addition, when inspectors are finding other problems such as health hazards or housing code violations, the appropriate City agencies are being notified. This is part of the City's Neighborhood Services Program, described later in this report.

Savannah's firefighters fought fewer fires last year, due in part to an extensive fire prevention program.

# A Safe, Clean Community

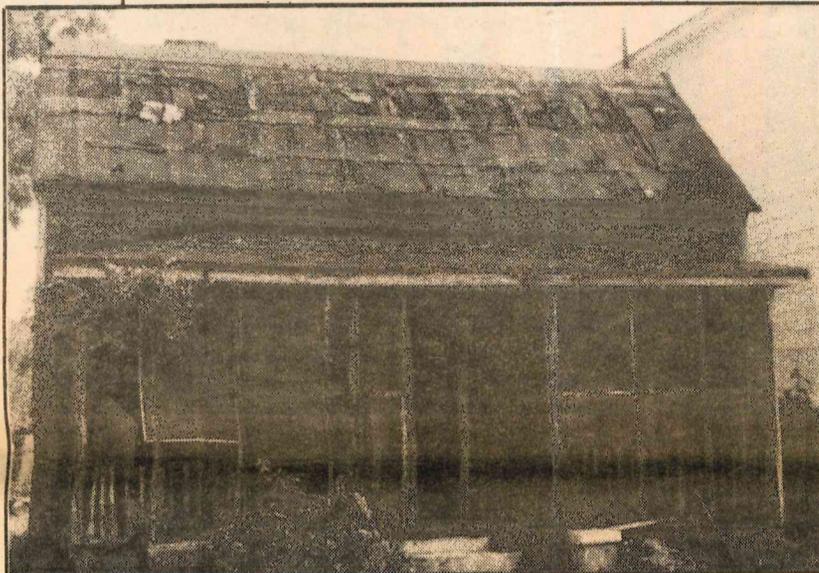
## Housing Programs

As much as 30 percent of the City's housing stock north of Victory Drive is substandard. Many of the families of four living in this area have combined incomes of under \$10,000 per year; many are paying as much as 60 percent of their income for housing; and, many of the people who live in these homes are elderly, female heads of household, or alone.

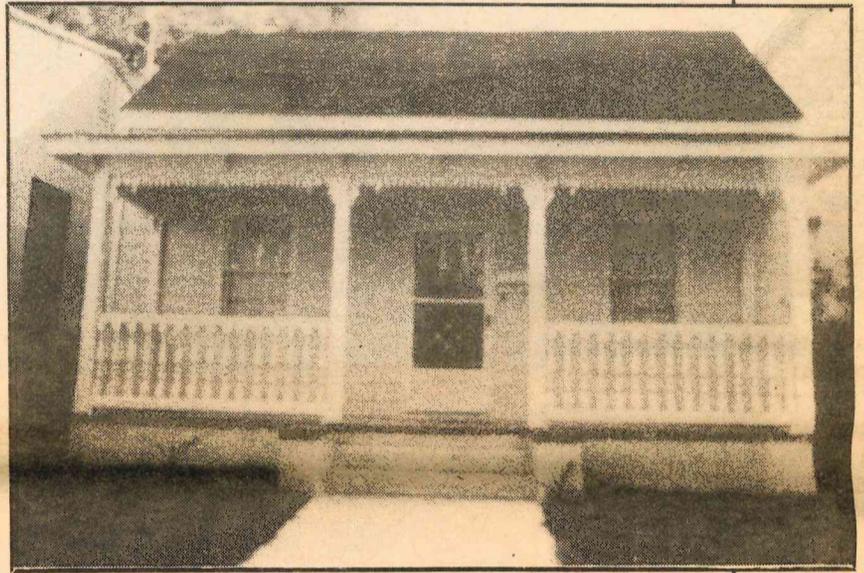
The City of Savannah, through its Bureau of Public Development, administers several types of housing improvement programs, including grant and loan programs. During the past ten years, *more than 1200 housing units* have been rehabilitated through these programs.

Although these programs have improved housing conditions, especially in the inner city, it is apparent that a more aggressive program is needed to comprehensively address this community's housing problems.

To that end, the **Community Housing Services Agency, Inc.** was established and incorporated in May of this year, following two years of planning. Membership consists of representatives from the banking community, the neighborhoods, the real-estate and homebuilding industries and local government. The agency is designed to provide a public/private partnership for improving the housing conditions of this community. The programs administered by this agency will make low interest loans available to provide affordable housing for low and moderate income families.



BEFORE



AFTER

A housing rehabilitation project completed this year and funded through various programs administered by the City. *More information can be obtained by contacting the City's Bureau of Public Development at 235-4041.*

## Traffic Engineering

Safety and convenience are priorities for the City's Traffic Engineering Department. Recent projects of this department have greatly improved both, especially for residents on the southside of the City, where congestion is often the worst. During the past year, numerous traffic engineering improvements were made, including the installation of new and/or additional stoplights; the widening of several main thoroughfares and the addition of turn lanes. These improvements resulted in a significant reduction in the total number of accidents in key intersections across the city. The most noted decrease in traffic mishaps occurred at the intersection of Abercorn and Eisenhower, where a new left-turn signal was added and additional left-turn lanes were provided. (See table.) Other intersections with notable decreases include the Abercorn and White Bluff intersection (24 fewer accidents) and the Bull and White Bluff intersection (17 fewer accidents).

## Safer Roads

### INTERSECTION

### TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS REDUCED BY...

(Figures compare 1988 numbers with those of 1987)

Abercorn/Eisenhower .....	28
Abercorn/White Bluff .....	24
Abercorn/DeRenne .....	20
Bull/White Bluff .....	17
Abercorn/Montgomery .....	7
Eisenhower/Waters .....	6
Abercorn/Tibet .....	5
Abercorn/Stephenson .....	3

# A Safe, Clean Community

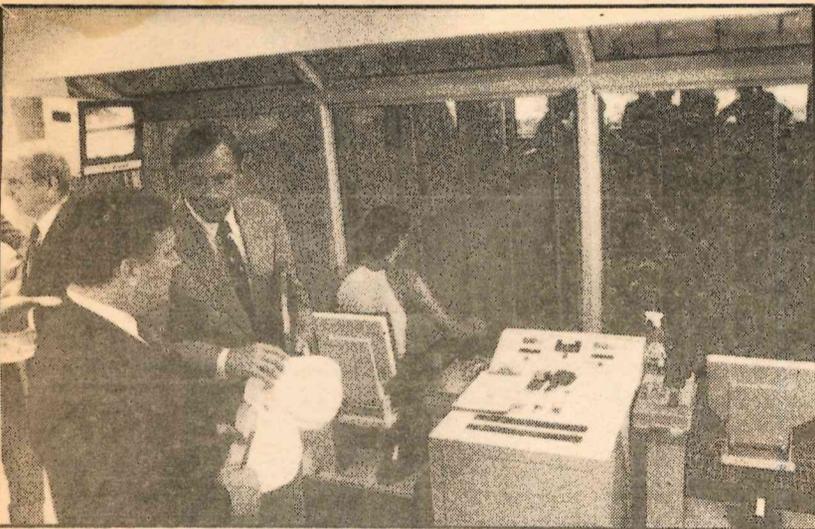


The Sanitation Bureau collects and removes all residential garbage twice a week; bulky trash collection is done on a once-a-week basis for more than 50,000 residents. Bulk pick-up service for leaves and limbs is done free of charge on a bi-monthly basis. In addition, nearly 30,000 miles of city streets are swept each year on a systematic and scheduled basis. For more information concerning trash pick-up and street sweeping, call 235-4221.

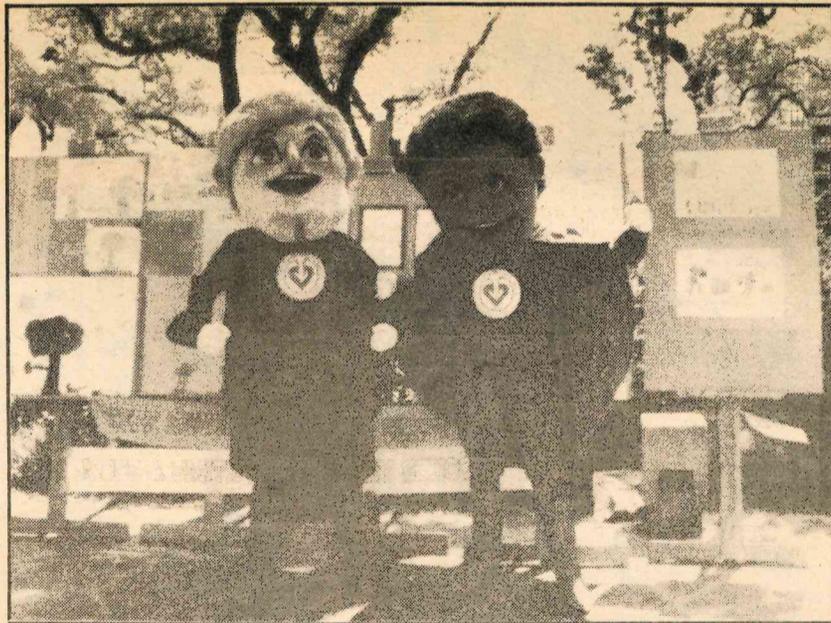
## Sanitation

Savannah's reputation as a "world-class" city is no accident. Its growing tourist industry has been carefully cultivated. The beauty of our community – from the ambience of our downtown to the hubbub of the Southside – is something in which we take a great deal of pride. All of us work hard to protect and maintain our city's good looks.

The City's Sanitation Bureau is particularly committed to providing a clean and pleasant environment for our citizens – from residential and commercial trash collecting to street sweeping; from litter control to resource recovery (turning waste into energy) and recycling.



Five years in the planning, two years in construction, Savannah's *Resource Recovery Plant (RRP)* is the first facility of its kind in the state. More than just a "trash incinerator," the RRP can process up to 500 tons of solid waste each day, turning that waste into energy, which is in turn sold to nearby industry. From both air and water quality standpoints, resource recovery is the most innovative and environmentally sound method of solid waste disposal yet developed.



In 1988, the City successfully launched the "Get in Stride with Community Pride" project, which includes clean-ups, the "Loan-a-Tool" program, bus tours, neighborhood meetings and joint operations with City departments. A total of 33 Community Pride clean-ups were organized in 1988, and school kids got to meet Clean Dean and Clean Gene as part of the City's outreach effort.

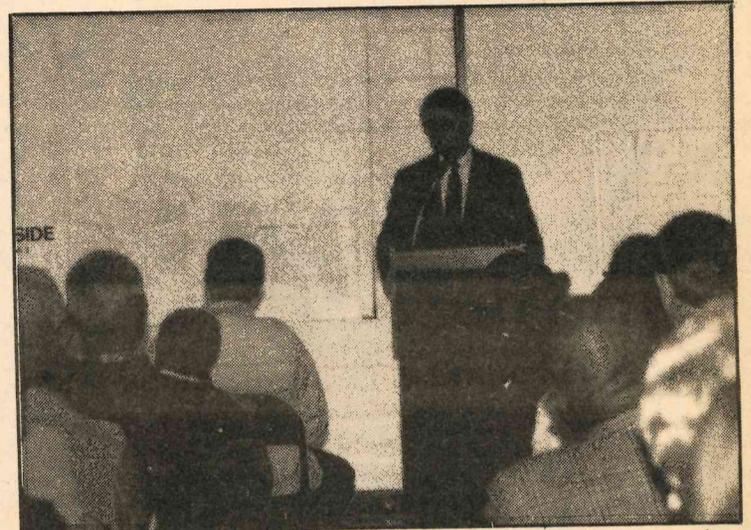
# A Proud Community

## Neighborhood Services

In March of 1987, the City launched a new, innovative program called the **Neighborhood Services Program (NSP)**. The focus of the NSP is to involve the residents in the planning and care of their own neighborhoods and to establish the City government as a partner rather than a provider in this effort. The program has been expanding since it began, and it now actively involves virtually every department in the City. It is the most ambitious outreach effort the City has ever undertaken.

The City of Savannah has for years attempted to halt and reverse the blight and deterioration in some of our neighborhoods with a variety of traditional programs, such as housing rehabilitation, code enforcement, clean-up campaigns and sanitation crews. It became apparent, however, that *resident involvement* and *neighborhood pride* were the essential ingredients which had been missing from previous attempts to improve neighborhood conditions. The Neighborhood Services program is designed as a means to motivate and encourage neighbors to work together, and with the City, to achieve clean, safe, aesthetically pleasing neighborhoods.

The NSP initially targeted an Eastside neighborhood known as **Showcase Area I**, bounded by Anderson Lane, Waters Avenue, East Broad, and Joe Street. Block clubs have been organized and, following training, the residents themselves have taken extensive surveys, block by block, of neighborhood conditions. Residents are now meeting with City officials to define problems and develop strategies, costs, priorities and schedules for dealing with these problems.



**City Manager Don Mendonsa and other City officials, representing virtually every City department, meet with residents of NSP's Showcase Area I.**



**Intensive street, land and lot clean-up campaigns have been organized and carried out by neighborhood residents with City assistance. Dilapidated buildings have been torn down; junk cars have been removed; and increased property maintenance code enforcement activities have been implemented.**

Neighborhood crime watch groups have been formed; the City's Fire Department has increased its inspection program and has begun aggressively implementing a smoke detector program. Sidewalk and street repairs are being prioritized by residents, and the City's Leisure Services Bureau and Cultural Affairs Office are bringing leisure and arts activities into the neighborhood.

This year, the City is implementing a similar program in **Showcase Area II**, bounded by West Anderson Street, West Victory Drive, Montgomery Street and Kollock Street. Although many are similar to the problems in Showcase Area I, the problems in Showcase II are unique to the neighborhood. The City is beginning to involve the residents in defining these problems and devising strategies to deal with them.

The residents in the two Showcase neighborhoods are learning that, by working together in a joint partnership with the City, they can create the kind of neighborhood they would *like* to have. The Neighborhood Services Program can start the ball rolling, but it will be the spirit and pride of neighborhood residents that will ultimately make the effort succeed.

Full time NSP staff support has been assigned to the targeted neighborhoods to work with the residents. The City assists with informational services, safety and crime prevention training, gardening assistance and referral services.

# Human Services

Since 1974, the City of Savannah has spent \$17.7 million to provide services to families and individuals in this community who would not otherwise receive specialized help. Some of the many human services which receive funding from the City include: child-care services for low and moderate income families; adult day-care and rehabilitation for the blind; elderly homemaker services; homeless services; and counseling for the victims of rape.

Last year, the Homemaker Services program was allotted over \$180,000 to provide 419 persons, over the age of 75, with services that would allow them to remain in their own homes. The Savannah Association for the Blind was provided with over \$165,000 to provide adult day-care and rehabilitation for visually impaired persons.

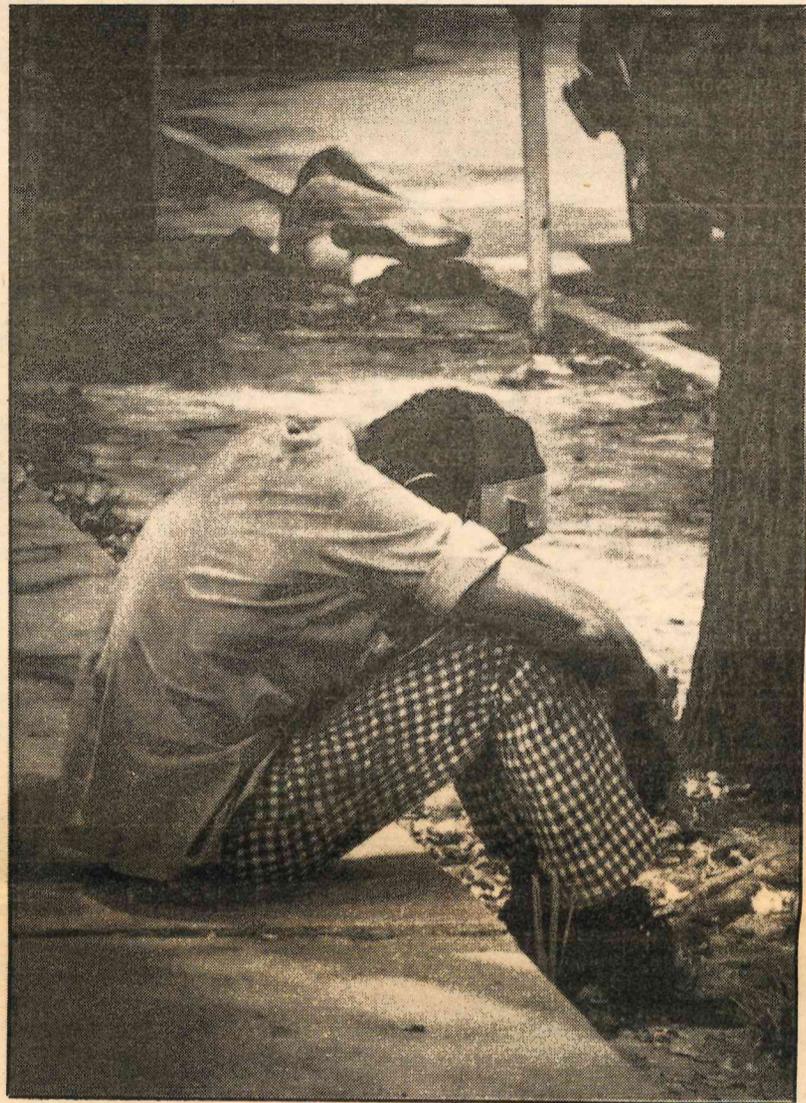
## SOME OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDED BY THE CITY INCLUDE...

Name of Program	CDBG Funding for 1989
Greenbriar Children's Center.....	\$110,718
Savannah Association for the Blind .....	83,000
Chatham County DFCS/Homemaker Program.....	93,582
Grace House of Union Mission.....	35,984
Inner City Night Shelter.....	5,100
Economic Opportunity Authority .....	14,615

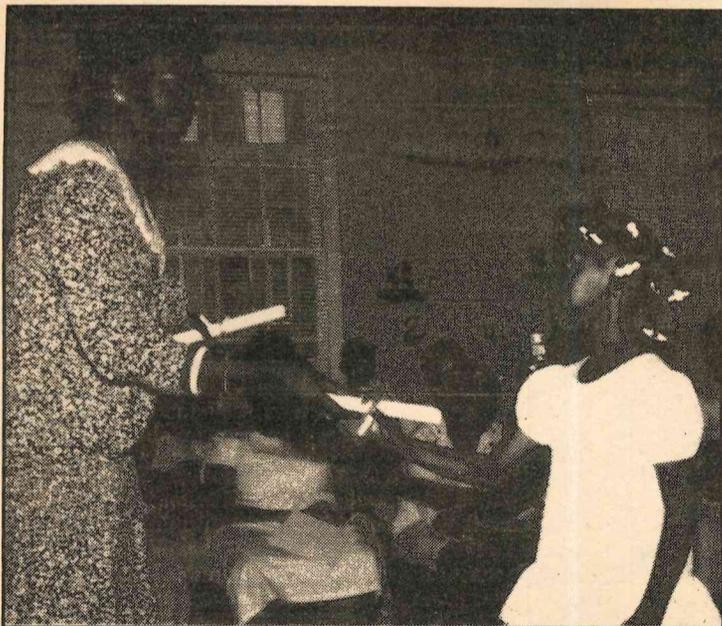
The City, through its general fund, contributes to several other service organizations throughout the community. Some of these include:

- Voluntary Action Center
- SAFE Shelter
- Horizon House
- Teen-age Pregnancy Program
- Coastal Food Bank
- Rape Crisis Center
- Senior Citizens, Inc.

# A Proud Community



On March 29, Governor Joe Frank Harris signed into law an act creating the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless. The purpose of this Authority is to develop a comprehensive plan for public and private agencies to deal with the growing problem of the homeless in Savannah. In 1988, work therapy programs provided by the City helped homeless persons develop and secure permanent jobs.



In 1987 and 1988, the City allocated approximately \$216,000 to the Greenbriar Children's Center, which provides day care services for children of low to moderate income families. This program permits parents to maintain jobs, seek new employment or enroll in job training programs without having to worry about taking care of their children during working hours. Here, a recent graduate receives her degree.

## United Way

The City of Savannah and its caring employees also participate, as volunteers, with many other human service and care-giving agencies. As an example: in 1988, the City of Savannah was selected as a Pacesetter Organization by the United Way to set an example for the rest of the community by making early contributions. The City's 1,800 employees donated \$111,390. In the past four years, donations from City workers to the United Way have more than tripled!

## A Proud Community

### New Futures Initiative

The programs of the New Futures Initiative began in Savannah in July, 1988. More than 1,000 at-risk youth in local middle and high schools are involved. The five-year, \$30 million program is funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the City of Savannah, Chatham County, the State of Georgia, the Board of Education, and the United Way.

The New Futures programs, administered by the Youth Futures Authority, were designed to improve academic achievement rates; reduce the school drop-out rate; reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancy and parenthood; and reduce youth inactivity. A number of student and family-centered strategies have been planned, such as creating institutional partnerships, promoting integrated community services, and supporting needed changes in youth service agencies.

During the past year, many of these strategies and programs have been realized. Individual case management, after-school programs, a parents' advisory committee, a youth employment center, career clubs, and adolescent health clinics have given many at-risk kids healthy alternatives to inactivity and drug abuse.

The City of Savannah has pledged \$2.5 million in new money to the New Futures Initiative, in addition to in-kind contributions in the form of existing and new programs.



This student of Bartlett Middle School, Nicole Ward, is one of the initial participants in the New Futures programs, and was promoted during mid-year ceremonies.



Former 1st District Alderman Dr. Otis Johnson relinquished his seat on City Council to become the program's Executive Director. He is pictured here with William Sprague, Jr., of Savannah Foods, the Chairman of the Youth Futures Authority which oversees the program.

Many City departments and agencies work closely with the New Futures programs to help ensure that they are a success, and to assist in providing opportunities for disadvantaged youth. To name a few:

- the Leisure Services Bureau assists with the New Futures' After-School and Summer Recreation Programs, involving more than a hundred boys and girls in organized basketball, aerobics classes, card games, chess and table tennis;
- the City's Cultural Affairs Office helps bring hands-on artistic experiences and opportunities to at-risk kids, both in the schools and in their neighborhoods;
- the City's Management Services Bureau provides the New Futures program with management and administrative services;
- the City's Public Information Office acts as the Authority's public relations and media liaison.

The Youth Futures offices are located at 128 Habersham Street, and their phone number is 235-3505.

The Youth Employment Center is located at 2301 Bull Street. The phone number there is 235-3508.

Volunteers are always welcome!

## Leisure Services

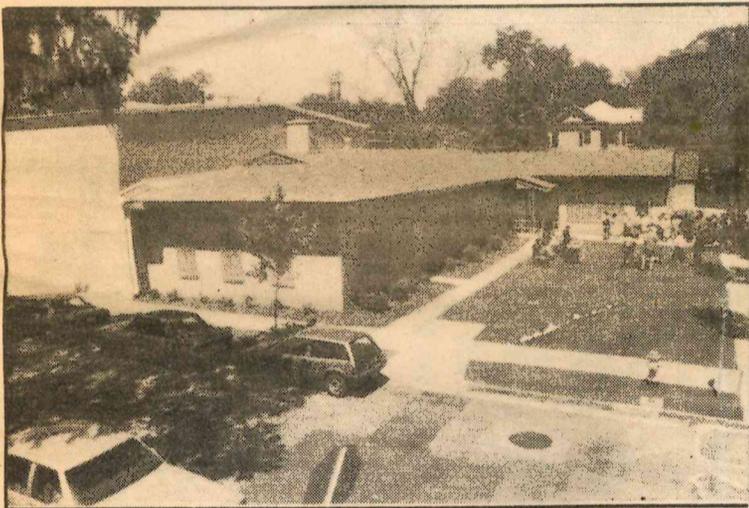
The City plays an active and continuing role in providing citizens with educational and constructive leisure-time services and activities, services which are necessary to ensure a high quality of life. The City's Leisure Services Bureau is committed to bringing recreational facilities and activities into the neighborhoods, where they are more conveniently available and can be enjoyed by more residents. This outreach effort is helping Savannah's citizens to

realize richer and fuller lives. The Bureau's Department of Neighborhood Programs provides a wide diversity of special activities for residents throughout the City regardless of age, race or handicapping condition. During the past year, more than 22,000 citizens have participated in these activities including puppet making, ceramics, modern dance, aerobics, teen club dances, talent shows and holiday celebrations.

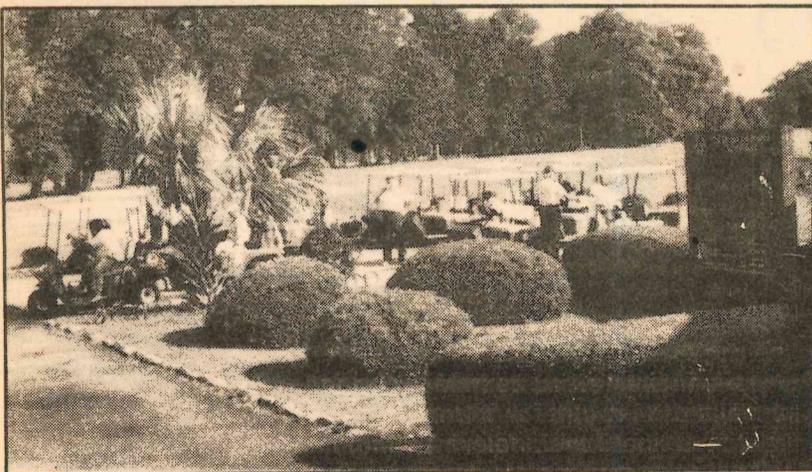
The City operates and maintains five neighborhood recreation centers, providing supervised activities:

Lincoln Street Center.....	235-4280
W.W. Law Center.....	235-4298
May Street Center.....	235-4287
Tompkins Center.....	235-4299
Grant Street Center.....	235-4282

All neighborhood centers are open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.



In 1988, the City opened the Lincoln Street Recreation Center. This facility will serve elderly and handicapped citizens and residents of the neighborhood in which it is located. This facility was opened in a building that was renovated for this purpose at a cost of more than \$300,000.



Early this year, City Council voted to lease the Bacon Park Golf Course to the American Golf Corporation for the next five years. Turning the course over to private management will reduce its operating deficit by roughly \$180,000 per year.

## A Proud Community



The Special Olympics, although a big part of the City's Therapeutics Program, are by no means the only City-sponsored activity for its handicapped citizens. The Leisure Services Therapeutics Program sponsors or assists in many activities at a variety of specialized facilities throughout the City to serve the recreational needs of mentally and/or physically disabled participants. For more information about the programs and facilities of the City's Therapeutics Program, call 235-4265.

Leisure Services operates nine Golden Age Centers. Programs offered at these centers include a wide range of activities and educational programs, field trips, parties, singalongs, counseling services and performances by the Savannah Theatre Company and Ballet South.

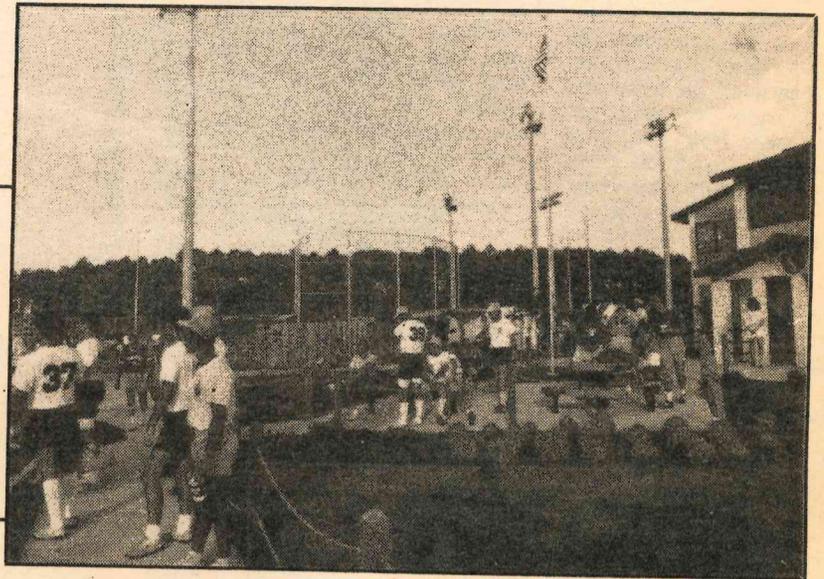
Cunningham 121 E. 36th St.	M - F	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	235-4364
Cuyler 812 W. 36th St.	M - F	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	235-4360
Grant 1310 Richards	M - F	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	235-4361
Frazier 805 May St.	M - F	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	233-4796
Savannah Gardens Pennsylvania & Elgin	M - F	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	233-4292
Stillwell Towers 5010 Waters Ave.	M - F	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	352-8468
Stubbs Towers 1300 Bee Road	M - F	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	235-4362
Wimberly 121 W. 37th St.	M - F	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	235-4365
Summit	M - F	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	355-2566

Savannah's Golden Age Program received the Georgia Recreation and Park Society's "Outstanding Older Adult Recreation Program" award for 1988. The Golden Age Program also received this award in 1985.

# A Proud Community

## Leisure Services

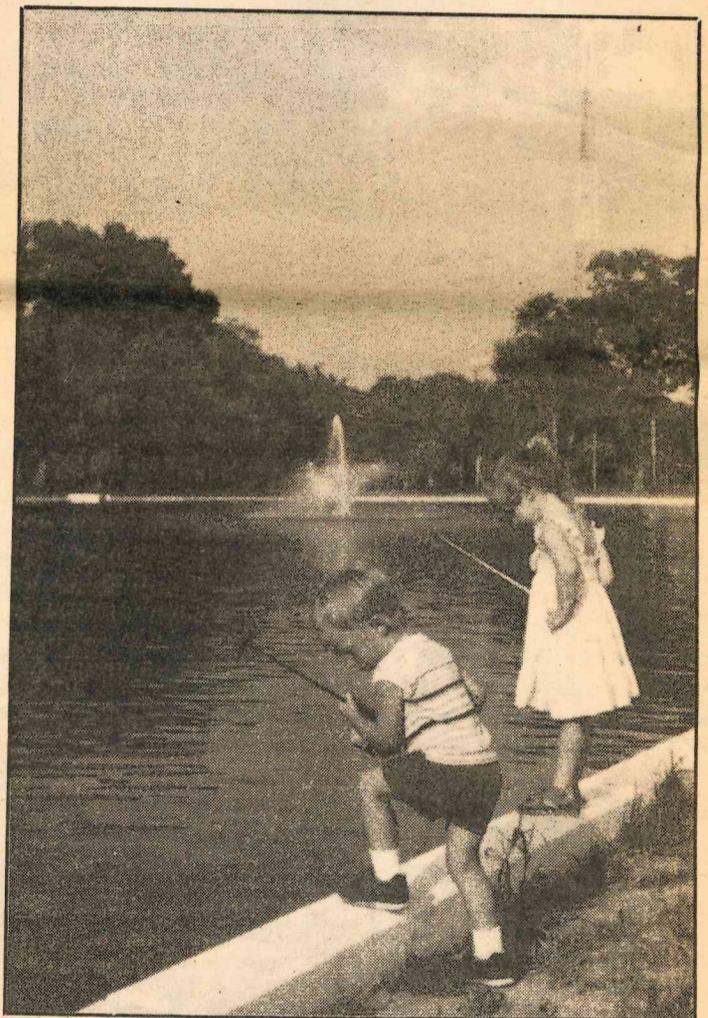
Organized sports continue to grow in Savannah with softball being no exception. A record 130 softball teams have registered to play at the Allen Paulson Softball Complex in 1989. The Paulson Complex, one of the finest facilities of its kind, attracts players and tournaments from across the country. The Paulson Complex hosted 78 teams for the 1988 ASA Men's Class 'A' Slow Pitch National Tournament — representing 34 states! It was one of the biggest sporting events the City has ever hosted, pumping an estimated \$1,181,000 into the local economy.



After two years and more than a half-million dollars in reconstruction, the Daffin Park Lake was officially re-dedicated this past March. The original lake, first constructed in the 1920's and famous for its shape — an outline of the contiguous United States — developed serious leakage problems and had to undergo a massive facelift.



Storm sewer lines beneath the lake, the cause of the leaking, had to be re-routed. The lake bed itself was deepened, graded and lined. The banks of the lake were rebuilt and protected with erosion-proof concrete walls, and the lake's pavilion was refurbished, receiving new fencing, picnic tables, roofing and paint.



These local youngsters recently attempted to hook a few, unsuccessfully, in the new Daffin Lake. The lake was restocked with fish in February, but fishermen won't be able to wet their lines for about two years, to give the bass, bream and catfish a chance to mature.

## Park and Tree Department

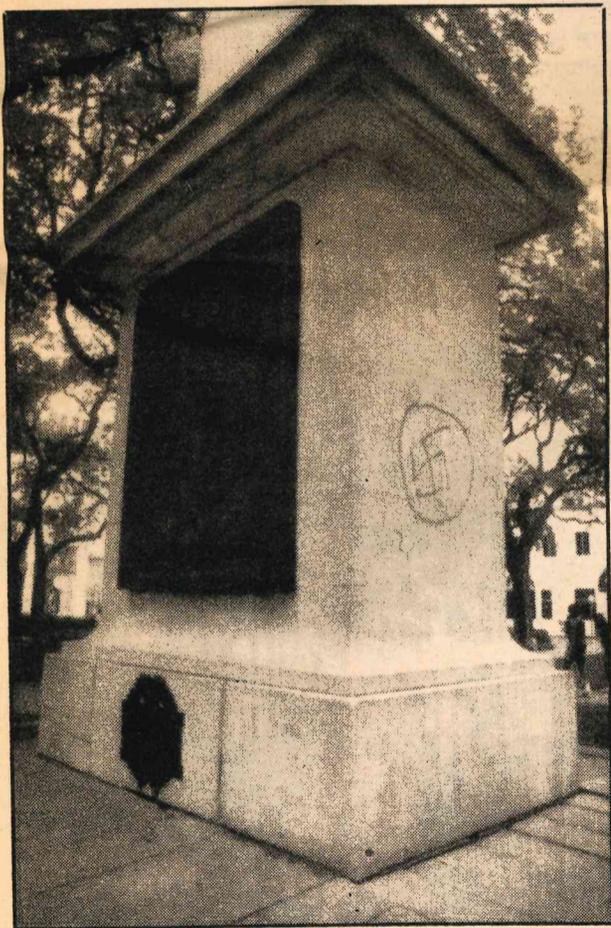
Savannah's parks, squares and monuments are all common denominators in what makes our City so beautiful and what makes all of us so proud to call this our home.

The City's Park and Tree Department oversees the upkeep and maintenance of not only these resources, but also highway medians, rights-of-way and all other publicly-owned property. The Park and Tree Department provides care and maintenance for all these sites and ensures that any needed restorations and improvements are made. This year, the Park and Tree people were busy!

In 1988, a lot of time and effort went into the refurbishing of four major fountains around the City, most notably the Forsyth Park fountain. The renovation/preservation work on the Forsyth Fountain last summer won the City of Savannah and the Signatures of Savannah (S.O.S.) Committee (a committee to raise contributions for the project) an award from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation.



The Forsyth Fountain came down last May and was shipped to Alabama, where it received an extensive going-over. The fountain was reinstalled and turned back on in October; lights were added to illuminate the monument at night; new spray heads were also attached to the fountain, changing the "sprurts" of water to a festive "spray," preserving the fountain's historical integrity.



In June, vandals kept the Department busy after spray-painting and defacing some of the monuments located in the Bull Street squares. The graffiti was painstakingly removed by the end of the year and, despite the vandals' efforts, the beauty of the monuments was restored. The vandals were required by the courts to pay for the clean-up.



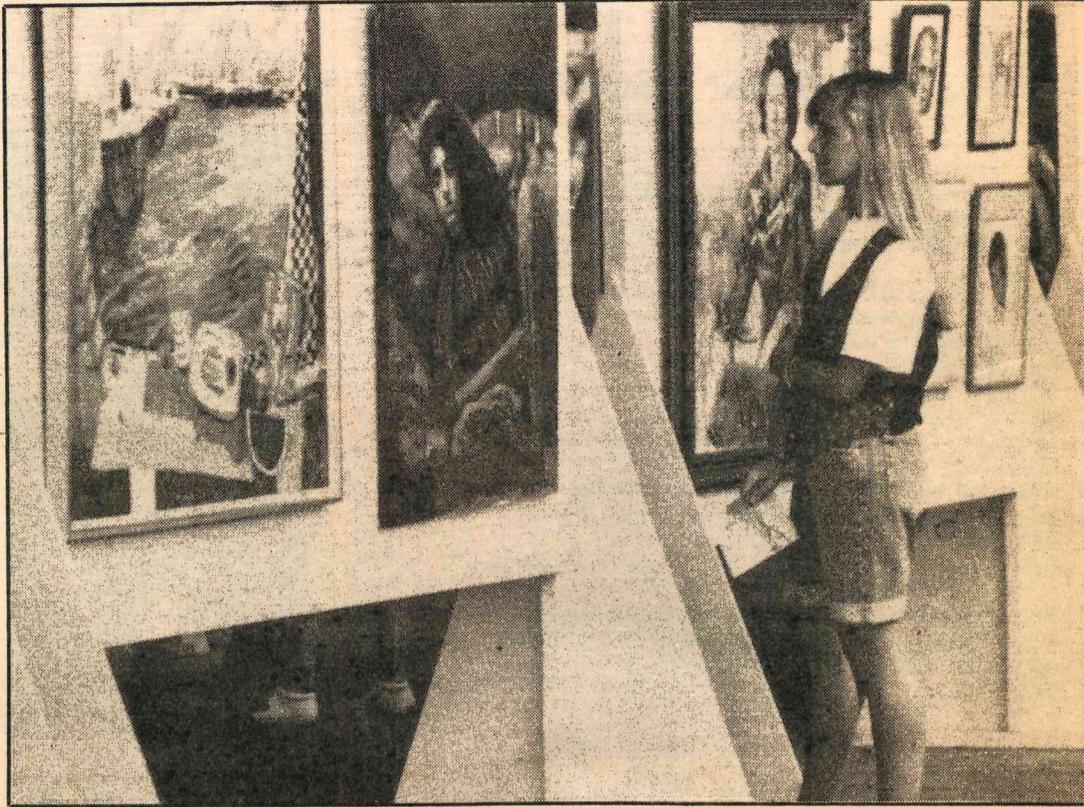
The Vietnam Memorial will honor the Savannahians who died in the longest war America ever fought. It will be located in Emmet Park on Bay Street, a few blocks east of City Hall, between the Celtic Cross and the Chatham Artillery Marker. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on Memorial Day.

# A Proud Community

## Cultural Affairs

In an effort to make cultural opportunities conveniently and economically available to citizens of all neighborhoods, the City of Savannah is actively involved in funding and promoting local arts programs. The City purchases arts programs from local artists and non-profit cultural agencies, and then provides these services free to the public. People who benefit the most are those who would not normally be exposed to such activities. In 1979, the City spent \$107,542 on arts services. In the eight years since that time, this amount has more than quadrupled, with more than \$510,000 allocated in 1989 for direct purchases of cultural services.

One such program designed to bring hands-on experience into the community is the "Weave A Dream" program. Begun in 1987, the program allows Savannahians who might not otherwise have the opportunity to learn a specific craft or discipline.



In May, *thousands* enjoyed "Arts-on-the-River Weekend" in Savannah — as they do every year! The two-day celebration of the arts is sponsored by the City and includes a sampling of the visual and performing arts. This year, "Arts-on-the-River" was named one of the top arts events in the Southeast during the month of May.



The City's Cultural Arts Center is one of many locations throughout the City where would-be thespians of all ages can get training, practice and hands-on theatre experience.



The City's Cultural Arts office sponsors many musical events. "Music on the Move," a new program held at different locations throughout the City this year, brought a variety of musical entertainment, such as the folk songs of Michael Maddox (above).

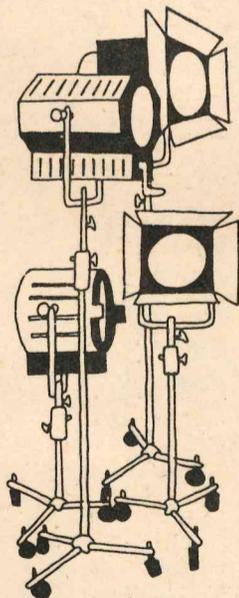
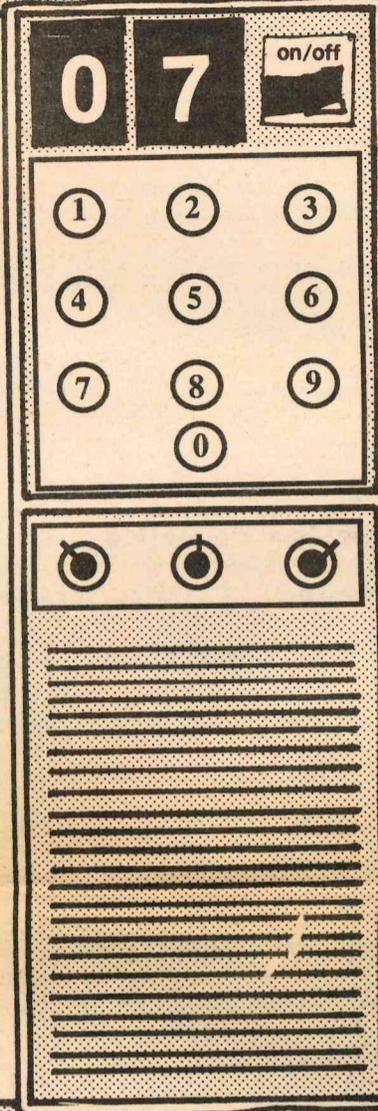
## CITY SPAN . . .

...is a half-hour informational program produced by the Office of Public Information and broadcast four times weekly on Cable Channel 7. A variety of timely subjects are covered, including:

- Downtown Parking
- Savannah's Resource Recovery Plant
- Savannah's Fire Department
- Police Visibility and Mini-Stations
- Computerized Traffic Management
- Housing Conditions in the Inner City
- The 911 Emergency System
- Future Plans for Battlefield Park
- Martin Luther King Day Parade
- New Futures Initiative
- Savannah's Park and Tree Department
- Plans for Vietnam Memorial
- The Mayor's "State of the City" Speech
- The City's Leisure Services Bureau
- The Great Savannah Exposition

In all, more than 50 CITY SPAN programs have been produced. CITY SPAN can be seen every week on Cable Channel 7 at the following times:

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



## Public Information Office

The City's Office of Public Information was established in 1987 to keep citizens better informed of the programs, services, activities and functions of their municipal government. By being more aware of these programs, they can more easily participate and gain full benefit from them, and they will be better informed of where and how their tax dollars are being spent.

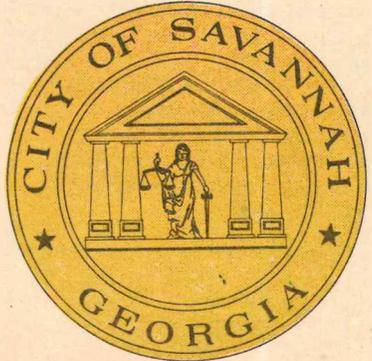
The Public Information Office received a Gold Addy Award in 1988 from the Savannah Advertising Club for the City's United Way Video Production.

As part of the City's improved customer relations policy, the Public Information Office will soon be implementing an automated general information phone system for citizens and visitors to Savannah to call for quick, easy references and information about the goings-on around the City.

The City's ANNUAL REPORT, which you are now holding, is also prepared by the Public Information Office. Last year's Annual Report, the first to be distributed throughout the County, earned a Silver Addy Award from the Savannah Advertising Club. For more copies of this year's report, contact the Office of Public Information, P.O. Box 1027, Savannah, GA. 31402.

# City of Savannah Telephone Directory

Savannah's Customer Service Desk .....	235-4200
After 5 p.m., Weekends or Holidays .....	235-4241
Local Government Information.....	233-9321
Airport Commission .....	964-0514
Arts Information .....	233-ARTS
Business Licenses .....	235-4040
City Manager's Office .....	235-4090
Civic Center Box Office .....	234-6666
Clerk of Council .....	235-4047
Fire Department.....	232-5121
EMERGENCY ONLY .....	911
Historic District Board of Review .....	233-9321
Housing Authority .....	233-3053
Inspections and Building Permits .....	235-4170
Jobs Line .....	235-4112
Jobs Training Program .....	235-4190
Leisure Services Bureau.....	235-4295
Mayor's Office .....	235-4045
Metropolitan Planning Commission .....	236-9523
Park and Tree Service Requests .....	235-4200
Parking Services.....	235-4005
Police Department.....	235-4337
EMERGENCY ONLY .....	911
Recorder's Court.....	944-4731
Sanitation Bureau .....	235-4221
Service Requests.....	235-4200
After 5 p.m., Weekends or Holidays .....	235-4241
Tax Office.....	235-4035
Delinquent Taxes.....	235-4040
Water Service Office .....	235-4020
Zoning Appeals .....	236-9523



**Public Information Officer/Managing Editor:** Catherine Cooper Long  
**Editors:** Michael West, Dana Todd  
**Editorial Staff:** Edwin Carlisle, Cindy Roberts, Barbara Allen  
**Photography:** Steve Bisson, Bob Morris, Peter Schumacher, Catherine Cooper Long, Michael West, Frank Blocker, Steve George  
**Graphics:** Doria Taylor, Robbie McBride