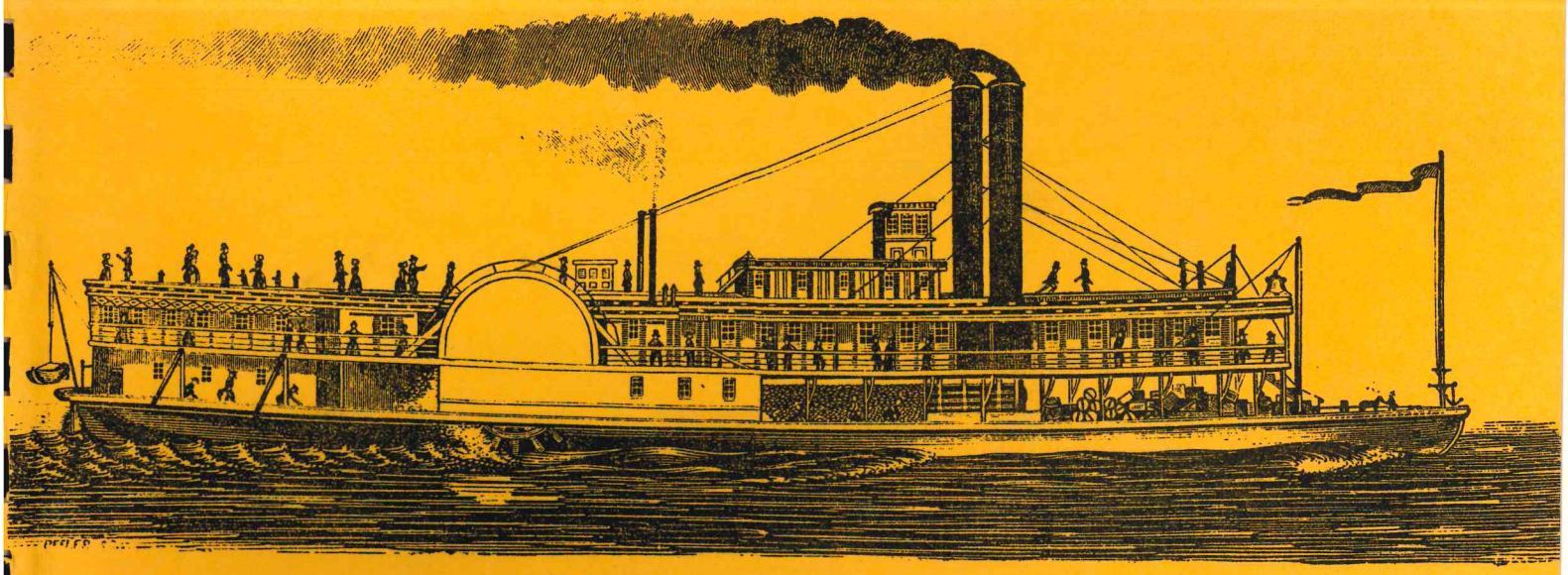
1981 Annual Report To The Mayor & Aldermen



City of Savannah

MAYOR

JOHN P. ROUSAKIS

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Frank Rossiter
Mayor Pro-Tempore

W. Brooks Stillwell

Roy Jackson

Harris Lentini

H.C. Morrison
Chairman of Council

Leo Center
Vice-Chairman of Council

Creighton Rhodes

Leon Chaplin

CITY MANAGER
Arthur A. Mendonsa

CITY OF SAVANNAH
office of the city manager
p.o. box 1027, savannah, georgia 31402

MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
CITY OF SAVANNAH
CITY HALL
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

DEAR MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

The annual report for 1981 documents a year of solid achievement by the City of Savannah. We maintained a sound financial position and provided our residents with effective and productive services.

Specific objectives were established and monitored for all City departments. The objectives stated what each department was expected to achieve, and included measures and deadlines for checking progress. Several notable examples of the results achieved include:

- Receiving a fire insurance rating for the annexed Southside area equal to the rating for the rest of the city;
- Paving more than 20 miles of streets;
- Reducing $5.2 million of uninvested money in 1980 to $1.5 million in 1981; and
- Improving the overall appearance of the cemeteries by increasing the frequency of maintenance of lots not in care.

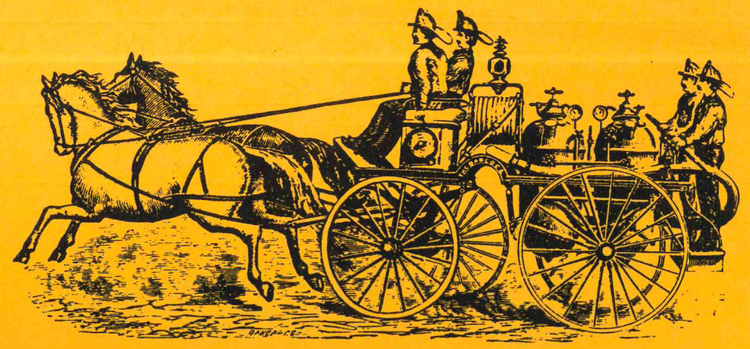
Of course, 1981 was also a year in which much attention was given to homicides in our city. Analysis showed that most of the murders resulted from disputes among family members, friends, or acquaintances. Steps to address this difficult problem were taken early in 1982.

The pages which follow provide a more detailed look at the work and accomplishments of our bureaus and departments for the year.

Sincerely,

Arthur A. Mendonsa
City Manager

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Emergency Services

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Savannah Fire Department personnel responded to fires 2,608 times during 1981. The number of responses was higher in 1981 than a seven year average of 2,348, making 1981 the second highest response year in the seven year reporting period.

There were 1,429 responses in 1981 that entailed some type of fire assistance. This was an increase of 143 from 1980. However, there was a reduction in structural fires from the 1980 total of 526 to the 1981 total of 494. This was the fourth consecutive year of decreases in structural fires, even with the addition of two planning units to the area covered by the Savannah Fire Department.

The targeting of the Home Inspections Program in Planning Units 2, 20, and 21 during 1981, which allowed firefighters to inspect homes for fire hazards, appears to have resulted in a beneficial impact on the reduction of structural fires in these planning units. The chart below illustrates the number of homes inspected between 1980 and 1981.

	1980	1981
Approved Homes	4,737	4,802
Homes With Defects	434	324
TOTAL HOMES INSPECTED	5,171	5,126
Total Homes Inspected	5,171	5,126
Vacant Homes	808	610
Refusals	352	325
Homes With No One At Home	5,705	4,566
TOTAL ATTEMPTS AT INSPECTION	12,036	10,627

During the past year, the Fire Department provided a variety of educational and informative programs. All were aimed at stressing the importance of fire safety and prevention. During the last two years, a film on fire safety specifically directed to the young audience has been shown to groups that visit Fire Station Number 3. A new film has been purchased for presentations to teenage groups.

October 4th - 10th was celebrated as Fire Prevention Week. During this time fire drills were conducted by the Investigators at 22 schools throughout Savannah. Over 12,347 students and 1,042 teachers and support personnel participated in these activities.

Outstanding accomplishments of the year for the Savannah Fire Department include the installation of radio-controlled doors which replaced obsolete overhead doors. Also, three new 1,250 gallons-per-minute pumpers were introduced into service in 1981.

A new site was secured for a new fire station, Number 6, at the location of Liberty Parkway, between Ogeechee Road and Mills B. Lane Boulevard, which will serve the Liberty City and contiguous Westside annexed areas.

Other accomplishments for 1981 include the securing of a Class 3 insurance rating from the Insurance Services Office for the annexed Southside area. The improved rating, which already applied to other parts of the City, should result in decreased fire insurance rates for many insured Southside commercial properties.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Savannah Police Department continued to provide services to the Savannah area which include crime control, criminal investigation and emergency services.

During the year of 1981, Part I crimes, which include murder, rape, robbery, burglary, aggravated assault, larceny, and auto theft, increased by 3% from 14,950 to 15,376. The Part I crime rate per 1,000 was 109 in 1981 as compared to 106.8 in 1980.

Although overall crime figures increased by 3% in 1981, crimes against persons decreased by 7% from 1980. The most significant decreases occurred in rape, which decreased by 12%, auto theft by 11%, and aggravated assault by 10%. A 4% decrease was also recorded in robbery.

The most significant increases were recorded in homicides - up 63% from 32 in 1980 to 52 in 1981; burglary by 8%, and larceny by 4%.

A high percentage of homicides, 73% or 38 cases, occurred as a result of a domestic disturbance or an argument between friends or acquaintances. To combat this problem, the Mayor and Aldermen appointed the Domestic Violence Task Force to investigate and study the causes of domestic violence and offer possible solutions to the problems.

Public Development

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Community Planning and Development had a very active year in 1981. Renovation of City parks highlighted its achievements.

Construction was completed on Live Oak Park, 37th Street Median, Crawford Square and Davant Park. The renovations of Forsyth and Cann Parks, Thompkins Pool, May Street Center, Thompkins Recreation Center and Bowles C. Ford swimming pool are to be completed in early 1982. Construction will begin in early 1982 on a new park on East Broad Street.

Other Capital Improvement Projects completed in 1981 included street paving in which 12.7 miles of street were paved in Planning Units 1, 2, 3, 12, and 21. Paving projects under construction in 1981 included 14.92 miles in Planning Units 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, and 18.

Other significant CIP projects were completed in the area of drainage and sidewalk construction. Forty blocks of Phase I of the Victorian District Sidewalk Plan are being completed on schedule during 1981 and 1982.

Two major studies, the Comprehensive Recreation Facilities Plan (CRFP) and the Recovery Action Program (RAP) were completed during 1981. The CRFP includes an analysis of new recreation facility needs and existing facility repair needs throughout the City. The RAP includes additional information required for the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery program.

The Responsive Public Services Program document was printed and distributed in 1981. The RPSP is used to compare different geographic areas of the City to the City as a whole in order to identify deficiencies in current service levels. Also completed in 1981 was the Neighborhood Profile document, which presents comprehensive data on the socioeconomic and physical conditions for each of the City's twenty-eight planning units.

During the 6th Community Development Block Grant year, expenditures on Community Development eligible activities - housing, parks and recreation, environment, transportation, and economic development - were approximately $8 million. The City received a $576,000 Inequities Grant in addition to its entitlement amount of approximately $4.3 million.

For the 7th Community Development Block Grant year, the City received $2.6 million from the Urban Renewal Closeout in addition to the entitlement money.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Downtown Savannah was a major focal point in 1981 for the efforts of the City's Economic Development Department. The completion of a comprehensive downtown development plan, the creation of a Downtown Development Authority, and the establishment of a Parking Management Agency were major first steps on the path to Downtown Revitalization.

The Downtown Economic Market Analysis and Development Plan provides economic data for stimulating private investment in downtown. The Downtown Development Authority acts as an incentive for downtown investment by providing tax-exempt bond financing which was extended to several projects in 1981.

The Parking Management Program began to identify solutions to the downtown parking problems. In October 1981, the site for the City's first parking garage was announced. The site will hold approximately 500 vehicles when completed.

The Battlefield Park Project took another step forward toward completion as the City, the developers, Southern Railway, and the State Board of Regents came to agreements on various aspects of the project.

The Victorian District UDAG (Urban Development Action Grant) project progressed in 1981. The Housing and Urban Development Department of the federal government released the remaining $325,000 in grant funds. Under the program, 71 housing units were either completed or under construction in the Victorian District for a total investment of $2.3 million.

Construction is underway on the first phase of the Victorian District Sidewalk Plan which will rehabilitate 39 blocks at a total cost of $385,000 in Phase I of the plan.

ENGINEERING

The goal of paving 11.2 miles of street set by the Engineering Department for 1981 was not only met but was almost doubled by the end of the year, when 20.59 miles of paving had been completed.

A total of 17.16 of the 20.59 miles were paved under the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), at a total cost of $7,620,416. The other 3.43 miles were paved under the City's General Obligation Bond Program.

Contracts were awarded for major CDBG paving and drainage projects in Planning Unit 10 (Glynnwood area). Design work for .9 miles for paving began in Planning Unit 16B (Causton Bluff area), with 10.98 miles of paving underway at the end of the year.

Renovation of public buildings included the Park and Tree Stable at a cost of $22,500. Traffic Engineering equipment formerly stored on River Street can now be placed in the Stable. $107,000 of repair work also began at the Historic Battlefield Park site.

The Engineering Department took another step in 1981 toward the operation of a new sanitary landfill. Arrangements for the purchase of the new site on Dean Forrest Road were completed. The final access road was extended to the old landfill site at Highway 17 which completes this project.

Major achievements were also made during 1981 in the area of recreation facilities and sites. Completed projects include the Crawford Square renovation, May Street Center improvements, and tennis court resurfacing at Bacon and Daffin Parks.

Other Engineering projects which began in 1981 include playground improvements at Davant, Cann and Wells Parks, as well as pool and bathhouse renovations at Bowles Ford Park and Thompkins Pool.

More than 80% of the work on Forsyth Park was completed in 1981. Completion of the project is scheduled for early 1982.

A more efficient style of reporting major capital improvement projects was designed and implemented in 1981. An accompanying report on 10 years of CIP and paving analysis was also completed. A summary of 10 years of CIP expenditures is illustrated below.

YEAR	CIP AMOUNT
1971	$ 1,369,350
1972	12,505,575
1973	1,505,922
1974	6,880,303
1975	9,368,814
1976	16,183,223
1977	8,483,948
1978	4,200,744
1979	5,991,479
1980	9,900,513
1981	13,344,884
TOTAL	$ 89,734,755

Water and Sewer Service was extended or improved to numerous customers in 1981 as shown in the table below.

Project	New/Improved Water Customers	New/Improved Sewer Customers
Hood and Hampton Streets		10
Martha Street	10	10
Middleground Road	40	
Tremont Park	100	100
Liberty City	300	300
Highland Park		62
Chippewa Terrace	54	
Ogeechee Road		4
Montgomery Cross Roads Abercorn to White Bluff	10	
Abercorn Extension Magnolia to Largo	1	
Fairmont to Montgomery Crossroads	3	
TOTAL	519	486

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Meeting the challenge of improving the housing stock in Savannah has been a difficult task in 1981 due to high interest rates and federal program cutbacks.

In spite of such obstacles, the City of Savannah's Housing Department accomplished its objective of increasing the number of standard residential housing units.

The Housing Department accomplished its goals by providing financial assistance programs including direct City-funded loans, City-subsidized conventional loans, federal rent subsidies, and direct federal loans for owner-occupied and investor-owned residential properties.

The Interest-Subsidy-Construction Loan program was responsible for the $325,000 UDAG funds used in the Victorian District Phase I Sidewalk improvements. Seventy-one units were rehabilitated under the Construction Loan Program which lent $2.3 million to Victorian District residents.

Prior to February 1981, the City submitted to HUD applications for approval of 239 units under Section 8 Substantial Rehabilitation guidelines. By December, HUD approved all applications. Construction was begun on five units. The remaining 234 units were awaiting receipt of tandem financing.

Other housing loans included one Section 312 loan for $27,000 and twenty Housing Rental Assistance Program (HRAP) loans totaling $346,000. Total loans and grants for 1981 were $2,673,000.

HUMAN SERVICES

The goal of the Department of Human Services is to provide services that help to maintain a community of independent, self-sufficient individuals.

Toward this goal, services are provided for the elderly, the blind, youths, and the untrained. These services include homemaker programs, apprenticeship training and child care centers for citizens located in the Neighborhood Strategy areas.

During 1981, funds totaling $1,826,752 were appropriated for the operation of these services in Savannah through federal, state, and local funds. The table below provides information on the cost and number of participants in 1981.

PROGRAM	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	COST TO CITY PER PARTICIPANT	COST TO FEDERAL AND STATE PER PARTICIPANT
Child Care	464	$ 515	$ 1,846
Homemaker Services	405	253	777
Association for the Blind	53	2,312	1,987
Coastal Area Minority Business Development Association	117	834	

In order to assure that the services of the Human Services Department are meeting the needs of the public, a new program evaluation, The Needs Assessment Survey, was designed in 1981 with implementation to begin in early 1982.

INSPECTIONS

In 1981, the Inspections Department met the challenge of providing services to the citizens of Savannah in a more efficient manner.

The Inspections Department, which administers the ordinances and codes regarding zoning, building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, fire prevention and housing, developed and adopted a new Effectiveness Evaluation Measure that will insure a higher level of performance in the department.

Also adopted during 1981 by the Inspections Department was the Five Year Concentrated Housing Inspections Program. Under this plan, a concentrated inspections program will be enforced so that by the end of 1982 over 5,600 houses in Savannah will be surveyed and inspected. In order to accomplish such an objective, approximately ten inspections per inspector per day must be accomplished.

Such high performance planned for 1982 is insured by the outstanding performance of 1981. The following table illustrates the 1981 Inspections Department's accomplishments:

PERMITS ISSUED	NUMBER	FEES COLLECTED
Electrical	3,524	$ 99,605
Building	1,603	176,367
Plumbing	1,179	38,137
Mechanical	689	10,457
Sewer Connections	442	88,250
TOTAL	7,437	$ 412,816

INSPECTIONS MADE	
ZONING	
Field	1,391
Office	1,953
Conferences	1,057
Zoning Board of Appeals Cases	105
Historic Review Board Cases	198
TOTAL	4,704

Of the total $520,658.04 Inspections Department budget for 1981, $147,703.90 was allocated to the Health Department for housing code inspections. Of the $372,954.14 which comprised the actual operating budget of the department, fees were generated totaling $412,816 or 110.67% of the operating budget. The following table illustrates the generated fees:

DIVISION	EST. COST FOR 1981	FEES GENERATED	% OF CONTRIBUTION TO ESTIMATED COST
Electrical	$ 91,877	$ 99,605	108.41
Building	96,428	176,367	182.90
Plumbing/Mechanical	90,451	136,844	151.32

LABOR RESOURCES

External factors played a major role in the performance of the Department of Labor Resources for 1981. The severe budget reductions of the federal administration leading to the elimination of public service employment programs caused a reduction of participants in Labor Resources programs.

During 1981, approximately 2,992 individuals, a reduction of one-fourth of the participants in 1980, participated in the following CETA activities:

Vocational Training.....	486
On-the-Job-Training.....	369
Work Experience.....	1,453
Public Service Employment....	470
Other.....	214

The following statistics illustrate the significant segments of the population that were served:

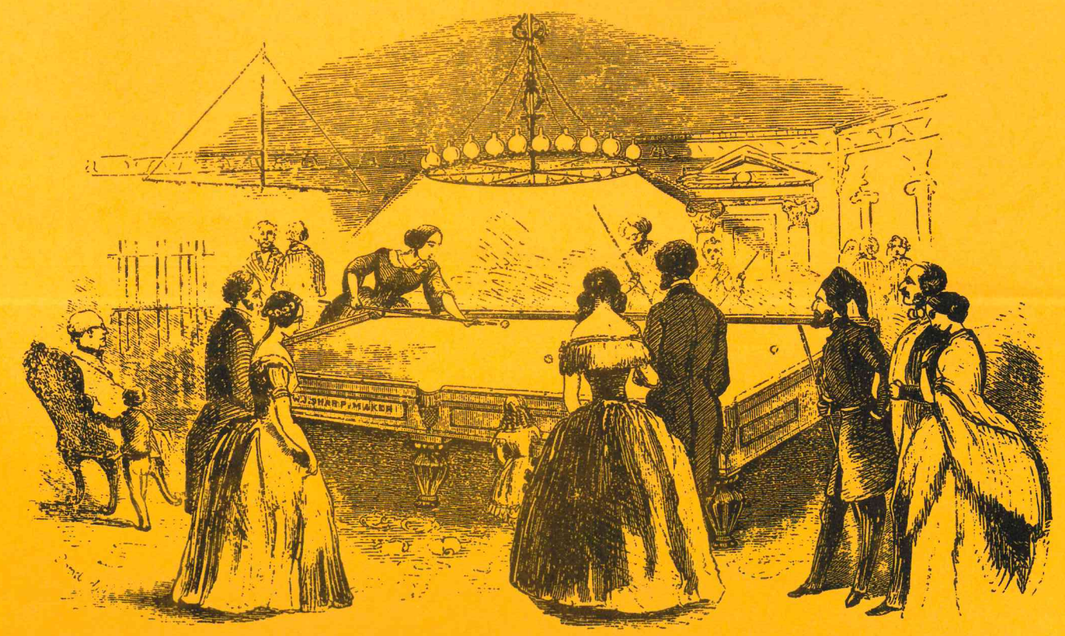
MALE	1,299	HANDICAPPED	272
FEMALE	1,693	OFFENDERS	215
		VETERANS	214
WHITE	331	LIMITED ENGLISH-SPEAKING	18
BLACK	2,601		
OTHER	60	SCHOOL DROPOUTS	709

Despite federal budget reductions, accomplishments were made in 1981 by the Labor Resources Department. The Assessment Center, which evaluates individuals' skills and abilities, opened as scheduled. A new program aimed at area refugee job assistance also began in 1981.

Private sector training programs in the fields of hotel and motel management and apprenticeship training programs with the Coastal Area Minority Business Development Association began.

Although youth programs were slated for elimination, Operation Diploma, a program that aids school dropouts in securing GED diplomas, continued.

The latter part of 1981 was spent in anticipation of further federal cut backs in Labor Resources programs. In hopes of furthering employment training and placement, the Labor Resources Department continued to work closely with the Private Industry Council to develop strategies to meet the needs of job development.



Leisure Services

LEISURE SERVICES

One outstanding area of accomplishment by the Leisure Services Bureau in 1981 was improvements in facilities and administration of the Bacon Park Golf Course. On July 1, the course was expanded from 12 to 18 holes. Extensive improvements to it included the installation of a course irrigation system, which made possible the automatic watering of all 18 holes, the addition of 15 new gasoline-powered golf carts, and the adoption of an intensive turf management program.

Mid-year 1981 also saw the institution of a completely revamped administration at the Bacon Park Golf Course. A new administrator, superintendent/professional, assistant superintendent and a business coordinator were appointed.

A total of 4,554 rounds were played during the first month following the opening in July. Total rounds of play for 1981 were in excess of 39,000. Revenues generated for the second half of the year totaled $206,542 as compared to a total of $133,555 for the six months preceding the expansion and improvements to the facility.

Other accomplishments of Leisure Services in 1981 included the completion of a comprehensive Sports and Athletics Manual which provides detailed information on every aspect of the departmental programs. A second manual listing all parks and playgrounds was developed to provide a comprehensive approach to maintenance of these areas.

Surveys were conducted to determine the recreational needs of residents in the City's west side. An analysis of female/male participants was completed which showed that female participation in sports increased with the addition of girl's basketball programs for ages 7 - 12.

Additional achievements of the Leisure Services Bureau in 1981 included the computerizing of records on program participants and the implementation of a program to refurbish used sports equipment through factory reconditioning, which increased savings on the purchase of new equipment by 40%.

The year of 1981 was the most successful operating year in the history of the Civic Center in terms of its financial status. The operating deficit was slashed by 50% to $91,694 in 1981, as compared to $177,282 in 1980. Revenues improved by 2% while expenses were cut by nearly 11% from the preceding year.

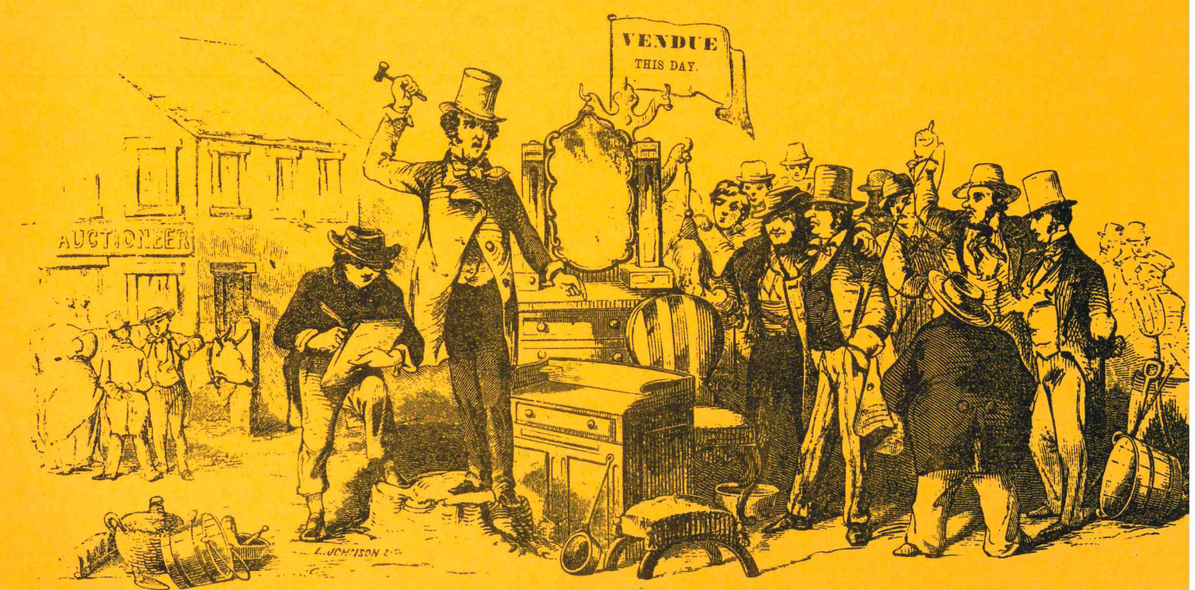
Leisure Services Neighborhood Programs provided recreational services to numerous citizens in 1981. The Adult Day Care program offered arts and crafts instruction to 40 participants. More than 10,000 hot meals and snacks were served and 24 leisure and educational programs provided.

During the summer of 1981, the Cultural Arts Program reached over 900 children between the ages of 4 and 15 with classes in art, creative movement, music drama, mime, and puppetry. Winter and fall cultural arts programs were also offered to adults and youths. Additional sites for the cultural arts programs this year included Windsor Forest High School in the southside area and the Scarborough House for downtown.

Specialized classes in dance for special groups were introduced in 1981 which involved trainable individuals with problems of mental retardation and young women residents of the Parent/Child Development Services' Girl's Homes.

Other neighborhood programs held by Leisure Services during 1981 included ceramic shows, senior citizens activities, swimming and therapeutics, and neighborhood center and playground activities.

Management and Financial Services



CENTRAL SERVICES

The Central Services Department developed a new program for the dissemination and control of the inventory at the Central Warehouse. The program has resulted in greatly improved control over all commodities. The general appearance and security of the warehouse was improved through the addition of a new caged area, a disposal of obsolete items from the storage yards, and a renumbering of storage bins. Plans are being made to implement an improved inventory cost management system during 1982.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

A comprehensive operations study was conducted of the Vehicle Maintenance Department, which resulted in improvements in the rate of vehicle downtime, the control of parts and vehicle supplies, and in the direction of the mechanic's work programs. Plans made for 1982 included mechanical and electrical improvements to the Vehicle Maintenance shops and implementation of a new computer management system. During the year, special transmission, small engine component, and hydraulic shops were established to reduce the time and cost of basic engine repairs.

FINANCE

The Finance Department is responsible for the proper receipt and disbursement of approximately $50 million in operating and capital funds. The pressures of inflation and reductions in federal funds have placed a burden on the allocation of the City's resources.

The Finance Department reduced this burden in 1981 by instituting the Investment Income Improvement Program which increased the City's annual investments from $278,000 in 1980 to $604,000 in 1982. This was accomplished by reducing $5.2 million of uninvested money to $1.5 million by 1981. Such increased investments made a significant impact on the City's financial status.

DATA PROCESSING

The City of Savannah's Data Processing Department provides information processing for management and financial functions through the use of its UNIVAC computer system. During 1981, the UNIVAC system was upgraded from a UNIVAC 1100/11 to a UNIVAC 1100/81 which increased the City's computer mass storage media and large file capacity.

Additional improvements were made in the system's processing speed, and reductions were made in response time to "on line" users.

Use of the MAPPER program (Maintaining, Preparing and Production of Executive Reports) was greatly increased during the year by numerous departments within the City. MAPPER enables operating departments to compose management and productivity reports rapidly without expensive programming. The Data Processing Center also improved the operation of SALES (the Savannah Law Enforcement System), a criminal information system utilized by the Police Department.

REVENUE

The Revenue Department established several new programs in delinquent revenue collections, particularly in the areas of water and sewer bills, property taxes, and parking citations.

PERSONNEL

During 1981, the Personnel Department worked to establish an assessment center for top level managers within the City. The program is designed to assist each manager in identifying his/her strengths and weaknesses and then, during 1982, will establish a program of training and professional development for each individual manager.

MANAGEMENT AND AUDITING

During 1981, the Management and Auditing Department worked with Research and Budget to monitor progress made by all departments in meeting operating objectives and to develop a new budget format. Management and Auditing also worked with the Accounting Department to institute inventory control improvements at the Central Services Warehouse and the Garage.

RESEARCH AND BUDGET

In addition to the above noted cooperative efforts with Management and Auditing, the Research and Budget Department monitored the expenditures under the 1981 budget, and helped produce a 1982 budget with no tax increases.

Facilities Maintenance

The Bureau of Facilities Maintenance is responsible for Park and Tree Maintenance, Traffic Engineering and Streets Maintenance, and Drainage Maintenance. Also, during 1981, Water and Sewer became part of the Bureau of Facilities Maintenance.

Outstanding accomplishments of the Facilities Maintenance Bureau include the completion of a new system to receive, record, track and report requests for service. A direct telephone Customer Service Desk was developed and computer terminals were installed for effective information assimilation.

PARK AND TREE

In 1981, Park and Tree planted 799 new trees and 808 shrubs. Major areas that received the plantings were Abercorn Extension, 37th Street Median, Crawford Square, and Forsyth Park.

A project was also initiated to identify and mark or remove trees that extended into the thoroughfare. Most of this work was performed throughout the Victoran District in connection with the Victorian District streetscape plan.

Cemetery maintenance is another function of the Bureau of Facilities Maintenance. The overall appearance of the cemeteries was improved in 1981 by installing new water lines which provide a better means for maintaining plants and trees. Levels of service were upgraded to cemetery lots not in perpetual care, particularly in the Laurel Grove South and North cemeteries.

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING AND STREETS

Traffic Engineering and Streets Maintenance duties are also managed by Facilities Maintenance. In order to improve the flow of traffic and the conditions of the streets, several projects were completed or initiated in 1981.

A bikeway project began in 1981, with the help of the Metropolitan Planning Commission. Bicycle paths, lanes, and racks were put in place along major thoroughfares and at public buildings. Savannah received a federal grant of $39,394 to which $13,131 in local money was added to implement the Bikeway Program.

Other transportation improvements were made in 1981, including changes in the timing of Bay Street signals, which resulted in an increase of 4.0 miles per hour in average travel time in peak directions. Traffic volume on San Anton Drive was reduced from 1,600 to 1,000 vehicles per day. New traffic signals were installed at Oglethorpe and West Broad and at Montgomery and Oglethorpe.

Twenty intersections in the Savannah area were studied in 1981 by the Streets and Traffic Division of the City in regard to accident rates. At such intersections, some corrective action was taken to reduce the traffic accident rate. Such actions included the installation of clearance intervals at signalized intersections and all-red clearances where appropriate. Pavement markings were installed or renewed as required. Trees and shrubs were trimmed if necessary to provide adequate sight distance. The intersections of Montgomery/Oglethorpe, Oglethorpe/West Broad and LaRoche/Skidaway were reconstructed and new signalization provided.

The accident rate at 16 of the 20 locations was reduced as compared to the 1979 base rate. Particularly noteworthy was the accident rate at LaRoche/Skidaway, where the rate was reduced from 2.54 per million vehicles in 1979 to 1.18 per million vehicles in 1981, or a total of 12 accidents in 1981 as compared to 32 in 1979.

DRAINAGE

A scheduled maintenance program improved the appearance of drainage ditches throughout the City and reduced complaints. This was accomplished with the help of the newly formed Customer Service Crews.

WATER AND SEWER

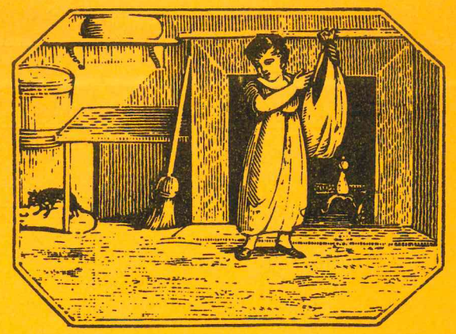
In 1981, the implementation of a scheduled maintenance program resulted in improved water quality. The new program requires regular inspections of the water lines by sampling the water for staleness or odor.

Energy costs were reduced by $70,000 in 1981 by reducing water pressure to 45 lbs. when the demand for water is low and increasing water pressure to 65 lbs. when demand is high.

Complaints of low water pressure were reduced by the activation of Well #27 at St. Joseph's Hospital. An additional 27 wells were operated without any interruption of service.

Major programs which began in 1981 include the systematic inspection and maintenance of water and sewer lines. A lateral replacement program began which will reduce the number of repetitive water leaks in problem areas. A systematic manhole and line inspection and preventive maintenance program for the sanitary sewer system was also initiated in 1981.

Major sewer relinements were completed for 1,000 feet of sewer line on DeRenne Avenue and Montgomery Crossroads near Waters Avenue to Bacon Park.



Sanitation

SANITATION

Significant achievements were made during 1981 by the City Sanitation Department. More than $14,000 was saved during the year with the elimination of weekend collection on River Street. Additional savings of $40,000 were made by the department when parts for street sweepers were recycled from two older models rather than purchased.

Commercial refuse collection routes were redesigned to provide a more efficient means of collection. As a result of the new routing system, one truck was eliminated from the collection fleet and one put on a stand-by basis, which resulted in a savings of $126,000.

New contracts negotiated by the City included the purchase of the new landfill site on Dean Forrest Road which will allow for continued disposal services as the old landfill nears capacity. Additional contracts included the lot clearing contract which will reduce the time for clearing lots from approximately 15 to 6 weeks and the transfer of selected maintenance functions to the City from various existing contracts which resulted in an annual savings of approximately $40,000.

Additional savings of $77,000 were made by the streamlining of the Department of Sanitation staff.

Of special significance during the 1981 season was the establishment of the Rat Control Program (RCP). More than $63,000 was allocated by the Savannah City Council to combat rodent infestation by providing technical assistance, abating rodents on public right-of-way, and maintaining public outreach programs in targeted areas. The Rat Control Program moved into high gear in early 1982 with the appointment of a full-time RCP inspector.

Cultural Affairs

The overall goal of the Savannah Arts Commission is to assist and advise the City of Savannah in developing general and specific plans for enhancing the quality of life in the community through use of the cultural arts. To this end, the Savannah Arts Commission developed an initial planning document, outlining goals and objectives under six general categories and establishing a short-range work program as a first step toward the development of a city-wide Comprehensive Arts Plan.

As a part of the planning process, a survey of existing and potential arts spaces was completed with the assistance of a governor's intern.

An Arts Directory listing individual artists and cultural arts organizations was printed, after compiling listings from several hundred artists and almost one-hundred cultural arts agencies.

A questionnaire regarding the needs of cultural organizations was circulated to all known groups to determine the needs of our cultural arts providers.

Special meetings were scheduled with neighborhood associations under the direction of the City's Citizen Participation Program in order to determine the needs of low-to-moderate income residents. Comments were also solicited from various City Department and Bureau Heads.

The Artists Congress, an informal network of individual artists and arts organizations chaired by a Savannah Arts Commission member, was established. The Artists Congress meets monthly to discuss program areas of mutual interest, to share and exchange ideas, and to provide the Savannah Arts Commission with additional input.

Three public meetings were held to gather information from all concerned citizens and to allow those individuals an opportunity to respond to preliminary recommendations of the Savannah Arts Commission. A series of six Town Meetings on the arts were held in November and December 1981, exploring a variety of arts issues.

In January 1981, the City's first random telephone survey on the arts was administered to approximately 450 Savannah residents, in order to identify the cultural arts needs and desires of the general population. Survey results were used to develop specific recommendations for the comprehensive arts plan and to corroborate earlier research findings.

Every two or three days the Office of Cultural Affairs records a new two-minute message available 24 hours a day to callers of the ARTSline (233-ARTS) as a public service of the City of Savannah and the Savannah Arts Commission. The recorded message highlights current and immediately upcoming cultural arts activities in Savannah.

The City of Savannah, in cooperation with the Savannah Arts Commission, has contracted for approximately $200,000 worth of Community Cultural Arts Programming through private, non-profit cultural arts agencies in Savannah. These activities included:

1) Free Sunday admissions to two museums.

2) Outdoor symphony concerts.

3) A riverfront theatre performance.

4) Free holiday weekends at Old Fort Jackson.

5) Summer arts programs provided by professional artists and arts groups to children in more than 22 supervised playgrounds, two day-care centers, eight neighborhood centers, Golden Age centers, and to the City's therapeutic program participants.

6) A free southside ballet performance.

7) Theatre workshops about "Clean Community" to the City's targeted neighborhoods of low-to-moderate income residents.

GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1981

REVENUES:	
Property Taxes	$ 7,335,719
Sales Tax	12,488,568
Other Taxes	4,087,402
Licenses and Permits	4,186,800
Fines, Forfeits and Penalties	1,067,366
Interest Earned	426,850
Rents	153,832
Leisure Services	105,386
Federal and State Governments	1,085,026
Inspection Fees	318,168
Cemetery Fees	100,799
Refuse Fees	1,300,825
Interfund Fees	1,023,988
General Services	143,126
Other	411,084
Total Revenues	$34,234,939
EXPENDITURES	
General Administration	618,187
Management and Financial Services	2,282,950
Facilities Services	10,892,398
Police	8,806,516
Recorder's Court	291,592
Fire	4,883,698
Leisure Services	2,516,244
Interdepartmental	3,079,437
Inspections	520,378
Total Expenditures	$33,891,400