

Shearouse Named City Leisure Services Chief

By **BETSY NEAL**
Political Editor

Joseph C. Shearouse, the city of Savannah's Recreation Services director, has been appointed city Leisure Services director, effective immediately.

Savannah City Manager Don Mendonsa announced the appointment Wednesday afternoon. Shearouse was chosen from a field of more than 100 applicants from across the country. He has been Recreation Services director for the past two years, and he joined the city's Leisure Services Bureau in 1983 as Athletic Services director.

He replaces John Tidwell, who left the city in February to head

needs in individual neighborhoods," he said.

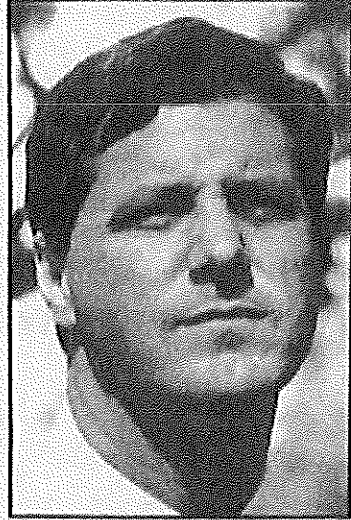
A neighborhood equity program - an effort to ensure that various neighborhoods and communities are equally served with recreation programs - will be one of his primary goals, Shearouse said. The effort generally will mean that emphasis will be placed on neighborhoods without recreation facilities, he added.

In that line, he predicted increased recreation emphasis in inner-city areas.

"Without us, a lot of inner-city kids would have no recreational opportunities, and this is going to be one of our big priorities," he said.

Improving facilities for the popular youth athletic leagues will be another priority, said Shearouse, whose former job with Leisure Services put him in charge of programs such as youth baseball, adult softball, swimming pools, recreation centers and the city's playgrounds.

Shearouse noted that there are 100 youth baseball teams playing



NEW POST: Shearouse

at city ballparks, and he cited a need to upgrade and expand the Eisenhower baseball complex.

An Ardsley Park resident, Shearouse is married, with four

at city ballparks, and he cited a need to upgrade and expand the Eisenhower baseball complex.

An Ardsley Park resident, Shearouse is married, with four children ranging in age from seven months to eight years.

"I spend a lot of time on the city's playgrounds - on-duty and off-duty," he quipped.

One of Shearouse's first jobs will be to hire a new director for the Savannah Civic Center, a post that has been vacant since former director Bob Howard departed.

Retention Policy: Barracuda Message archiver (60 days) Expires: 2/7/2017

the city's Leisure Services Bureau in 1983 as Athletic Services director.

He replaces John Tidwell, who left the city in February to head the Dallas Recreation Department. Shearouse has been acting director of the Leisure Services Bureau since Tidwell's departure.

Shearouse said Wednesday he plans no drastic changes in the city's recreation programs.

"We have an excellent program, and I want to continue that, plus we're going to emphasize

Savannah Morning News, May 25, 1989

Savannah Area Local Reference Files: City of Savannah - Bureaus & Department - Leisure Services