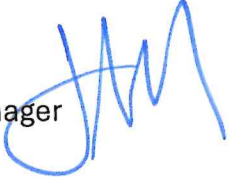




MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Joseph A. Melder, City Manager 

DATE: July 7, 2026

SUBJECT: Additional Information for the July 9th City Council Meeting

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to provide City Council with additional information and materials for the Regular City Council Meeting, which will begin at **2:00 p.m.**, the City Council Workshop, which will begin at **3:30 p.m.**, and the Special Called Meeting, which will begin at **6:01 p.m.** on July 9, 2026.

I. Council Workshop

The topic(s) for the workshop is as follows:

- Capital Projects Update
- Closed Executive Session: Litigation, Personnel, and Real Estate (As Needed)
- City Manager's Update (As Needed)

II. Additional Information for Regular Meeting Agenda Items

Please see below additional information on my recommendations for approval for the following agenda items:

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
#7	Alcohol License Approval of a Class E (Wine) (By the Package) and Class G (Complimentary Wine) Alcohol License to Thomas E. Dennard III for Savannah Bee Company, a Specialty Retail Shop at 313 Stiles Avenue. The	• Requesting an alcohol license for Complimentary service • New applicant/New Request • No concerns received from the Neighborhood Association I recommend approval of this item.

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
	Establishment is Located between Feeley Avenue and Magazine Avenue in Aldermanic District 1.	
#8	Alcohol License Approval of Class C (Liquor, Beer, and Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Riza Mutluguler for Oglethorpe Club Liberty, a Restaurant at 12 West Liberty Street. The Establishment is Located Between Whitaker Street and Bull Street in Aldermanic District 2.	• Requesting an alcohol license for a Restaurant • New applicant/New request • No concerns received from the Neighborhood Association I recommend approval of this item.
#9	Alcohol License Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer and Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License to Ojasvi Trikha for Totally Awesome Bar, a Bar/Lounge at 107-B Whitaker Street. The Establishment is Located between West Broughton Street and West State Street in	• Requesting an alcohol license for a bar • New applicant/New request • No concerns received from the Neighborhood Association I recommend approval of this item.

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
	Aldermanic District 2.	
#10	Alcohol License Approval of a Class E (Wine) (By the Package) and Class G (Wine) (Complimentary) Alcohol License to Chanel Parker for Nelly's Grocery and Wine, a Grocery Store at 630 (Suite A) Indian Street. The Establishment is Located between McGuire Street and North Fahm Street in Aldermanic District 2.	• Requesting an alcohol license for Grocery Market • New applicant/New request • No concerns received from the Neighborhood Association I recommend approval of this item.
#11	Alcohol License Approval of Class G (Wine) (Complimentary) (By the Drink) Alcohol License to Carolyn Sanford for Tijon Perfume Lab, a Specialty Retail Shop at 7 West York Street. The Establishment is Located between Whitaker Street and Bull Street in Aldermanic District 2.	• Requesting an alcohol license for Complimentary service • New applicant/New Request • No concerns received from the Neighborhood Association I recommend approval of this item.

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
#12	Alcohol License Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer and Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Pranav Patel for The Taco Stache, a Restaurant Located at 940 Chatham Center Drive, Suite 102. The Establishment is Located between Chatham Parkway and Paulina Crossing in Aldermanic District 5.	• Requesting an alcohol license for a Restaurant • New applicant/New request • No Neighborhood Association within the proximately of this location I recommend approval of this item.
#14	Ordinances First Readings Approval to Amend the 2026 Revenue Ordinance to Adopt the Millage Rate of 11.749 Mills as the Final Millage Rate for 2026.	• The City has received the 2026 taxable property tax digest from the County Tax Assessor's office and must set a final millage rate so tax bills can be issued in September. • Property taxes are the largest source of General Fund revenue. • The millage rate 11.749 mills is unchanged from 2025. No Action Needed- First Reading Only.
#15	Ordinances Second Readings Amendment to Sunday Alcohol	• The proposed ordinance amendment modifies the eligibility requirements for Sunday alcohol sales permits within the City of Savannah by creating a specific exemption for qualifying museums. Under current provisions, new Sunday sales alcohol

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
	Sales Requirements for Museums.	license holders must demonstrate that at least fifty percent (50%) of their annual gross sales are derived from the sale of prepared meals or food and provide certification from a licensed certified public accountant within six months of permit issuance. • The museum is situated in a building identified on the Georgia Register of Historic Places; • The establishment holds a valid license for the sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises; and • Revenue generated from admission charges and ticket sales equals at least fifty percent (50%) of the establishment's total sales. I recommend approval of this item.
#16	Ordinances Second Readings Petition of Coleman Company, Inc. on behalf of Brookhaven Development, LLC for Fort Argyle Developers, LLC, to Annex ~123.159 acres Located at 0 Fort Argyle Road (PIN 11037 02002) from Chatham County to the City of Savannah.	<i>Part 1 of a Two-Part Agenda Request</i> • The annexation request is for a parcel with an aggregate of ~123.159 acres located at 0 Fort Argyle Road. • The land under petition is contiguous to existing City territory, and therefore, can be annexed by ordinance adopted by City Council. • As required by State law, the County and the Board of Education have been informed of receipt of this petition. • This petition corresponds to the zoning text amendment for the Argyle Grove Planned Development zoning request (26-001014-ZA). I recommend approval of this item.
#17 (See attachment B)	Ordinances Second Readings Petition of Coleman Company, Inc. on behalf of Brookhaven	<i>Part 2 of a Two-Part Agenda Request</i> • The request is to rezone two parcels of ~317 acres from R-A (County) and RSF-6 (City) to a Planned Development designation to establish the Argyle Grove Planned Development and apply site-specific development standards to the property.

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
	Development, LLC for Fort Argyle Developers, LLC, and Chatham Sand, LLC for a Zoning Map Amendment at 0 Fort Argyle Road and 1150 Fort Argyle Road (11037 02002 and 21037 01001) to Rezone ~274.29 acres from R-A (Residential Agriculture - Chatham County) and RSF-6 (Residential Single Family – 6 City of Savannah) to Argyle Grove Planned Development (City of Savannah) to Allow a Residential, Commercial, and Mixed-use Development (26-001014-ZA). This Supports the Annexation of 0 Ft. Argyle Road (11037 02002).	• The proposed mixed-use community would include residential and commercial uses. At full buildout in 2038, the development would accommodate up to 2,450 dwelling units (single-family detached, single-family attached, and multifamily housing) and 24,000 square feet of commercial space. • This petition also supports an annexation request for 0 Fort Argyle Road. I recommend approval of the Planning Commission's recommendation.
	Purchasing Summary and Local Spend	The total spending proposed to Council is \$7,564,671.56 of which, a total of \$975,000 or 12.89% approval on this Council agenda, are to local vendors.
#18	Purchasing Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Ammunition for the	• This purchase is for the All-SPD Ammunition, yearly training for all sworn Personnel, Special Operations team training and operation and new employee training and qualifications • Training and Qualifications for All city weapons

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
	Savannah Police Department with Gulf State Distributors in the Amount of \$210,532.30.	systems Creates efficiency with one order for all departmental needs Vendor: Gulf State Distributors Contract Amount: \$210,532.30 I recommend approval of this item.
#19 (Refer to Attachment C)	Purchasing Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for ERP CloudSuite with Infor in the Amount of \$4,990,127.	- Modernize the City's aging Lawson ERP system with a secure, cloud-based platform that supports Finance, Payroll, Human Resources and Revenue operations under one consolidated solution. - Utilize the City's existing Infor platform to reduce implementation risk, preserve historical data, and minimize operational disruption during the transition. - Make a one-time capital investment that lowers future operating costs through the retirement of legacy systems and improved operational efficiency - Support the City's strategic goal of improving government operations through modern technology that enhances service delivery and positions the City for future growth. Vendor: Infor Contract Amount:\$5,085,349.50 I recommend approval of this item.
#20	Purchasing Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Annual Contract for Water Treatment Services and Related Equipment Maintenance with Evoqua Water Technologies in an Amount not to Exceed \$150,375.	- City's wastewater collection and treatment systems is to control hydrogen sulfide generation through biological nitrate-based treatment, thereby reducing odors and protecting infrastructure from corrosion. - To provide a chemical treatment product that reduces hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) levels in wastewater. Hydrogen sulfide can cause safety issues associated with elevated H₂S concentrations - Purpose of these specifications is to establish an annual contract for the City of Savannah to purchase Bioxide (calcium nitrate double salt)

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
		material required under these specifications that will be used to remove hydrogen sulfide, thereby preventing odor and corrosion within wastewater collection and treatment systems. • Objectionable odors in sewer systems and treatment facilities Vendor: Evoqua Contract Amount: \$150,375.00 I recommend approval of this item.
#21	Purchasing Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Annual Contract with New South Associates (Primary) and Brockington Associates (Secondary) for Archaeological Services in an Amount not to Exceed \$250,000.	• The City requires on-call archaeological consulting services to support compliance with the Archaeology Resource Protection Ordinance • This annual contract will allow the City to obtain archaeological services on an as-needed basis for capital improvement projects, development activities, emergency repairs, and post-disaster response and recovery effort • Establishing annual contracts with primary and secondary consultants will provide timely access to qualified archaeological professionals, helping minimize project delays while ensuring the protection and proper management of archaeological resources. Vendor: New South Associates (Primary) and Brockington Associates (Secondary) Contract Amount: \$250,000 I recommend approval of this item.
#22	Purchasing Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Construction Contract with Polote Corporation for the Savannah Police Department's	• The Savannah Police Department's Traffic and Records divisions are currently housed in the leased Northwest Precinct facility on Bay Street. With the lease expiring at the end of the year, these operations must be relocated to ensure continuity of service. • This project will renovate the former Municipal Services Southside Annex at 5515 Abercorn Street

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
	Traffic and Records Building Renovation Project in the Amount of \$975,000.	to accommodate the operational needs of the Traffic and Records divisions through interior renovations, building modifications, and site improvements, including secured fencing and a pre-manufactured metal garage for the Traffic Division. • The project also includes renovations to the building at 5513 Abercorn Street to provide dedicated space for the Savannah Police Department's Internal Affairs unit. Vendor: Polote Corporation Contract Amount: \$975,000 I recommend approval of this item.
#23	Purchasing Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Adobe Software Licenses Renewal with CDW Government, LLC in the Amount of \$50,914.76.	• The City utilizes Adobe software subscriptions to provide essential tools and applications for graphic design, video editing, web development, photography, document creation, and document management. • Renewal of these licenses will provide continued access to Adobe's suite of applications and services necessary for ongoing City operations. • These cloud-based services support operations across multiple departments and ensure staff have access to the latest software features, security updates, and collaboration capabilities. Vendor: CDW Government, LLC Contract Amount: \$52,056.74 I recommend approval of this item.
#24	Purchasing Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Short-Term Rental Management Software with Deckard Technologies in the Amount of \$92,500.	• Rentalscape serves as the City's centralized platform for administering, monitoring, and enforcing STVR regulations and supports collaboration among Planning and Urban Design, Revenue, and Code Compliance. • The software continues to streamline the STVR application and permitting process, facilitate complaint management and enforcement activities, and provide valuable reporting and revenue tracking

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
		capabilities. Rentalscape assists the City in verifying compliance with applicable hotel/motel excise taxes and business tax certificate requirements through access to booking and revenue data. Vendor: Deckard Technologies, Inc. Contract Amount: \$92,500 I recommend approval of this item.
#25	Purchasing Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Debris Monitoring and Oversight Services with Thompson Consulting Services in an Amount not to Exceed \$750,000.	- This contract will provide oversight and documentation of emergency debris removal activities after a natural disaster (storm event). - The selected firm will track debris removal, measure and document volume, inspect work sites, record truck loads, and assist with disaster reimbursement funding. Vendor: Thompson Consulting Services Contract Amount: \$750,000 I recommend approval of this item.
#26	Agreements Approval of a Water Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement for Hopeton West, a Development of Single-Family and Multi-Family Units, with Hopeton South Land Trust, LLC Located in Aldermanic District 5.	- Hopeton South Land Trust, LLC has requested a water and sewer agreement for Hopeton West, a development consisting of single-family and multi-family units located off Little Neck Road in the Travis Field Service area - Establishes a build out schedule for this 697 ERU development. - This agreement will ensure that the City's water and sewer systems can have adequate capacity for the development as it builds out. - This agreement also establishes a process that ensures the buyers of the parcels are bound to the same requirements that are laid out in this agreement

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
		I recommend approval of this item.
#27	Agreements Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement for 308 Dennis Street Project, a Development Consisting of Nine Single-Family Homes, with Eugene Street Investments, LLC Located in Aldermanic District 4.	• Eugene Street Investments, LLC has requested a water and sewer agreement for 308 Dennis Street Project, a development consisting of nine single-family homes • The water and sewer systems have adequate capacity to serve this 12-equivalent residential unit development • The Water and Sewer Connection fee totaling \$34,650 is based on the proposed water consumption and shall be paid by the developer prior to the release of any water meter I recommend approval of this item.
#28	Agreements Approval of the City Manager to Enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with Chatham County for Improvements Associated with the President Street Grade Separation Project.	• This agreement formalizes the City's support of the President Street Rail Crossing Elimination Project, undertaken by the County. • The project proposes constructing a grade-separated flyover (overpass) to eliminate conflicts between rail and vehicle traffic, improving mobility for residents and visitors traveling between downtown Savannah, eastern Chatham County, and Tybee Island. • Under the MOU, Chatham County will lead project development and administration, while the City will provide coordination, permitting, public outreach, and grant support. • The agreement does not create any financial obligations or cost-sharing responsibilities for the City of Savannah. I recommend approval of this item.
#29	Agreements Approval of the City Manager to Enter into an	• This agreement formalizes the City's support for design and construction of a new signalized intersection on Gulfstream Road at the entrance to the Gulfstream employee parking complex near the

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
	Intergovernmental Agreement with Savannah Airport Commission, Chatham County Board of Commissioners and Savannah Economic Development Authority.	Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport. • Airport Commission, Chatham County, & SEDA will share in funding the design and installation a traffic signal. The City will not be participating in cost of the project but will be involved with inspection and acceptance. • Upon completion/acceptance and expiration of the 12-month warranty period, the City will assume the maintenance and operation of the traffic signal. I recommend approval of this item.
#32	Miscellaneous Approval of the Issuance of the Downtown Savannah Authority Bond Application for Approximately \$31 Million in Bond Funding to Construct a Parking Garage at Eastern Wharf.	• State law requires that City Council provide their express approval for the Downtown Savannah Authority to issue bonds. • These bonds will be issued by the Downtown Savannah and provide construction funds to the City to construct and equip a 400-space garage at Eastern Wharf. • The City will secure the bonds with an intergovernmental contract that unconditionally binds the City to pay the debt service on the bonds. I recommend approval of this item.
#33	Miscellaneous Authorize the Approval of the Installation of the Updated River Street Maritime History Panels along the Savannah Riverfront Located in Aldermanic District 2.	• The River Street Maritime History panels were originally installed in 2008 as part of a mitigation project managed by GDOT, but due to age and condition they were removed in 2025. • The panels' content has undergone an extensive review, and the resulting updated panel design includes minor interpretive text and visual image updates based on new historical research, as well as a graphic design update. • The Historic Site and Monument Commission is recommending approval of the new panel design. • Additionally, GDOT is requesting to transfer ownership of the panels to the City of Savannah to facilitate future maintenance and has agreed to pay

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
		the required maintenance escrow and provide the new design files. I recommend approval of this item.
#34	Miscellaneous Request for Approval to Relocate the Nina Anderson Pape Historical Marker from the Front of the SEDA Building at 906 E. Drayton Street to the Adjacent Corner of the SEDA Building on East Bolton St. Located in Aldermanic District 2.	• Mobility & Parking Services is requesting approval to relocate the Nina Anderson Pape historical marker to the corner of East Bolton Street to install a DOT Shuttle stop. • Traffic Engineering and Chatham Area Transit (CAT) recommend relocating the DOT Shuttle stop further south, in front of SEDA, to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety. • Mobility & Parking Services received approval from the Georgia Historical Society (GHS) and the Savannah Chatham County Historic Site Monument Commission (HSMC). I recommend approval of this item.

III. Special Called Council Meeting

Public Hearing regarding the 2026 Property Tax Millage Rate held at 6:01pm in Council Chambers.

Previous Council Meeting Follow Up Items

1. Attachment A: Recreation & Leisure User Fee Structure and Regional Competitiveness – Follow-up Briefing

Attachments

Please see attached, the following associated documents:

Attachment B: Fort Argyle Rd. Annexation and Rezoning Update

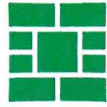
Attachment C: Core Financial Systems Technology Update

Attachment D: Operational Schedule Change to Bacon Park Convenience Center

Attachment E: Mid-Year 2026 Violent Crime Update

Attachment F: Community Partner Spotlight – Vernon “Chef Jack” Jackson

Attachment G: RespONSE Newsletter 2026 3rd Quarter



MEMORANDUM

To: City Council
From: Joseph A. Melder, City Manager 
Date: July 7, 2026
Subject: Agenda Items #16 & #17 - Ft. Argyle Road Annexation and Rezoning Update

Since the June 25 City Council meeting, several issues related to the Fort Argyle Road (Items #16 and #17) annexation and rezoning have been updated and are summarized below.

Residential Buffer

During the June 25 City Council meeting, the adjacent property owner requested that the developer consider providing a 100-foot buffer between her property and the proposed development. Since that meeting, the developer and the adjacent property owner have met to discuss the request. The property owner continues to request a 100-foot buffer while the developer has offered a 50-foot buffer with the condition that it revert to the buffer required under the Argyle Grove Planned Development (PD) if the adjacent property is ever rezoned. This issue remains unresolved and will require City Council direction.

Wetland Buffer

During staff's review of the Argyle Grove Planned Development ordinance, it was determined that the proposed language establishing a 25-foot wetland buffer conflicts with Section 6.1.16.f. of the Zoning Ordinance which prohibits the waiver or modification of any wetland or marsh buffer standard.

To address this issue, the applicant has revised the PD by deleting Section IV, General Development Standards, ii.c., which stated: "Jurisdictional wetlands determined by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) shall require a buffer with a minimum width of 25 feet." Removing this provision eliminates the conflict with the Zoning Ordinance and allows the applicable 35-foot wetland buffer standard to remain in effect. The revisions have been uploaded to the agenda under Exhibit 2: Argyle Grove Planned Development and Master Plan.

Development Agreement

A development agreement will be presented at a future Council meeting for consideration. The agreement is expected to include the developer's contribution to the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund based on approximately 2,450 dwelling units as well as the dedication of approximately 1.5 acres within the Argyle Grove Master Plan for future City use. In return, the City would commit up to \$3 million toward construction of the New Hampstead Parkway Extension to Fort Argyle Road.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you.



MEMORANDUM

To: City Council
From: Joseph A. Melder, City Manager
Date: July 7, 2026
Subject: Agenda Item #19 - Core Financial Systems Technology Update



Background

This memorandum recommends approval to enter into a contract with Infor for the purchase and implementation of CloudSuite ERP (Enterprise Resource Management) along with HCM (Human Capital Management), Payroll, and Revenue Modules for the City of Savannah. ERP or 'Enterprise Resource Management' is the central technology for our core business processes.

The proposed solution will modernize the City's core financial systems, replacing the current Infor Lawson platform, which has served the City since 2012 and is approaching the end of its supported technology life.

This recommendation is the product of a thorough evaluation of total cost of ownership, platform strategy, and operational risk and has been reviewed with all impacted departments.

Current State and Need for Change

The City's current platform, Infor Lawson, was implemented in 2012 and represented a significant advancement in enterprise resource planning at that time. Over more than a decade of service, it has provided stable support for Finance and Human Resources operations.

As with any enterprise technology, however, the Lawson product is reaching the end of mainstream support, making continued investment in legacy infrastructure unsustainable. Transitioning to a cloud-based ERP is essential to maintaining operational continuity, financial accuracy, and the level of service the City's employees and residents deserve.

Procurement Process and Vendor Selection

Following a thorough evaluation of the City's requirements and available platforms, the Innovation + Technology Services (ITS) Department conducted a structured analysis of enterprise-grade ERP solutions. The assessment considered total cost of ownership, platform consolidation capability, implementation risk, and long-term vendor viability.

Infor was selected based on its superior financial profile over a seven-year horizon, its incumbent advantage as the City's existing ERP vendor, and the operational continuity benefits of migrating from Lawson to CloudSuite within the same vendor ecosystem.

The Infor CloudSuite platform delivers a fully integrated suite encompassing enterprise financials, payroll, human capital management, revenue management, and analytics. It is delivered as a secure, cloud-hosted service designed for government and public sector organizations and will advance the process capabilities and service delivery of the City of Savannah.

Key Improvements Over the Current System

Adopting Infor CloudSuite will deliver significant improvements to the existing Lawson environment:

- **Platform Consolidation:** CloudSuite ERP, HCM, Payroll, and Revenue on a single platform reduces integration complexity and long-term maintenance overhead across multiple Finance areas.
- **Incumbent Advantage and Reduced Risk:** Migration from Lawson to CloudSuite preserves institutional data, reduces data conversion risk, and leverages the City's existing familiarity with the Infor ecosystem. Infor has also applied a \$135,000 incumbent credit toward Year 1 costs in recognition of the City's long-standing relationship.
- **Financial Efficiency:** Legacy system eliminations beginning in Year 3 generate substantial savings, with net annual costs stabilizing well within budget from Year 3 onward.
- **Modern Payroll and HCM:** The CloudSuite Payroll module ensures Finance retains full payroll management capability on day one of go-live, supported by a robust HCM foundation.
- **AI-Assisted Training and Adoption:** Infor's context-aware training offering accelerates user adoption compared to onboarding an entirely new platform.
- **Future Platform Pathway:** CloudSuite establishes a viable route for consolidating future Enterprise Permitting and Licensing technology initiatives, aligning with the City's overarching strategy for long-term technology integration.

Strategic Alignment

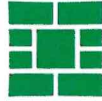
Approving this contract supports GPS Strategic Plan Goal 6, specifically GPS 6.2.2 - Modernizing the City's financial systems. It will improve internal controls, enhance financial reporting, and promote transparency and data-driven decisions.

Implementation and Transition

Implementation will be phased and carefully managed by ITS to minimize disruption to Finance, Human Resources, and operational staff. Comprehensive training, change management support, and dedicated vendor resources are included in the contract to ensure a smooth and successful transition. The City's long-standing relationship with Infor and the familiarity of City staff with the Lawson environment are expected to reduce the typical onboarding friction associated with enterprise system migrations. Implementation is estimated to take 18–24 months, with a parallel HR platform evaluation to be resolved within the first year of the project.

Funding Alignment

This project is funded within the ERP capital account. The cost for project implementation, software licensing, and a 5% contingency in the event of additional testing totals \$5,085,349.50 which is within the capital account.



MEMORANDUM

To: City Council

From: Joseph A. Melder, City Manager

Date: July 7, 2026

Subject: Follow-up Briefing – Recreation & Leisure User Fee Structure and Regional Competitiveness

SUMMARY

Recreation & Leisure participation has grown significantly across program areas. Fees have not increased for FY2026 or FY2027; the department's most recent fee adjustments, approved by Council in 2024 and 2025, were targeted and modest, designed to standardize pricing and offset delivery costs rather than generate new revenue. Department fees remain below most regional comparables. The data below is provided to support your follow-up to Council on Recreation & Leisure user fees from the last Workshop.

Introduction

At Council Workshop on June 25, staff committed to reporting back with details addressing three specific questions on Recreation & Leisure user fees: whether user numbers have increased, whether fees increased, and whether the department remains regionally competitive. Recreation & Leisure leadership pulled the following data to directly respond to each.

Response to Council Inquiries

Is there an increased number of users?

- **Yes.** The department has experienced significant increases in registrations and participation citywide, including summer camps, youth sports, aquatics, Golden Age programming, special events, and other recreational offerings. Contributing factors include expanded programming, increased marketing and community outreach, facility investment, increased staffing capacity, and implementation of the CivicRec online registration system, which improved access and convenience for residents.

Did the fees increase?

- **No fee increases were proposed for FY2026 or FY2027.** The department's most recent adjustments, approved by Council in 2024 and 2025, were targeted and modest, intended to standardize pricing and offset rising delivery costs rather than raise revenue. Key changes include:
 - Youth Sports
 - Standardizing youth sports team registration at \$100 per team (previously variable by sport/age group)
 - Establishing individual youth sports fees of \$30–\$50 to support expanded program and league development
 - Aquatics



- Modest aquatic adjustments for (1) Learn To Swim with a \$10 increase to Learn-to-Swim, from \$20 to \$30 for an eight-session course and (2) the addition of a new Annual Pass option for lap swim and water aerobics.
- Summer Camp
 - Limited increases to summer camp fees from \$20 to \$25 per week.
- Adult Sports
 - Adult sports team registration: \$360 to \$600/team depending on league
 - Adult tennis league fees: \$3–\$6 depending on program
- Athletic Field Rentals
 - Revised athletic field rental structure (2024) replacing an former “per day” model
 - Standardized four-hour block — \$40 for nonprofits, \$100 for commercial users, plus additional hourly rates and a \$50 field-lining fee.
 - *The commercial rental rate was aligned with the Special Events Office’s rates at Daffin and Forsyth Parks.*

Are we competitive regionally?

- **Yes.** Recreation & Leisure fees remain below those of neighboring providers and comparable recreation organizations in most program areas. A comparison of common programs and services is included below.

PROGRAMS/SERVICE	CITY OF SAVANNAH	COMPARISON
Summer Camp (Weekly Fee)	\$25 per week	Chatham County: • \$60/week Habersham YMCA: • \$180/week (Members) • \$245/week (non-member)
Youth Sports Team Registration	\$100 per team	Chatham County: \$125 per team
Athletic Field Reservations	\$75/day for City Residents \$100/day non-residents \$40/hour for nonprofits \$100/4 hours (For Profit/Commercial)	Chatham County Grass Fields: • \$75 per 4-hour block
Aquatics	Open Swim: Free for all ages Learn To Swim • \$35 for 8 lessons (residents) • \$40 for 8 lessons (non-residents)	Chatham County Daily Admission • Children 3-12: \$7 • Adults 13-59: \$9 • Learn To Swim: \$60(youth)/\$70 (adults) for 8 sessions

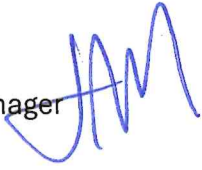
Closing Summary

Recreation & Leisure’s growth in participation has not been driven by or funded through fee increases to residents. The department’s fee structure remains affordable and regionally competitive, and recent fee adjustments were limited, targeted, and intended to offset operational costs while expanding access.



MEMORANDUM

To: City Council

From: Joseph A. Melder, City Manager 

Date: July 7, 2026

Subject: Operational Schedule Change for Bacon Park Convenience Center

This memorandum is to inform the City Council of an upcoming change to the operating schedule for the Bacon Park Convenience Center.

Effective January 4, 2027, the Bacon Park Convenience Center (BPCC) will operate under the following revised schedule:

- Tuesday through Saturday
- Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

This adjustment is being implemented to improve operational efficiency, better align staffing and equipment resources, and continue providing reliable service while meeting the needs of our residents and customers.

Background

The BPCC serves as a collection point for residential solid waste to include household recyclables, yard waste, and excess **dry** trash. Garbage and commercial waste, including wastes generated from the management of rental property, are not accepted. Currently, the facility operates on a schedule that differs from Dean Forest Road Landfill (DFRL), impacting operational coordination and resources.

As the City's secondary convenience center, operations on Sundays create challenges when Dean Forest Road Landfill (DFRL) is closed such as:

1. BBCC without DFRL Operations – logistical challenges exist because collected debris and materials need to be stored until landfill operations resume.
2. Limited Staffing and Support – Sunday operations require staffing (2 person) and equipment operations even though the main support hub (DFRL) is closed.
3. Lower Sunday Demand – usage data shows significantly fewer visitors on Sundays compared with other operating days.
4. Equipment Maintenance – limited support staff are available to service equipment.



Aligning the Convenience Center's operating hours and days with the Dean Forest Road Landfill will provide consistency across solid waste operations and improve coordination of staffing, transportation, and disposal activities. It would also allow staff to meet customer demands (no reduction in service) and enhance the facility overall efficiency.

Operational Schedule (Change)

- Current operations (since circa late 1980's)
 - Wednesday through Sunday (9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.)
- Future operations
 - Tuesday through Saturday (9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.)

Employee Impact

For several years, staff at BPCC have requested to have Sunday off for various reasons including family time and religion. This change would grant employees' request, cover facility responsibilities, and ensure customers' needs are met.

Analysis

Staff have reviewed the proposed schedule modification and determined that no significant operational, financial, environmental, or customer service impacts are anticipated. The revised schedule will:

- Align operating days and hours with the DFRL.
- Improve operational efficiency and coordination between facilities.
- Simplify communication of operating schedules to residents.
- Maintain the current level of service for customers.

No additional personnel, equipment, or budgetary resources are required to implement the change.

Fiscal Impact

No significant fiscal impact is anticipated.



Impact on Public (Customers)

The closure of the BPCC on Sundays reduces disposal and recycling access for residents who rely on weekends for waste management activities. Sunday has shown itself to be a convenient day for working households, and the closure may result in:

- Reduced convenience for residents who reside near the facility with Monday–Friday work schedules.
- Potential for illegal dumping at BPCC for those who chose not to travel to DFRL for disposal of their material.
- Having to travel to DFRL or an alternative disposal location, creating additional time and transportation costs for customers.
- Customer dissatisfaction with the schedule change.

However, operational benefits are expected to offset some impacts. Sunday closures will reduce container overflows, improve staffing efficiency, ensure equipment is adequately serviced in a timely manner.

Data

Based on historical trends, The BPCC had the second lowest customer visits in both FY24 and FY25. By changing the operational schedule to Tuesday through Saturday, BPCC will continue to support its customer base with minimal impact on service. The FY24 and FY25 customer visits are shown within the tables below.

Customer Visits	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
FY24	2,791	2,269	1,917	2,685	2,163
FY25	1,702	1,336	1,152	1,472	1,215

Public Notification Plan

To ensure residents are well informed and have adequate notice prior to implementation, we propose utilizing multiple communication channels, including:

- Posting notices at the Bacon Park Convenience Center entrance and other high-visibility areas within the facility.
- Publishing announcements on the City's website and social media platforms.
- Distributing a press release to local media outlets to broaden public awareness.
- Providing information through customer service channels so staff can answer resident questions and direct them to additional resources.
- Coordinating with neighborhood associations and community groups to help share the information with their members.



The notifications will clearly communicate the effective date of the new operating schedule, the updated hours of operation, the reason for the change, and contact information for residents seeking additional information prior to the effective date.

Our goal is to provide ample notice and consistent messaging to minimize confusion and ensure a smooth transition for residents who utilize the facility.

I appreciate the City Council's continued support as we work to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our Solid Waste operations.



SAVANNAH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Office of the
Chief of Police
Lenny B. Gunther

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Aldermen
FROM: Chief Lenny B. Gunther
THRU: Joseph A. Melder, City Manager
DATE: July 6, 2026
SUB: Mid-Year 2026 Violent Crime Update



The Savannah Police Department respectfully submits this mid-year update on violent crime trends and the strategies driving measurable improvements in public safety. Our progress reflects a deliberate, intelligence-led approach that integrates focused enforcement, advanced technology, and strong community partnerships.

Mid-Year Violent Crime Trends

Through June 20, 2026, violent crime has decreased **15%** compared to the same period in 2025, representing 73 fewer violent crimes. According to our year-to-date analysis, **80% of major violent crime categories have declined**, including:

- **Homicides**: 31% decrease (2026:11, 2025:16)
- **Street Robberies**: 14% decrease (2026: 60; 2025:70)
- **Aggravated Assault w/Firearm, Non-Domestic**: 24% decrease (2026: 99; 2025: 130)
- **Aggravated Assault w/ Firearm, Domestic**: 5% decrease (2026: 21; 2025: 22)
- **Aggravated Assault w/o Firearm, Non-Domestic**: 23% decrease (2026: 75; 2025:98)

These reductions demonstrate the effectiveness of targeted enforcement sustained visibility in high-activity areas.

Shooting Activity

Declines in aggravated assaults involving firearms have translated into reductions in shooting incidents. Year-to-date through June 29:

- **Total shooting decreased 23%** (2026: 91, 2025: 118)
- **Non-fatal shooting victims decreased 23%** (2026: 40; 2025: 52)

- **Shooting w/ Injury decreased 32%** (2026: 28; 2025: 41)
- **Property-damage shooting decreased 17%** (2026: 30; 2025: 36)

While shooting-related homicides increased slightly (13 vs. 12), **overall homicides remain down 12%** compared to last year.

Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF)

Launched in April 2026, the Violent Crimes Force continues to be a central driver for our reductions. The VCTF applies **intelligence-led and stratified policing** to focus resources where violent crime is most likely to occur and where offenders are most likely to reoffend.

This proactive model allows officers to:

- Disrupt violent activity before additional incidents occur
- Maintain sustained presence in micro-hotspots
- Rapidly redeploy resources as patterns shift

As noted in SPD's weekly hotspot analysis, displacement of violent activity is a key indicator that enforcement strategies are producing positive outcomes.

Intelligence – Driven Operations

SPD'S Savannah Area Regional Intelligence Center (SARIC) produces a comprehensive suite of analytical products that guide operational decision-making, including:

- Monthly predictive crime assessments
- Crime-specific trend analyses
- Micro-hotspot mapping
- Weekly violent-crime hotspot reports

These tools allow SPD to identify emerging patterns, evaluate strategy effectiveness, and adjust deployments in real time, based on data. Analysts identify current high-activity areas and compare them to previous periods, enabling continuous refinement of enforcement strategies.

Technology Integration

SPD continues to expand its use of real-time intelligence tools to enhance the situational awareness in real-time and assist in completing investigations. Current technology assets include:

- Automat4ed license plate readers (LPR)
- Camera systems throughout the City in all Aldermanic districts
- Gunfire detection technology (Soundcloud)
- Advanced analytical software

These investments provided officers with timely information and improve the Department's ability to identify and apprehend violent offenders.

Community Partnerships

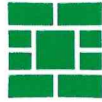
Community engagement remains essential to our long-term success. SPD continues to strengthen partnerships with neighborhood association, faith-based organizations, youth programs, and other stakeholders like our business and nonprofit sectors. These relationships:

- Build trust
- Improve information sharing
- Address underlying conditions contributing to violent crime that we may be unaware of

Our commitment to community-oriented policing remains a foundational component of our strategy and while continue to be a high priority for SPD.

The mid-year results reflect meaningful progress in reducing violent crime and improving neighborhood safety. The Savannah Police Department will continue to leverage intelligence-based policing, focused enforcement, technology innovation, and community partnerships to enhance public safety for all who live, work, and visit Savannah. We know that all means all.





Community Partner Spotlight: Vernon “Chef Jack” Jackson

Mayor and Council,

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Vernon Jackson, affectionately known as **Chef Jack**. As the Executive Director of **The Tycoon Group Alliance**, he is one of thirteen recipients of the City of Savannah Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement's (ONSE) Violence Reduction Grant (VRG).

An accomplished chef and dedicated mentor, Chef Jack uses his culinary expertise to inspire the next generation of chefs, restaurant managers, and entrepreneurs. Through **A Seat at the Table Café**, he engages at-risk and high-risk youth in Savannah in a 12-month paid culinary internship that emphasizes success planning, accountability, mentoring, job readiness, conflict resolution, life skills, and professional development.

Believing in the importance of meeting youth where they are, Chef Jack has partnered with ONSE and the Office of Recreation and Leisure Services to provide enrichment sessions during the **100 Days of Summer Midnight Basketball** program. Since receiving the Violence Reduction Grant in January 2026, he has conducted **99 life skills sessions** and recently led a hands-on culinary skills demonstration for participants in ONSE's **2026 Path Forward** cohort.

Chef Jack is guided by the mission of The Tycoon Group Alliance: *"To divert and navigate our youth through this journey of life by educating, equipping, guiding, and motivating them to reach their highest potential."* His work directly supports **Goal 1, Objective 1, Strategy 4** of the City of Savannah's GPS Strategic Plan by fostering safe behaviors in young people through mentorship, job training, and violence prevention programming.

It's my pleasure to host Chef Jack for today's Council lunch. Please join me in welcoming him to our historic City Hall and thank him for his contributions not only to the nourishment of bodies, but our City's most valuable and vulnerable asset, the youth. Today's children will be tomorrow's leaders.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Melder
City Manager
City of Savannah Georgia

A PATHWAY TO POTENTIAL

"A Seat At The Table Cafe Is A Incentive Paid Program"

We will be working closely with the juvenile justice system, pastors, coaches, teachers, local police, and city officials. Investing time, and resources

PUT THE GUNS DOWN
AND PICK UP A
KNIFE & FORK



- SUCCESS
- ACCOUNTABILITY
- MENTORING
- OPPURTUNITY
- LEAD BY CHRISTIAN MEN



GET IN TOUCH



(912)-484-8963



thetycoongroupsav@gmail



aseatatthetablecafe.org

Hours:

Fridays 11am - 7pm
Saturday 11am - 7pm
1st Sundays 1pm - 7pm

205 Television Circle, Savannah Georgia, 31406

SPONSOR A YOUTH



SUPPORT THE MISSION. GIVE BACK.

Giving our youth an opportunity to get it right. Meeting their needs first. A guiding light.



A portion of your support goes to our youth and helps change lives.

OUR MISSION

To divert and navigate our youth through this journey of life by educating, equipping, guiding and motivation them to reach their highest potential.



A SEAT AT THE TABLE CAFE

Incentive Pay
Culinary Program Building
Boys To Men



A SEAT AT THE TABLE CAFE

A full scale restaurant and training program all in one. Where the students will receive training in culinary to become future chefs, managers, and even owners.

Our goal is to become a nationally - recognized nonprofit restaurant, and training program that provides - paid internships for justice - involved at risk, Savannah, Georgia, Georgia youth.

Targeted Youth:

At Risk Youth 14-25 within the juvenile justice system.



MEETING YOUTH WHERE THEY ARE
AND HELPING THEM BECOME WHO
THEY ARE MEANT TO BE

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

In our 12 month culinary program, each intern will work their way through all areas of the restaurant. Learning legal hiring practices, social and life skills, customer service skills, along with many other challenges that will occur while working in food service from day-to-day. Building a safe atmosphere for our youth is the goal.

1



24/48 WEEK CURRICULUM

Includes 24 or 28 week course curriculum and a self- confidence building program

2



ORIENTATION

Starts with a 7-day orientation period, for students to get to know each other and adjust to the program

3



PERSONAL GROWTH

We help students with personal goals and directions

4



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

All interns will be taught how to become a professional in life



Our program will teach each student the importance of hygiene and professional appearance

Outputs:

Job placements, GED program, Adult SERVSAFE certification, business ownership, classes, food, truck building classes, local ordinances, credit worthiness, invest investment classes, estate, planning, tutoring and reform

WHAT WE OFFER



JOB READINESS SESSIONS

Building confidence and preparing the youth for the workforce



CONFLICT RESOLUTION SESSIONS

Teaching healthy communication and problem solving skills



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Providing tools and resources for emotional well-being



PRISON REFORM

Supporting change, second chances, and rebuilding lives



TEAM WORK STRATEGIES

Developing collaboration, leadership, and trust

ADULT CLASSES WE OFFER

✓ SERVSAFE CERTIFICATION

✓ INCENTIVE PAY MENTORING PROGRAM





CHEF JACK & CREW CATERING

PANNED MEATS

OXTAILS

FULL PAN	\$310
HALF PAN	\$190

GARLIC STEAK BITES W/ SAUTEED ONIONS & PEPPERS

FULL PAN	\$85
HALF PAN	\$45

BAKED BBQ PORK RIBS

FULL PAN	\$210
HALF PAN	\$125

BARBEQUE CHICKEN:

THIGHS & LEGS

FULL PAN	\$140
HALF PAN	\$70

HONEY GRILLED SALMON

FULL PAN (25-50 PCS)	\$225
HALF PAN (20-25 PCS)	\$105

SMOTHERED PORK CHOPS

FULL PAN	\$95
HALF PAN	\$65

FRIED WINGLETS

FULL PAN (85-90 PCS)	\$125
HALF PAN (40-50 PCS)	\$65

CRISPY CHICKEN BITES TOSSED IN SIGNATURE SWEET HEAT SAUCE

FULL PAN (85-90 PCS)	\$105
HALF PAN (40-50 PCS)	\$55

PANNED SIDES

MACARONI & CHEESE

FULL PAN	\$125
HALF PAN	\$65

STRING BEANS

W/ SMOKE TURKEY	\$80
FULL PAN	\$40
HALF PAN	

YELLOW RICE

W/ MIXED VEGETABLES	
FULL PAN	\$90
HALF PAN	\$45

RED RICE

W/ BEEF SAUSAGE	\$95
FULL PAN	\$45
HALF PAN	

ROASTED POTATOES

W/ ONIONS & PEPPERS	
FULL PAN	\$105
HALF PAN	\$55

BAKED BEANS W/ PORK

FULL PAN	\$95
HALF PAN	\$55

CANNIED YAMS

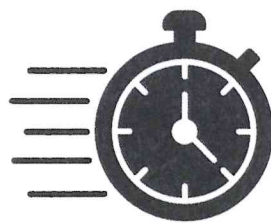
FULL PAN	130
HALF PAN	65

CHICKEN SALAD

FULL PAN	\$210
HALF PAN	\$105

AVAILABLE FOR GROUPS (15 OR MORE) - ONSITE PRIVATE DINING ROOM - ONSITE CATERING

THE RESPONSE



THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT

Summer is one of the most important times of the year for engagement in Savannah. Through the **City's 100 Days of Summer** initiative, the **City of Savannah Office of Neighborhood Safety & Engagement (ONSE)** is working alongside neighborhood associations, community organizations, and other dedicated partners to ensure young people have access to safe, meaningful, and enriching opportunities throughout the season. From employment opportunities through the **Neighborhood Improvement Teams (NIT)** program to community-building events like **Hoops 2 Heal**, creative expression through **Young Artists of Savannah United (YASU)**, and personal growth experiences offered by **Grow & Glow**, ONSE remains committed to creating pathways that keep at-risk and high-risk youth and young adults connected, supported, and inspired.



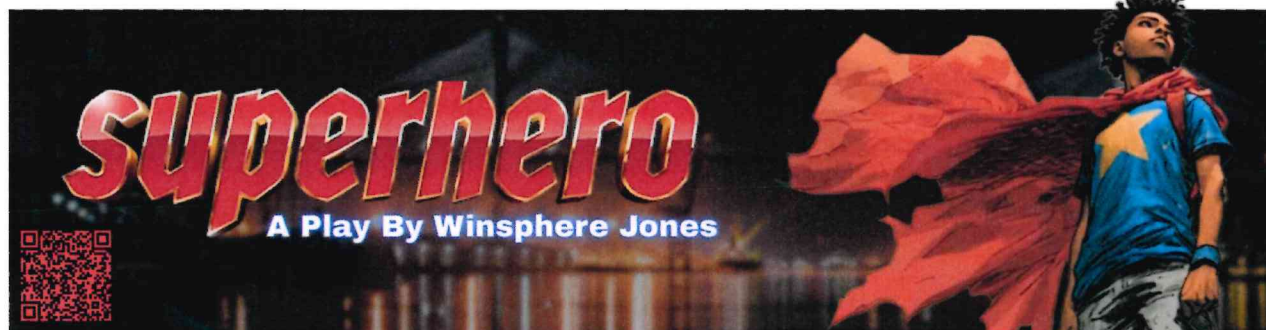
2026 SUMMER ENGAGEMENT

159 YOUTH

AND YOUNG ADULTS HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN ONSE'S 100 DAYS OF SUMMER PROGRAMMING & INITIATIVES

OVER 49

COMMUNITY PARTNERS ARE INVOLVED IN ONSE'S SUMMER PROGRAMMING & EVENTS

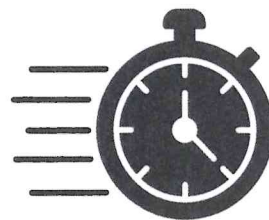


A HERO'S STORY COMES TO THE STAGE

This summer, the talented young performers of **Young Artists of Savannah United (YASU)** invite the community to experience **Superhero**, an original stage production that explores the power of courage, resilience, and finding the strength to overcome life's challenges. Through compelling storytelling and powerful performances, the production encourages audiences to reflect on what it truly means to be a hero in their own lives and communities. The Office of Neighborhood Safety & Engagement believes creative expression is an important part of violence prevention and youth and

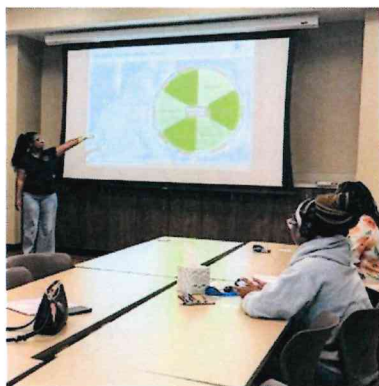
young adult development. Programs like YASU provide young people with a positive outlet to tell their stories, build lasting relationships with trusted adults, and develop skills that extend far beyond the stage. Join us on **Friday, July 31 at 7:00PM at the Otis S. Johnson Cultural Arts Center (201 Montgomery Street, Savannah, GA 31401)**, for an unforgettable evening celebrating the creativity, talent, and voices of Savannah's youth. Scan the **QR code** above to reserve your seats for this production that you won't want to miss!

THE RESPONSE



IN THE NEWS

The Office of Neighborhood Safety & Engagement partnered with the Savannah Police Department, Savannah Fire Department, Savannah Impact Program, Savannah Recreation & Leisure Services, and the West Broad Street YMCA to host **Hoops to Heal**, a free community event that united youth, families, mentors, and first responders through basketball, music, food, and access to local resources. One of the day's biggest highlights was the **Battle of the Badges**, where the Savannah Fire Department claimed the inaugural championship over the Savannah Police Department, earning bragging rights and taking home the coveted trophy. The friendly rivalry showcased teamwork, sportsmanship, and the strong partnerships that help make Savannah a safer community. We look forward to seeing the Fire Department return next year to defend its title – and to watching the Savannah Police Department come back ready to claim the championship! No matter who wins, Hoops to Heal continues to prove that bringing people together through recreation is a powerful way to build trust, strengthen relationships, and support a safer Savannah.



PLANTING SEEDS FOR SUCCESS

Grow & Glow has continued to empower young ladies across Savannah through engaging discussions focused on healthy relationships, self-worth, and personal growth. In partnership with organizations like **Mary's Place**, participants have explored topics on recognizing healthy relationships, building resilience, and making positive life choices. Through Grow & Glow, the Office of Neighborhood Safety & Engagement continues to equip young ladies with the confidence, knowledge, and support they need to thrive.



BUILDING MORE THAN BETTER BLOCKS

This summer, the **Neighborhood Improvement Teams (NIT)** are making a visible difference across Savannah. Through this unique summer employment program, neighborhood associations hire local youth and young adults to serve the communities they call home while gaining valuable work experience, developing leadership skills, and building pride in their neighborhoods. The teams have been cleaning parks and public spaces, collecting litter, assisting seniors, completing neighborhood beautification efforts, and tackling community improvement projects. By investing in

Savannah's youth and young adults, we are investing in the futures of our neighborhoods. Every project completed represents more than a cleaner street or a freshly painted community space. These teams represent young people gaining the confidence to become leaders, building relationships with their peers and neighbors, and demonstrating the positive impact they can have when given the opportunity to lead. Together, these youth, young adults, and their mentors are helping to build a stronger, safer Savannah, one neighborhood at a time.