



City of
Douglas
Georgia

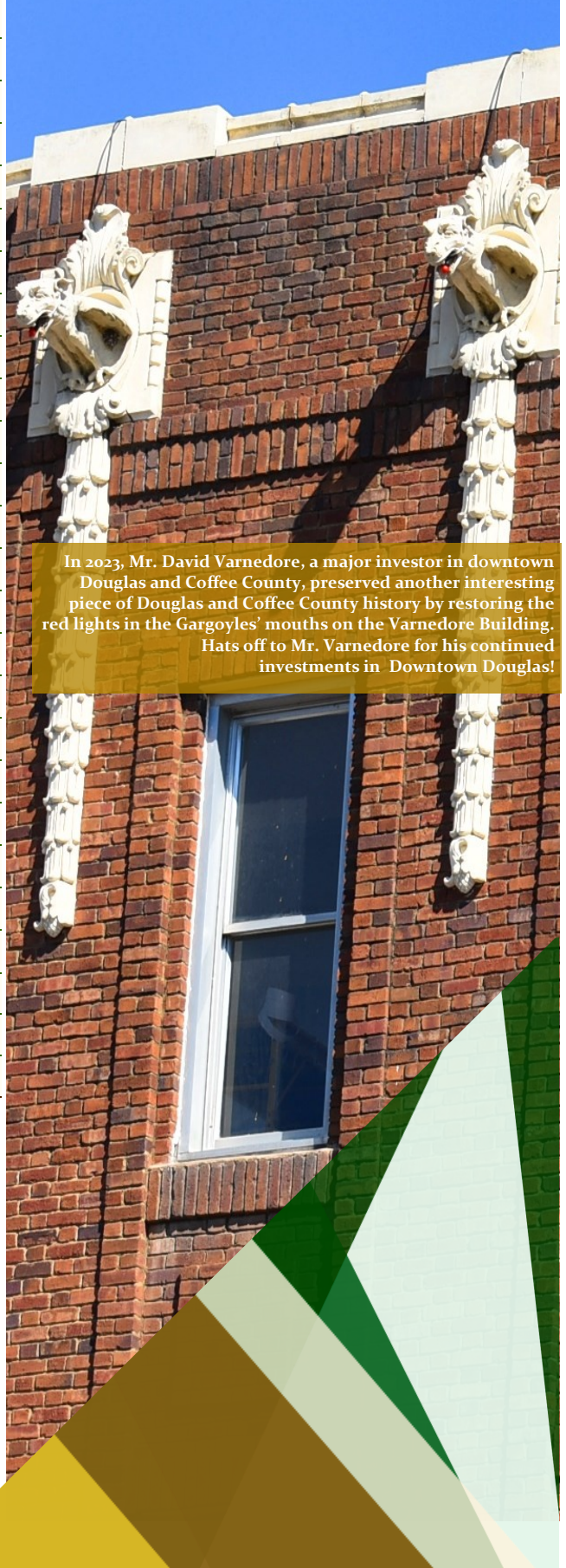
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

January-December 2023



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In 2023, Mr. David Varnedore, a major investor in downtown Douglas and Coffee County, preserved another interesting piece of Douglas and Coffee County history by restoring the red lights in the Gargoyles' mouths on the Varnedore Building. Hats off to Mr. Varnedore for his continued investments in Downtown Douglas!

Department Directory

- Mayor and Commissioner Office.....(912)389-3401
- City Manager.....(912)389-3401
- City Clerk/Customer Service.....(912)389-3405
- Community Development.....(912)383-0277
- Douglas Utilities.....(912)389-3445
- Finance.....(912)389-3496
- Fire (Non-Emergency).....(912)384-4815
- Human Resources(912)389-3494
- Parks & Recreation.....(912)384-5978
- Police (Non-Emergency).....(912)384-2222
- Vehicle Maintenance.....(912)389-3454

For emergencies, dial 9-1-1.

A Message from the City Manager



Charles Davis
City Manager

302 S. Madison Ave.
P.O. Box 470
Douglas, GA 31533

(912) 389-3401

cdavis@cityofdouglasga.gov



This annual report reflects the accomplishments of the City of Douglas in 2023. The City of Douglas remains committed to achieving its mission “to provide all citizens cost effective services, with leadership that is open and responsive to the needs of the community and works for the benefit of all; and to develop and ensure the highest of life for our residents.”

As a 22 yr. veteran of the City of Douglas and current City Manager, I am pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report. We are in an exciting time of growth. Even with any faults that the City may have (perceived or real), our team of employees are dedicated to working together to better serve our citizens under the leadership of our Mayor and City Commission.

Looking back at 2023, I see significant changes and developments within the City of Douglas. Again, we are in a time of impactful quality-of-life infrastructure improvements and public works infrastructure that will serve this community for many years into the future.

In 2023, projects such as the Roper Miracle Field and Premier Sports Complex had their first full season of usage. City Hall renovations were completed and operations resumed in the new facilities. We completed two-Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects - Unison Mental Health facility and the Fleetwood Circle & Jefferson Street drainage/road improvements. Numerous water/wastewater projects were either completed or started. The South Gaskin Ave TIA sidewalk and beatification project is nearing completion. We issued over a million dollars of utility credits through the usage of the COVID-ARPA monies. The SafeWise Team designated Douglas as the seventh safest cities in Georgia.

The retail economic picture has been great for Douglas both with national and local investment. The historic passage of the “Douglas Square” Tax Allocation District is causing the “ripple” effect that we had planned for the community. In 2024, Publix will open and the planning for a major restaurant will be announced. Our downtown is benefiting from large capital investment with local investors. Our business leaders are taking pride in their businesses and investing in the future of their company.

Significant expenditures are being used for much-needed improvements to our infrastructure with local, state, and federal funds. Some of the projects are housing, drainage and stormwater improvements, water improvements, wastewater improvements, street resurfacing, sidewalk projects, and recreational projects.

The City of Douglas is in good financial standing and has achieved another successful audit. Our city is fortunate to provide government services that meet or exceed the expectations of any city our size.

I’d also like to thank the approximately 200 dedicated city and city-contracted employees for the tremendous service each provides to the citizens of Douglas, to our elected officials who provide us with leadership and direction, and to the citizens of the Douglas community to whom we are privileged to serve.

Thank you for taking the time to review this report. I invite you to view the department pages to read their accomplishments. The accomplishments listed on the following pages demonstrate our determination to remain fiscally responsible while simultaneously providing high-levels of municipal services. I hope that in reviewing this report, you will share with me the same sense of pride I have in our team.

I am looking forward to another amazing year with the City of Douglas.

Sincerely,
Charles Davis
City Manager

Mayor and City Commissioners



Mayor

Tony L. Paulk

tpaulk@cityofdouglasga.gov

It is the mission of the City of Douglas to provide all citizens cost effective services, with leadership that is open and responsive to the needs of the community and works for the benefit of all; and to develop and ensure the highest quality of life for our residents.

Citizens are encouraged to interact and talk with the Mayor and Commissioners about their concerns for our great city. Schedule an appointment with your Mayor or City Commissioner by calling (912) 389-3401.



**Mayor Pro-Tem
City Commissioner (Ward 4)**

Mike Gowen

mgowen@cityofdouglasga.gov



City Commissioner Ward 1

Edwin Taylor

etaylor@cityofdouglasga.gov



City Commissioner (Ward 2)

Kentainwon Durham

kdurham@cityofdouglasga.gov



City Commissioner (Ward 3)

Tony Paulk, II

Tpaulk2@cityofdouglasga.gov



City Commissioner (Ward 5)

Cindy McNeill

cmcneill@cityofdouglasga.gov



City Commissioner (Ward 6)

Steve Bailey

sbailey@cityofdouglasga.gov



Commissioner Durham Received the Certificate of Distinction from G.M.A.



Recognition of the Cheer Leads Elite National Champions

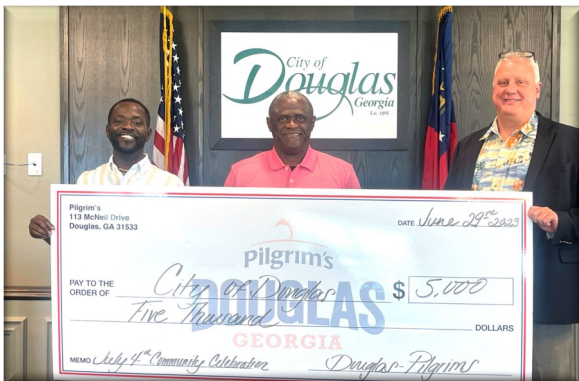


Recognition of the 10&Under Baseball State Champs



*Proclamations and Recognitions by the Mayor and Commission
25*

City Hall Ribbon Cutting and Open House, April 25, 2023



Pilgrims donation to 4th of July Freedom Fest



National Dyslexia Month



Mental Health Awareness Month

Organizational Chart

City of Douglas Citizens

Mayor & Commissioners



City Manager
Charlie Davis
cdavis@cityofdouglasga.gov

9 Departments
9 Department Heads
40 Department Divisions
= Day-to-Day Operations.

City of Douglas Department Heads



City Clerk/Customer Service
Wynetta Bolder
wbolder@cityofdouglasga.gov



Community Development
Georgia Henderson
ghenderson@cityofdouglasga.gov



Finance
Tommy Harrell
tharrell@cityofdouglasga.gov



Fire Chief
Casey Wright
cwright@cityofdouglasga.gov



Human Resources
Tammy Wilkerson
twilkerson@cityofdouglasga.gov



Douglas Utilities
Mike Hudson
mhudson@cityofdouglasga.gov



Parks & Recreation
Stevie Young
syoung@cityofdouglasga.gov



Police Chief
Brannen Pruette
bpruette@cityofdouglasga.gov



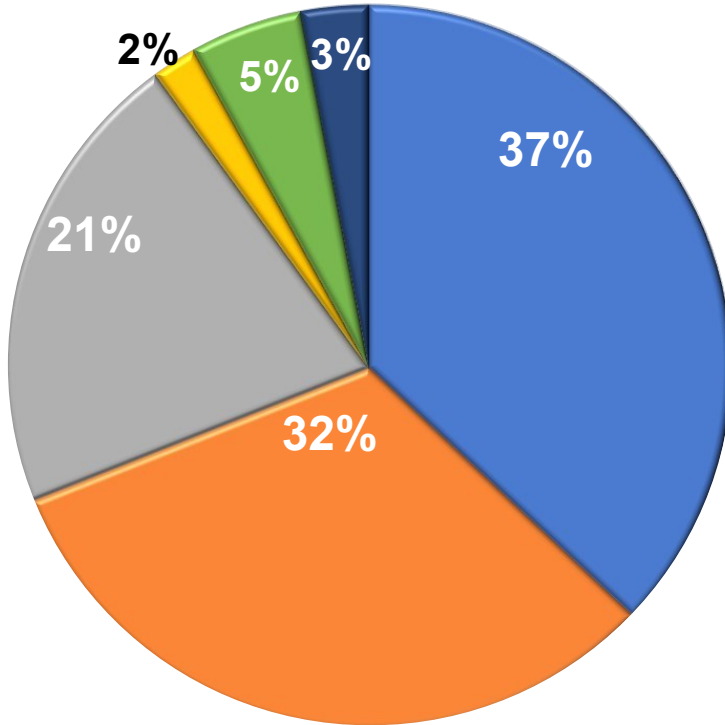
Vehicle Maintenance
Terry Fesperman
tfesperman@cityofdouglasga.gov

Our Department Heads have a total combined experience of over
190 years
in Municipal Government.

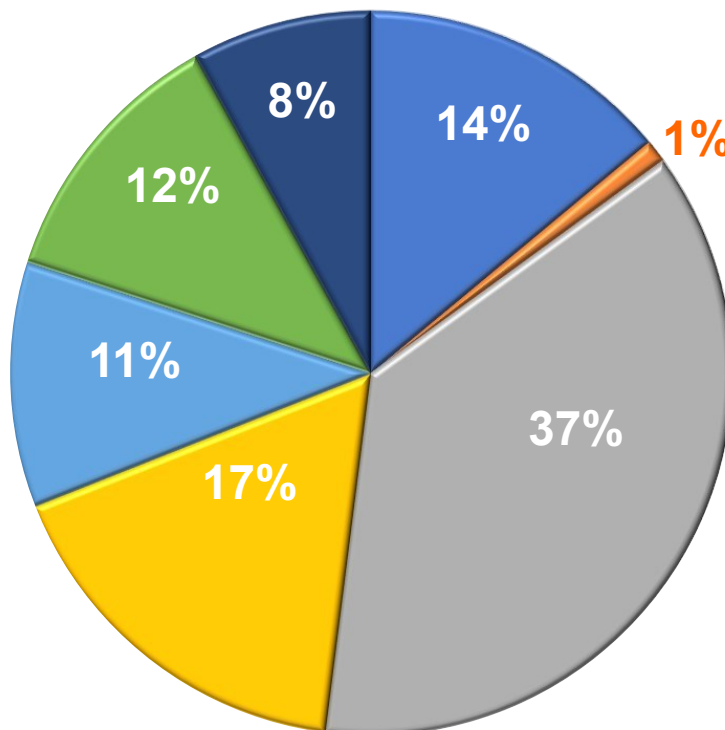
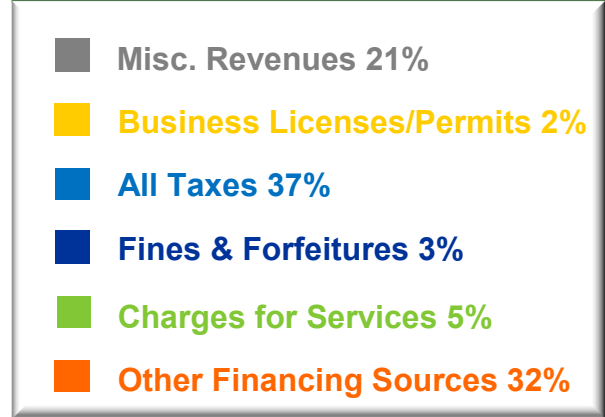
By the Numbers



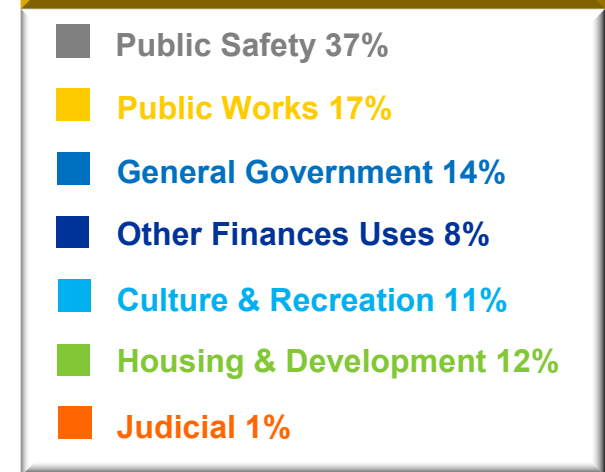
The City of Douglas runs on a fiscal year, July—June. The City Commission adopted the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget in June 2023. These numbers represent department work plans that incorporate the goals and Comprehensive Plan of the City of Douglas. Learn more at www.cityofdouglasga.gov/finance.



FY'23 Adopted Budget Revenue Sources



FY'23 Adopted Budget Expenses by Activity



Purchasing Inventory 1,051 items = \$2,839,530.49
25 Request for Proposals Issued | 78 Surplus Items Sold

By the Stats



The Douglas Utilities Department consists of the Electric and Natural Gas Divisions. Wastewater, and Public Works are contracted out to ESG Operations, Inc. Sanitation is contracted out to GFL Environmental for day to day operations.

The City of Douglas has an estimated **7,412** customer service accounts with approximately **27,694** services delivered.

- **5,852** Electric Customers
- **6,843** Water Customers
- **1,127** Natural Gas Customers
- **5,423** Sewer Customers
- **5,247** Sanitation Customers
- **3,202** Street and Security Lights
- **3.6** Million Gallons of Water pumped per day (1.3 billion gallons annually)
- **4.5** Million Gallons of Wastewater treated per day (1.6 billion gallons annually)



Douglas Natural Gas Technicians, Jake Phillips, Joey Casteloes, and Trace Tatum conduct maintenance on a natural gas valve located at the CE Weir Center. Markings on the ground help identify underground utilities and a fire extinguisher is near in case of an unexpected emergency.

The City Clerk is the official records custodian for the City of Douglas and supervises the Customer Care Center and Customer Service Division. Together these divisions are responsible for customer service and utility management of approximately **7,412** customer accounts.

- **63** Open Records Requests
- **50** Recorded Minutes for City Commission and Work Session Meetings
- **9,137** After-Hours Calls
- **3,320** Estimated Online, By Phone, or EFT Payments
- **4,092** Estimated In-Person Payments, or After Hours Drop Box Payments



The City Clerk/Customer Service Department provided the meal for the CHS Trojan Football team and coaching staff on Wednesday, December 6, 2023. It was our pleasure to give back to our young people as public servants.



**CITY OF DOUGLAS
CUSTOMER CARE CENTER**

Dedicated to Serving You



Atkinson Plaza

Let's Get Social

The Public Information Division of Community Development Department is dedicated to educating, engaging, and inspiring our community to help them better understand and participate in their City Government.

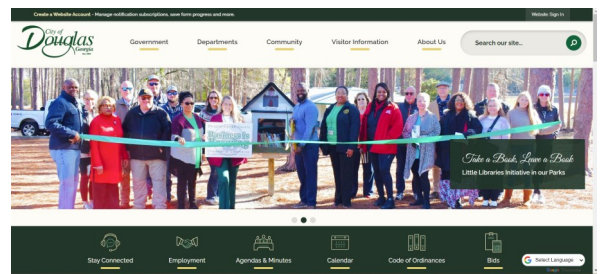
Workforce Development Campaign

Public Information and Human Resources teamed together for a Workforce Development Campaign which included re-vamping job descriptions layout and a new public relations plan that features employees.



Website Redesign

The City of Douglas worked with CivicPlus to redesign the website aesthetics and make it more mobile-friendly. The new redesign launched in November 2023.



Now Streaming Live...

- City Commission Meetings
- Youth Council Meetings
- Emergency/Weather Days



The City of Douglas was featured in the Georgia Municipal Association's Georgia Cities magazine for economic development projects.



Follow Us on Social Media

Let's Get Connected for Our Latest News & Updates

 @CityofDouglasGAGovernment

 @CityofDouglasGA

 @CityofDouglasGAgov

 www.cityofdouglasga.gov

Facebook

39,370 Followers

X (Twitter) Account—1,044 Followers

YouTube Account—366 Subscribers

Constant Contact—1,435 Subscribers

Website—104,057 Users / 148,514 Page Views

Press Releases/Public Notices—283

2023 Top 3 Posts on CityofDouglasGAGovernment

1. Douglas-Coffee County Projects | 5-26-2023
55,048 Reach | 272 Shares
2. Update on Publix Construction | 11-22-2023
41,280 Reach | 186 Shares
3. Update on PetSmart Construction | 8-10-2023
35,486 Reach | 217 Shares



Economic Development

Walmart DC 6010 Robotic Technology

Phase I of upgrading to the Symbotic Robotic Technology

- \$400 Million Investment
- No Lay-offs
- Increased Wages
- More Volume



Photo Credit: Symbotic.com



Plant Vogtle Unit 3

MEAG Power announced that Unit 3 at Plant Vogtle entered commercial service on July 31, 2023, adding 250 MW of emissions-free generation capacity to MEAG Power's portfolio, an equivalent amount to power an estimated 113,500 homes and businesses. Vogtle Unit 3 is the first newly constructed nuclear unit to enter service in the U.S. in more than 30 years.



Downtown Douglas Charette

Created by a team of 17 UGA College of Environment & Design students visited Douglas to address revitalization potential, corridor enhancements, and infill housing. They determined these categories of need:

- Greenspace & Greenways
- Entertainment & Placemaking
- Streetscape & Circulation
- Preservation & Housing
- African American Cultural District



Pilgrims Protein Plant—Under Construction

⇒ \$75 Million Investment

⇒ 53 New Jobs Created



Business Growth

Bowens Mill Road Developments

Along the Bowens Mill Rd. SW, Mr. Carlton Dorminey continued to invest in new construction which is currently home to Down Home True Value Hardware, Little Peaches Café, Dubberly's Glass, and a RV/Boat Storage Facility. Thank you, Mr. Dorminey, for your continued investment in Douglas and Coffee County.



New Storage Facilities



Be Safe Climate Storage



Automated Self Storage



Pelican Self Storage

New Adult Outpatient Facility Opens

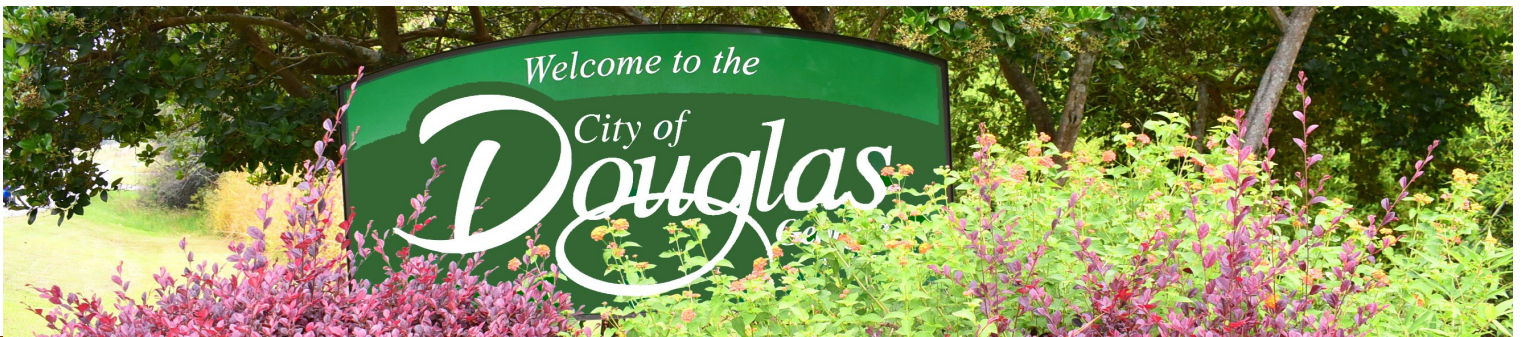


Unison Behavioral Health, officials, and the community celebrated the ribbon cutting for the new Unison Behavioral Health Adult Outpatient Clinic.

Downtown Loft Apartments



The Hardware Lofts located beside Hardware House in Downtown Douglas.





Douglas is seeing the "ripple" effect of the tax allocation district with new construction throughout Douglas and other established businesses renovating and remodeling.



Douglas Square continues to grow with the addition of PetSmart, Lifestyle Nail Bar, and Jack's Family Restaurant. We are looking forward to the opening of Publix, Pineland Bank, and other new developments that will occur in 2024.

Open for Business

The City of Douglas Building Inspections and Permits office is responsible for issuing building permits for residential and commercial, new construction, and renovations. The Building Inspector reviews plans and conducts building inspections ensuring compliance with all municipal construction codes.



- 64 Building Permits
- 23 Electrical Permits
- 19 Demolition Permits
- 18 Other Permits

124 Total Permits
262 Inspections

Business Licenses – 1,487

204 New Business Licenses

Alcohol Licenses – 58

6 New Alcohol Licenses



Construction of Down Home True Value Hardware

Welcome Businesses!

Thank you to all businesses, both new and old, for investing in Douglas and Coffee County.



Wild Soul Boutique



Hardware House



Glow Aesthetics

Downtown Development

Renovations



Google Earth Photo

Danny's Pizza Celebrates 50 Years!



Rural Zone Activity

Assessed Tax Value of Parcels
in the Zone

\$15,518,746

Estimated Number of Jobs
Created in the Zone

77

Estimate Value of Public (local
government) Investment

\$423,272.71

Estimated Value of Private
Investment

\$1,377,499.95

Vacancy Rate in the Zone

7%



The McKenzie Building houses Blue Sage, Amedisys Home Health, Property Hunters, South Georgia Tax Services, and (coming soon) loft apartments.



Community Development

Community Development focuses on developing and implementing community-based strategies to enhance economic opportunities by building stronger neighborhoods and business districts, while also attracting visitors and improving quality of life. The City of Douglas, other local governments, and citizens work together to ensure growth and economic development in Douglas.

- 1-Annexation
- 1-Rezoning Requests
- 4-Text Amendments to the Unified Land Development Code
- 10-Public Hearings
- 4-Variances



Gaskin Avenue Local Historic District



The City of Douglas adopted an ordinance designating the Gaskin Avenue Local Historic District on Tuesday, January 24, 2023. The Gaskin Avenue Local Historic District is an area of approximately fourteen square blocks spanning north to south, and approximately eight blocks spanning west to east. The district is located near Downtown Douglas and sits on the northeast side of the city.

Joint Comprehensive Plan for Coffee County and the Cities of Ambrose, Broxton, Douglas, & Nicholls Update

The Joint Comprehensive Plan for Coffee County and the Cities of Ambrose, Broxton, Douglas, and Nicholls is a document mandated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and must be revised every 5 years.

- Adopted by the Mayor and Commission on September 25, 2023.



3rd Consecutive Redesignation as a Georgia Department of Community Affairs PlanFirst Community.

Pictured: (L-R) Ebonee Dobson (Planner), Charlie Davis (City Manager), Mayor Tony Paulk, Kelly Lane (DCA Region 11 Representative), and Georgia Henderson (Community Development Director)

Improving Mobility

Road Expansions/Improvements/Resurfacing

- City Parking Lot
- Dogwood Avenue
- Redbird Trail
- Indian Trail
- Terrell Road
- North and South Fales Avenue
- Hunter Street
- Sibbett Street

Sidewalk Improvements

- North and South Gaskin Avenue Sidewalk and Drainage Improvements
- Lupo Lane Sidewalk and Drainage Improvements
- Baker Highway, East (SR 158) Sidewalk Improvements



Downtown Alleyway Beautification Project

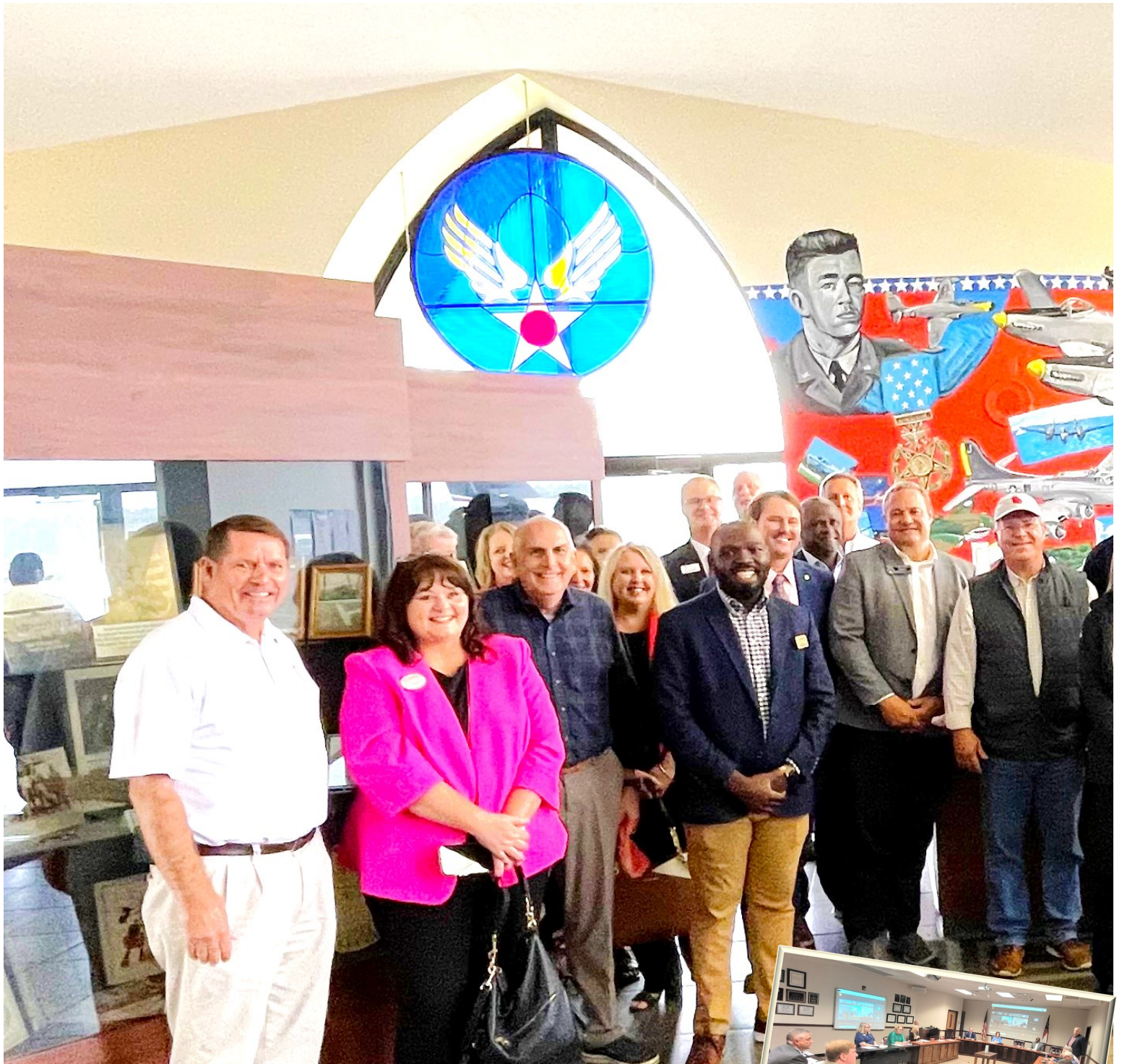
A collaborative project between the City of Douglas, the Downtown Development Authority, and the Community Foundation of Coffee County that focused on reimagining our alleyways to make them become more engaging and welcoming public spaces. The project also improved mobility to our downtown businesses. Strand lighting was installed throughout downtown in several areas to provide better lighting for safety so the alleys may be used by businesses and citizens. Other improvements included faux ivy, potted plants with seasonal colors, fragrance misters, and wall art.

Special thanks to the Community Foundation of Coffee County for their assistance with this project.

George Washington Carver Shopping Center Project

- Sidewalks Repaired
- Planters (Plants & Water)
- New Decorative Street Lights
- Benches with Protective Bollards
- Construct Alleyway
- Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Improvements





Aviation Eco-System Initiative

Since 2021, leaders from across the city and state have been discussing how to bring an aviation school to Douglas and Coffee County, spurring much interest from all aspects of the aviation field and creating the Douglas-Coffee Aviation Eco-System Initiative. Several meetings took place in 2023 with initiative partners in government, industry, education, and private aviation that continued planning efforts for an aviation academy model for Douglas.



State Legislator Airport Tour

On Wednesday, September 27, 2023, the Douglas Municipal Gene Chambers Airport hosted Georgia Legislators during the Georgia Airports Association State Legislator Airport Tour. These legislators were a part of two Georgia tours to municipal airports – one tour visiting airports North of Atlanta, the other tour visiting airports South of Atlanta which included a stop in Douglas. Douglas leadership hopes that this meeting will aid in opening new doors and creating new partnerships to grow the Aviation Eco-System Initiative.



Grant Dollars at Work

Street and Drainage Improvements

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Program, helped to make the street and drainage improvements on West Jefferson Street, Fleetwood Circle, and Sears Street.



Action Pact Head Start and Early Head Start Facility

Joint project with City, County, and Coffee County Board of Education for the children of Coffee County.

- Demolish old building (completed October 2023)
- Construct and renovate additional classrooms
- Reconstruct lunchroom

Project Funding: \$1,512,800 CDBG 2022

Housing Rehabilitation

A total of 17 homes were renovated in 2023, thanks to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) Grant. Residential homes received many upgrades and owners were very thankful for the rehabilitation work on their homes. The GICH—Douglas Housing Team also recognizes Chris Calhoun and Camp 151 for their assistance in rehabbing six homes, at no expense to the homeowner.

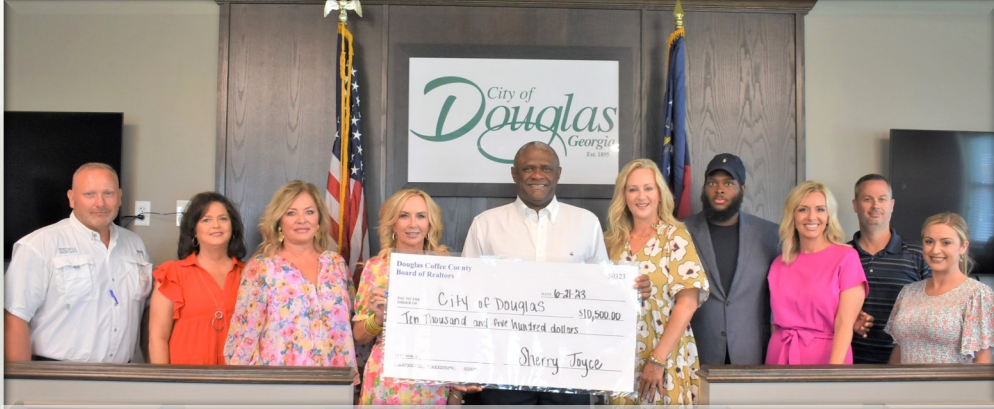


Photo (L-R): Mayor Tony Paulk with Mayor Tony Paulk, Jason Drew (Walmart #593 Store Manager) and Kayla Hall (Walmart #593 Store Lead).

The Downtown Pocket Park was fortunate to receive grant money from the Walmart Foundation to assist with the second phase of the Pocket Park including the purchase of a weather resistant portable stage. Special thanks to the Walmart Foundation for their generous contribution .

Downtown Pocket Park

The Downtown Pocket Park was fortunate to receive grant money from several local businesses/organization to assist with the second phase of the Pocket Park including the purchase of a weather resistant portable stage. Special thanks to the Coffee County Board of Realtors/National Association of Realtors Placemaking Grant and the Community Foundation of Coffee County for their generous contributions.



Top Photo (L-R): Bruce Brewer, Tina Bullock, Debra Gillis (Vice President, DCC Board of Realtors), Sherry Joyce (President, DCC Board of Realtors), Mayor Tony Paulk, Reagan Tanner, David Washington, Christi Yaughn (Secretary, DCC Board of Realtors), Ashley Spivey, and Kelsey Adams.



Right Photo (L-R): Lindsey Day with the Community Foundation of Coffee County and Mayor Tony Paulk



Grant Projects by the Numbers

Total Open Grants
\$23,543,134.53

\$1,177,278	Community Development Block Grant Mitigation '17
\$1,256,278	Community Development Block Grant '20
\$636,875	Community Development Block Grant '21
\$400,000	Community Home Investment Program '21
\$1,512,800	Community Development Block Grant '22 (Action Pact Head Start and Early Headstart)
\$23,785	Department of Justice Patrick Leahy Bullet Proof Vests
\$100,000	City of Douglas Weatherization Program
\$821,187.94	Local Maintenance Improvement Grant '22 & '23
\$1,722,635.19	Georgia Department of Transportation (Airport T-Hangar Taxiway Improvements Phase 1)
\$325,000	GDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (Sidewalk & Drainage Improvements)
\$2,026,100	GDOT Transportation Investment Act (Sidewalk & Drainage Improvements)
\$55,405	Georgia Historic Preservation Division Historic Survey of North Gaskin Historic District (\$40,405) & Design Guidelines (\$15,000)
\$500,000	One Georgia Grant (T&T Transfer/Water/Sewer Infrastructure)
\$4,220,000	ARPA Statewide Infrastructure
\$3,191,488.40	ARPA—Economic Development 2021 (Water, Sewer, and Natural Gas Expansion)
\$571,000	Ga DNR Land/Water Conservation Grant (Unity Park)
\$10,500	National Association of Realtors Placemaking Grant (Pocket Park)
\$9,000	Community Foundation of Coffee County (Pocket Park)
\$1,000	Walmart Foundation (Pocket Park)
\$4,787,802	Improving Neighborhood Outcomes (Soccer Fields, Huckaby Complex, Roundtree Park)
\$50,000	GEFA Grant (Lead Service Line)
\$100,000	Public Safety & Community Violence Reduction (Police—ShotSpotter)
\$45,000	GEFA State Homeland Security (Fire—HazMat Equipment)

Total Pending Grants: \$4,444,415.00

Keeping Douglas Beautiful

The mission of Keep Douglas Beautiful (KDB) Committee is to promote environmental sustainability and educate the community to take action every day to increase safety, reduce litter from our open spaces and waterways, improve recycling effort, and keep Douglas beautiful. Several events were held in 2023 which included the Clear Your Clutter Event, Great American Cleanup, North Madison Avenue Park Cleanup, the Trash Dash Plogging Event and the Little Libraries Initiative.



Clear Your Clutter Event



Great American Cleanup



N. Madison Ave. Park Cleanup



Special thanks to FNBCB for their donation to help purchase the Litterbug Costume for the KDB Committee.

Stephen Lewis (FNBCB Market President), Jessica Hudson (FNBCB AVP/Loan Operations Officer), Joy Vickers (FNBCB Sr. Vice President/Mortgage Officer), Litter Bug, Mayor Paulk, Dinitra Williams (KDB President) and Christian Mikell (KDB Executive Director)



Trash Dash Plogging Event



Thank you to PCC Airfoils for the donation of our volunteer t-shirts!



Little Libraries Initiative

Thank you to the Douglas Lions Club, Douglas Elks Lodge, Coffee County Community Foundation, Douglas Utilities, Douglas Masonic Lodge, and many others for the donations to the Little Libraries Initiative and Keep Douglas Beautiful.



Thank You to All Our Volunteers!



Soaring with our Airport

Douglas Municipal Gene Chambers Airport is operated by the City of Douglas. The Level III Airport is situated on 496 acres. The airport accommodates a variety of aviation related activities including corporate/business travel, recreational flying, agricultural spraying, prisoner transport, forest fire fighting, and experimental aircraft.

Utility Additions

Electric, water, and sewer lines have been expanded in areas at the airport that have been recommended for aviation related growth.



Fuel Farm

To extend the lifespan of the fuel tanks and improve aesthetics, the fuel farm was repainted in 2023.



73 Based Aircraft

36 Hangars

12 Land Leases

106,302 Gallons in Fuel Sales



School Field Trips



New Airport Fencing



11,465 Operations (Landings/Take-Offs)



Airport Events

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony



Wings & Things Festival—Estimated 5,000 in attendance



Memorial for B-17 Flying Fortress Texas Raiders Crew



IN REMEMBRANCE
NOVEMBER 12, 2022

During the Wings Over Dallas Airshow, the B-17G Flying Fortress, Texas Raiders and crew were tragically lost during an aerial demonstration. The people of the City of Douglas will never forget them.

Proclamation of Texas Raiders Days
May 31 - June 2, 2022

WHEREAS, The Commemorative Air Force is proud to have the City of Douglas as one of the seven stops on their 2022 Georgia Warbird Expo Tour and
WHEREAS, The Georgia Warbird Expo is a community event that touches all ages through education, inspiration, and remembrance; and
WHEREAS, Douglas County has a long association with aviation, warbird restoration, and World War II pilot training; and
WHEREAS, the City of Douglas is honored to have the B-17 Flying Fortress, Texas Raiders, one of only three aircraft flying in the United States today, and accompanying aircraft and crew visit our city; and
WHEREAS, the presence of the historic, vintage aircraft offers up-close and personal experiences and brings history to life like no other encounter.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony L. Paulk, Mayor of the City of Douglas, do hereby proclaim May 31 - June 2, 2022, as "Texas Raiders Days".
PROCLAIMED this 31st day of May 2022.



Airfield Lighting Project

Improving Quality of Life

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement administers the codes of the City of Douglas to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community and where violations occur, to work with citizens to achieve compliance through an efficient and fair process.

- 90 Citations for Accumulation of Junk
- 213 Citations for Overgrown Lots
- 108 Citations for Inoperable Vehicles
- 411 Warnings to Comply Issued
- 33 Citations

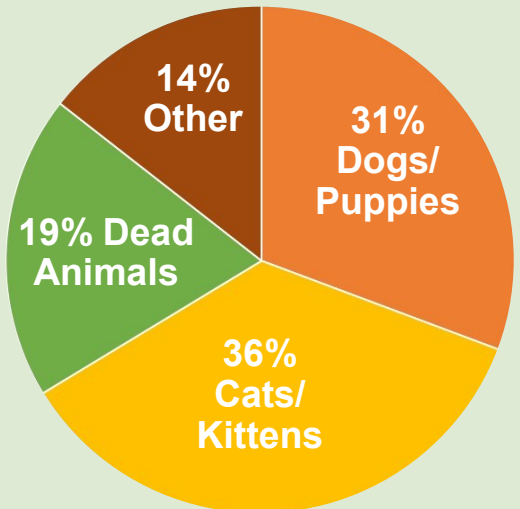
Demolishment of Dilapidated Structures

10 Court Ordered / 6—Owner Demolished



Animal Control

Animal Control strives to efficiently provide quality animal care service, while protecting the health and safety of our citizens.



1,102 Calls



Splash Pad = Fun in the Sun!

Swim Lessons: **79** students
Open Swim Sessions: **140**
Splash Parties: **10**



Douglas-Coffee County Miracle League

31 Spring Players
24 Fall Players

Playing by the Numbers!

- 951 Participants in Baseball / Softball
- 55 Participants in Track
- 147 Participants in Stingrays Swim Team
- 55 Participants in Miracle League
- 65 Participants in Summer Camps
- 219 Participants in Summer Basketball
- 9 Participants in Golf Team
- 33 Participants in Tennis Team
- 372 Participants in Football / Cheer
- 413 Participants in Soccer
- 405 Participants in Basketball
- 42 Participants in Wrestling
- 110 Adult Participants in Adult Basketball

State Champions
 Douglas Stingrays Swim Team
 10 & under Baseball Team
Individual State Champs
 2 - Track Team
 4 - Tennis Team
 1 - Golf Team



Tournament Hosting

- ◆ 6 - Baseball/Softball Tournaments
- ◆ 1 - District Basketball Tournament
- ◆ 1 - District Swim Meet

Facility Usage

- ◆ 139 CE Weir Center
- ◆ 216 Central Square Gyms
- ◆ 196 Meeting Rooms
- ◆ 144 Youth Center
- ◆ 43 Park Reservations

Improving Leisure Services

Total Grant Funding:
\$5,358,802

Huckaby Softball Complex

Plans for Huckaby Complex Rehabilitation will include:

- Concession stand
- Softball Fields (3)
- Field Lighting
- Installation of New Bleachers
- Replacement of all Field Fencing
- Repair or Replacement of Sidewalks
- Rehab of a Shelter to Protect Participants and Families
- Rehab of Restrooms or Replacement of Restrooms

Roundtree Park

Plans for Roundtree Park Rehabilitation include:

- Bathrooms
- Replacement of Dugouts
- Replacement of Lighting
- Replacement of Drainage
- Replacement of Playground
- Replacement of Picnic Tables
- Repair or Replacement of Sidewalks

Soccer Fields

Plans for Soccer Field Rehabilitation include:

- Numerous Surface Improvements relating to the Fields
- Concessions Pad
- Installation of Fencing and Lighting
- Bleachers and Player Benches
- Goals, Netting, and Backstops
- Scoreboards
- Signage and Landscaping

Unity Park Rehabilitation

Plans for the improvements to Unity Park include:

- ADA Picnic Tables & ADA Playground Equipment
- Sidewalk Repairs
- Wellness Park with Various Equipment for Exercise
- Conversion of Existing Baseball Fields into Little League Play Fields
- Refurbishing of the Existing Basketball Court





CRMC Health and Wellness Festival



School Visit



Touch A Truck Event at ChickFilA

Fire Services

The City of Douglas Fire Department provides efficient and effective delivery of fire and emergency services to persons within the city limits of Douglas. Each year, the department strives to effectively achieve yearly goals through training, planning, and evaluations of the community to limit injury, loss of life, loss of property and loss of environment due to fires. The Douglas Fire Department has a total of **30** Firefighters and **2** Volunteer Firefighters. All firefighters are Firefighter I Certified and average approximately **200** hours of training.

- 30 – Firefighter I Certifications
- 17 – Firefighter II Certifications
- 21 – Hazardous Materials Technicians
- 3 – Technical Rescue Technicians
- 10 – Fire Officer 1 Certifications
- 2 – Fire Officer 2 Certifications

91 National Fire Certifications
5,795 Training Hours



Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Evaluator Class

980 Fire Inspections
325 Violations

The most common fire inspection violation are fire extinguishers that are out of date for service.



Fire Calls

458 Total Calls



• 29 Residential Fires



• 8 Public Spaces (Churches, restaurants, etc.)

• 13 Vehicle Fires



• 2 Structural (general, barns, garages, etc.)

• 34 Brush, Dumpster, & other

• 63 Emergency Response

• 157 False Alarms



• 35 Hazardous Responses

• 117 Smoke Scares, Lock-Outs, Animal Rescues

SPARTAN



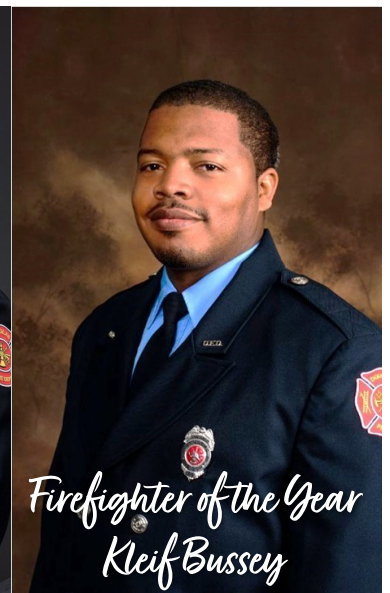
18 Graduates in 2023

From 17 different departments and 3 from Florida.

The Georgia SPARTAN Firefighter Program was started in Douglas in 2018 and is held bi-annually at the Douglas Fire Department Training Facility. The Georgia SPARTAN Firefighter Program is a stand alone program with a SPARTAN Council consisting of 8 firefighters from throughout the state. The Georgia SPARTAN Firefighter Program has been approved for 24 hours of continuing education by the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council. To learn more about the SPARTAN program, www.cityofdouglasga.gov/spartan.



Officer of the Year
Chief Casey Wright



Firefighter of the Year
Kleif Bussey

(L-R) DFD Officer of the Year—Chief Casey Wright and DFD Firefighter of the Year—Kleif Bussey
The criteria for selecting the Firefighter of the Year and Officer of the Year are based on job performance, interpersonal relations with co-workers and the public, as well as other criteria.



Interview with CBS 44 News South Georgia



School Visit





The Douglas Police Department believes outreach and engagement are important aspects of being a Police Officer. Through outreach programs, our Officers work hard to get to know and engage positively with members of our community.

Photo: Captain Leon Whitley engages with parents and children at Coffee Regional Medical Center's Health & Wellness Day.

Police Services

The Douglas Police Department is dedicated to working in partnership with the community to provide exemplary service by maintaining a proud tradition of **HONOR, INTEGRITY**, and a commitment to **SERVICE**. In 2022, the Police Department equipped patrol vehicles and facilities with 8 lifesaving automated external defibrillators (AEDs) with funds received through a grant from the Firehouse Public Safety Foundation. Overall, there was a reduction in crime of 12% in 2023.

5,343 Hours of Training

- *SWAT School*
- *Firearms Instructor*
- *Police-Counter Sniper School*
- *Use of Force Instructor School*
- *Georgia Law Enforcement Command College*



Sgt. Miguel Lopez and Cpl. Brittany O'Steen graduated from Command College.

Community Policing

- *National Faith & Blue Weekend*
- *Health and Wellness Day*
- *Women's Firearms Safety Course*
- *Career Day at Elementary Schools*
- *Kicking It for the Kids Charity Tournament*
- *Community Toy Drive & Shop with a Cop*
- *Egg Hunt at Roundtree Park*
- *Citizens Police Academy*
- *Cookie with a Cop*
- *Halloween Trick or Treat Events*
- *Community and School Meetings*
- *Leadership and Gang Violence Meeting*
- *Active Shooter/Critical Incident Exercise*
- *Douglas-Coffee County Teen Court*
- *Crime Victims Awareness Week Luncheon*
- *Discover Douglas Event*
- *Operation Holiday Freeze Out Crime*



Crime Stats

- 28,158 Calls for Service
- 970 Arrests
- 2,898 Citations Issued
- 3,739 Warnings Issued
- 931 Traffic Accidents
- 8,528 Traffic Stops
- 1,836 Warrants Served
- 462 CIU Cases Investigated



• 0 Criminal Homicide



• 2 Forcible Rape



• 13 Robbery

• 66 Assault

• 2 Arson

• 49 Burglary



• 136 Larceny/Theft/Ent. Auto

• 9 Sex Crime

• 32 Criminal Trespass/Damage



• 52 Forgery/Fraud/Other

• 10 Crimes Against Children



Since 2022, there has been a **12%** decrease in crime.



In July 2023, DPD announced plans to implement ShotSpotter technology across the city limits of Douglas to help combat gun violence. Douglas Police Department will receive funds from \$110,000—Governor's Office of Planning & Budget & \$100,000—Public Safety & Community Violence Reduction Grant to assist with implementation.



Feeding the CHS Trojans Football Team



Shop With A Cop



Douglas Police Department's K-9 Taco, received a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K-9s, Inc. K-9 Taco's vest was embroidered with the sentiment "In Memory of Daisy".



THIS MONUMENT IS TO HONOR ALL THOSE
WHO FOUGHT AND DIED FOR OUR FREEDOM.
*** GOD BLESS OUR FALLEN SOLDIERS ***

In 2023, the Veterans Park Committee added several enhancements to the Veterans Park which included the Fallen Soldier Memorial, Space Force flag, and extension of the Pave the Way brick area.

Applauding Public Trust

Boards, Commissions & Authorities

The City of Douglas provides numerous opportunities for citizens to serve the community through various Boards, Commissions, Authorities and Advisory Committees. The primary goal of an appointment to one of these entities is to provide a greater opportunity for citizens of Douglas to have active participation in advising local government before decisions are made that will affect citizens. Through participation on an Authority, Board, or Committee, citizens can have an active voice in their government.

Air Base Preservation and Development Committee

The goal of the Air Base Preservation & Development Committee is to identify, evaluate, and plan for rehabilitation, adaptive use, and restoration of the historic structures at the WWII Air Base, a hidden jewel within our community.



Memorial for B-17 Flying Fortress Crew

Land Bank Authority

The main objective of the joint Land Bank is to acquire tax delinquent and non-revenue generating and return the property to productive use; the sale of land and property for the development of affordable housing; and the abatement of delinquent taxes.



Sell of 4th Property at 409 Chester Ave. extension.

Airport Commission

The Airport Commission acts as an advisory commission to the City Commission for recommendations regarding the safe operation and development of the Douglas Municipal-Gene Chambers Airport.



Douglas-Coffee County Parks & Recreation Commission

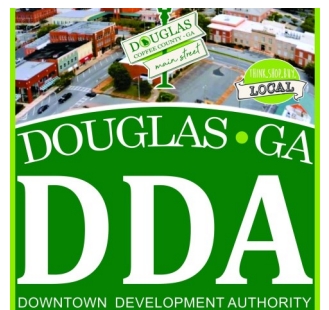
The Parks and Recreation Commission was formed to act as an advisory board to leadership regarding administrative matters with programs, facilities, and services of the Parks and Recreation Department.



Recreation Master Plan Planning Meeting

Downtown Development Authority of Douglas

The Downtown Development Authority (D.D.A.) works to promote and develop business plans and manages the downtown business district. The DDA works with local business, associations, citizens, local government, and E.D.A. to bring about revitalization and economic development in the downtown area.



Boards, Commissions & Authorities

Planning Commission

A joint city-county advisory board to the city commission and county commission that makes recommendations regarding the Joint Coffee County-City of Douglas Comprehensive Plan, Unified Land Development Code, Zoning Map in the form of zoning and rezoning and annexations into the city as well as other duties.



Planning Commission Meeting

Douglas-Coffee County Teen Court

Teen Court is a juvenile diversion program for first time offenders who have committed misdemeanor offenses and who recognize the error of their ways and desire a second chance. The goal of Teen Court is to intervene and reduce the incidences and escalations of law breaking behaviors.



Mock Trial

Douglas Team-Georgia Initiative for Community Housing

The focus of the Douglas Housing Team is to help improve the quality of life and economic vitality through the development of locally driven housing and revitalization strategies.



Douglas Mayor's Youth Council

The mission of the Douglas Mayor's Youth Council is to broaden the scope of youth leadership in Douglas, Georgia through volunteerism, service and initiatives that are directed toward allowing youth input into policy issues, identification of youth issues, and participation in the development of positive solutions.



Historic Preservation Committee

Purpose and intent is to establish a uniform procedure for use in providing the protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of places, districts, sites, buildings, structures, objects, and landscape features having a special historical, cultural, or aesthetic interest or value, in accordance with the Code of Ordinance.



Historic Ashley-Slater House

Coffee County Historical Society

Oversees the operation of the Heritage Station Museum and makes recommendations to the Community Development Director, City Manager and Commission regarding the operations and programming for Heritage Station Museum. Hosts monthly History at High Noon Program the last Wednesday of the month (January-October).



Veterans Park Committee

The Veterans Park Committee was formed to bring awareness to Veterans and our Veterans Park located at Douglas Municipal Airport. Our Veterans Park is a tribute to all service men and women who have served and sacrificed for our freedom.



Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Ceremony



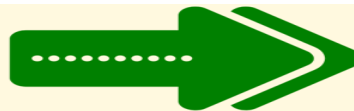
Veterans Park

Additional Boards and Committees

- Cemetery Committee
- Citizens Advisory Committee
- Douglas Greenway Trail Committee
- Douglas Housing Authority Board
- Ethics Committee
- Library Board



What's Happening Next??



CDBG '22 – Head Start Program Facility

CDBG '24 – Housing Rehab Application

RAS—Revitalization Area Strategy Update

Water Infrastructure

- TnT Lift Station Project
- Hwy 158 W Water Expansion
- Well 6 Rehabbing
- Thompson Drive Water and Sewer Extension
- George Drive Water and Sewer Extension
- Satilla Park Water and Sewer Extension

Public Works

- TSPLOST referendum planning
- TIA (aka TSPLOST) Planning
- McDonald Road Sidewalk and Drainage Improvements
- Chester Avenue Sidewalk and Drainage (Culvert) Improvements
- West Green Hwy (SR 135/US 221) Sidewalk Improvements
- Lupo Lane Sidewalk and Drainage Improvements
- Baker Hwy, East (SR 158) Sidewalk Improvements
- West Walker Street Sidewalk Improvements
- Road Improvements at Douglas Municipal Airport (little dirt road)
- Century Drive Cul-de-sac Planning
- George Drive Paving Project
- Center Court Rehab Project

Quality of Life Infrastructure

- Roundtree Park Renovation Planning
- Unity Park Rehab Planning
- New Soccer Complex Planning
- Huckaby Center Rehab Planning
- Dog Park at Whispering Pines Park
Under Design – Completion Winter 2025
- 63rd Roadside Park and Airport Circle Project –
Under Design (Completion Fall 2024)
- Wheeler Park – Addition (City and Community Foundation)
- Pickle Ball Courts

Public Safety

- SpotShooter Planning and Implementation in Spring 2024
- Car Camera/Body Camera/Taser Replacement Planning
- Electric Vehicle Testing Program
- Fire Station #3 Rehab Planning –
Begin Construction in June 2024

Airport

- Multiple GDOT/FAA CIP Projects
- Airport Terminal Rehab Projects



City of *Douglas* Georgia

The City of Douglas 2023 Annual Report is compiled by the Community Development/Public Information Division. For more information concerning this report, contact the City Manager's Office at (912) 389-3401 or email cdavis@cityofdouglasga.gov.

