



**LAGRANGE**  
GEORGIA

# MAYOR'S UPDATE 2022



# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



## MOST NOTABLE

Georgia Trend Magazine named Mayor Thornton as one of its 50 Most Notable Georgians on its 2022 list. The list recognizes leaders who are making a significant impact in their community and across the state.

Our focus is on the future. In this annual report, we take a look at some of the fun and exciting things that are happening in LaGrange, and we also share some of the behind the scenes work that keeps LaGrange moving forward. Even as we look back on events that have already happened or are underway, we never lose sight of the reason we do them—to make LaGrange a better place with a brighter future.

I hope you will take time to learn more about our city and why and how we do things. I find that when people learn about the city and the various projects underway, they tend to be very excited and impressed with the direction we are going. I continue to affirm that it's great to be a resident of LaGrange in 2022, and it's only going to get better.

As I embark on my third term as mayor, I appreciate all of those who strive to make LaGrange better every day. I am grateful to the people of LaGrange who have allowed me to continue serving as their mayor.

Mayor Jim Thornton



## GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

LaGrange Mayor Jim Thornton took the oath of office as the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) President Sunday, August 8, 2021. The ceremony took place during the GMA's annual meeting in Savannah, Georgia.

Thornton was first elected to the LaGrange City Council in 2009, and after serving one full term on the council, was elected Mayor in 2013. Within GMA, he has served on the Board of Directors and has previously chaired the Legislative Policy Council, the Federal Policy Council, the Member Services Advisory Council, and the Municipal Government Policy Committee. Thornton was appointed as a co-chair of the recently established GMA Equity and Inclusion Commission.

LaGrange Mayor Jim Thornton is the third LaGrange mayor to serve as President of GMA. LaGrange Mayor R. S. O'Neal was elected President of GMA in 1944 and LaGrange Mayor Frank Tigner was elected President of GMA in 1955. Numerous LaGrange mayors and city council members have served on the Board of GMA and on its various committees throughout the history of the organization.

# LAGRANGE CITY COUNCIL



The LaGrange City Council: front row (from left): Councilman LeGree McCamey, Mayor Jim Thornton, Tom Gore; back row: Councilman Mark Mitchell, Councilman Nathan Gaskin, Councilman Jim Arrington & Mayor Pro Tem Willie T. Edmondson.

The council is the legislative body; its members are the community's decision makers. The council focuses on the community's goals, major projects, and long-term considerations such as community growth, land use development, capital improvements, capital financing, and strategic planning. The council hires a professional manager to carry out the administrative responsibilities and supervises the manager's performance.

City Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 208 Ridley Avenue. Council work sessions are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 11 a.m. in the city manager's third floor conference room in City Hall, 200 Ridley Avenue.

## IN MEMORIAM



District 2 City Councilman LeGree McCamey

On January 20, 2022, the City of LaGrange lost one of its beloved community leaders, District 2 City Council Member LeGree McCamey. Serving as a member of City Council for over 14 years, McCamey is fondly remembered by his fellow council members as a team player and consistent advocate for the constituents of District 2, as well as the entire city.

Born and raised in LaGrange, McCamey was a graduate of LaGrange High School. He later earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees of Music at the University of West Georgia. After completing his education, Mr. McCamey returned to LaGrange and served as the longtime Minister of Music for First Baptist Church Fannin Street.

In addition to his leadership role as an elected official, McCamey had a long and distinguished record of community, civic, and church service. He served as a Board member of the LaGrange Symphony Orchestra, was a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, served as Assistant Conductor of Sons of LaFayette Male Chorus, and composed and recorded the 1994 West Georgia Regional United Way theme song "Reach Out."



# PARKS

Parks are vital components of the fabric of any community and provide a multitude of benefits. The City of LaGrange is committed to providing high quality park destinations for its citizens and guests. Our goal is to create unique spaces that serve a diverse group of all ages and abilities. (The city is taking back the park system after 20 years and we are focused on maintenance and redevelopment projects.) The first step toward this process was the creation of a Master Parks Plan in 2019, which will provide a framework and guide for decision making. As we recognize there is much work to accomplish, we have focused on a few projects that become early priorities detailed on these pages.

New City responsibilities: Bell Line, Calumet Park, Dunson Park, Eastside Park, Easy Street Park, Edgewood Park, Granger Playground, Haralson Street Field, Jackson Street Park, Lindsey Street Park and Union Street.

The City also maintains the Square, Sweetland Amphitheatre, Southbend Park and The Thread.

## GRANGER PLAYGROUND

The city committed SPLOST dollars approved by LaGrange residents to replace playground equipment in Granger Playground. As part of the master plan, a complete redevelopment of the park began in November 2021. The playground will feature all-new equipment, a “trike track”, a picnic pavilion, additional parking, a unique boardwalk structure and a walking trail with direct connection to The Thread.





## PARK ON HAMILTON ROAD

Construction is underway in order to replace the popular Union Street Park, which was acquired by GDOT during the Hamilton Road widening project. The new park will be located on Hamilton Road, bordered by Colquitt and Brown Streets, not far from the former park. Amenities in this new park will include a playground and fitness equipment, walking trails, a beautiful outdoor covered stage for community events, open greenspace, adult swings, pavilions, BBQ grills and game tables.

## BENJAMIN HARVEY HILL LINEAR PARK

Crews began construction on Benjamin Harvey Hill Linear Park along Whitesville Road near Handley and Chatham Streets in Fall 2021. A linear park along the newly remodeled LaGrange Housing Authority development, this project is approximately 2 acres consisting of a curvilinear sidewalk, fencing, site lighting and landscaping to include grassing, low ground cover, bushes and ornamental trees.



## NEW PARKS DIRECTOR

In 2021, the city created the new position of Parks Director. Michael Coniglio was hired to oversee and maintain all city parks, The Thread, Sweetland Amphitheatre and Lafayette Square. Coniglio will also oversee the city's litter cleanup campaign, Leaving LaGrange Better Than We Found It. If you have any questions about parks please contact Michael at [mconiglio@lagrangega.org](mailto:mconiglio@lagrangega.org).



## CITY PARKS BRANDING

As the city park system is being expanded and renovated, there is also a significant branding project underway. The goal of the branding project is to reinforce the identity of each park while enhancing the style and feel of the park system. Be on the lookout for new signage at each renovated park!

# THE THREAD

The Thread is a trail network consisting of 29 miles of multi-use trail connecting key destinations – downtown, neighborhoods, parks, the college and the hospital. The goal of The Thread is to enhance the health and overall quality of life for LaGrange citizens and visitors. To date, 10 miles of the trail have been completed, with investments from the city, county, state, Callaway Foundation, Friends of The Thread and various land owners exceeding 8.5 million dollars.

## COMPLETED

### SEGMENT 7

The ribbon cutting for the seventh segment of The Thread was held May 2021. This scenic segment continues the trail from the LaGrange College Baseball Complex down Panther Way, through greenspace owned by Callaway Foundation, and across Dallis Street to the Coleman Center where there is a trailhead parking lot. There is also a spur up Dallis Street at the intersection of Lincoln Street and Garfield Street. This segment received partial funding through a \$200,000 grant given by the Department of Natural Resources.

### SEGMENT 8A

This segment extends from Southbend Park to Kex Mill, at the intersection of Miller and Leeman Streets, was completed in spring 2021 and is now open to the public.

## IN PROGRESS

### SEGMENT 8B

Segment 8B extends Segment 8A from the old Kex Mill property at the intersection of Miller and Leeman Streets to the Callaway Clock Tower on 4th Avenue. Once this segment is completed, the first large loop of The Thread consisting of 5.2 miles will be completed. This segment is currently delayed due to right of way needed from CSX. The city hopes to be under construction of this portion of trail in late 2022.

### SEGMENT 9

Segment 9 extends from the Coleman Center on Dallis Street to the Callaway Clock Tower on 4th Avenue. Construction on this roughly one mile of section of trail is starting in January 2022.



Ribbon Cutting for the Hillside Segment of The Thread May 2021



## DOWN THE ROAD

### CEMETERY CONNECTION

This connection to The Thread will extend from Miller Street to the Kex Mill property on Leeman Street and includes a spur to the Mulberry Street Cemetery where the city and Visit LaGrange are planning a revitalization project.

### NUTWOOD WINERY CONNECTION

This connection will extend from the George Harris Baseball Field off of Ragland Street to Nutwood Winery on Upper Big Springs Road. This part of the trail will be completely off road and extend about a mile.

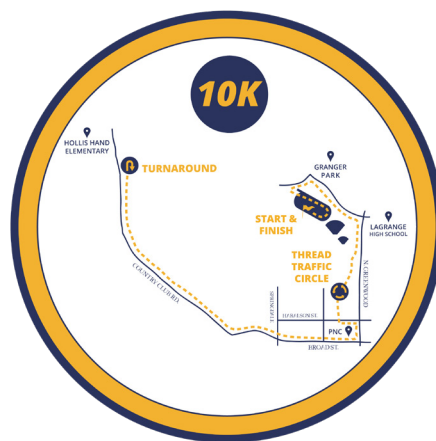
### RIDLEY LAKE SEGMENT

This segment will extend the trail from Nutwood Winery across Davis Road to the future Ridley Lake Park. It will include a roughly one mile loop around scenic Ridley Lake.

To view the master plan in detail, visit [THETHREADTRAIL.ORG/MAPS](http://THETHREADTRAIL.ORG/MAPS).

To learn more about The Thread go Facebook.com/FriendsofTheThread or download The Thread Trail app.

Segment 7 of the Thread



## EMORY THREAD ROAD RACES

The Emory Thread Road Races are scheduled for February 26, 2022. This will include the first AJC Peachtree Road Race qualifier on The Thread. The start and finish of the race will be the Granger Park track and entirely on The Thread Trail.

# HOUSING

## DAWSON STREET SCHOOL

In April 2021, the LaGrange City Council approved the transfer of ownership of the former Dawson Street School to Tammy Finley, an Atlanta developer. Finley is currently renovating the school to accommodate approximately 14 townhome units. She is also planning to develop a pocket neighborhood consisting of approximately 67 housing units behind the former school site.

Finley was instrumental in redeveloping the former Dixie Cotton Mill site into luxury lofts with this development being located in the 700 block of Greenville Street.



## UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

The Mayor and City Council approved the adoption of the City's new Unified Development Ordinance on June 22, 2021. City staff worked for more than two years with Canvas Planning Group to review and update the basic zoning ordinances of the City, including the zoning map, which were more than 30 years old. City staff held three community open house events, nearly forty steering committee meetings, and numerous coordinated meetings with interested parties, developers and the Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals prior to the adoption of these new ordinances.

## DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

The LaGrange City Council approved the authorization of an MOU between EYC Companies, LLC, the Callaway Foundation, the Downtown LaGrange Development Authority, the Troup County Board of Commissioners, and the City of LaGrange as part of a \$41 million public-private partnership that includes an apartment complex, a parking garage, and retail space in downtown LaGrange. Under this agreement, the city will contribute \$1,000,000 for public parking, as well as streetscape work to be located immediately adjacent to the development. This development will be located in the 200 block of Main Street in downtown LaGrange, the former location of Loy's Office Supply. This project will include 144 apartments, 4,000 square feet of retail space, and a parking garage consisting of 280 parking spaces.

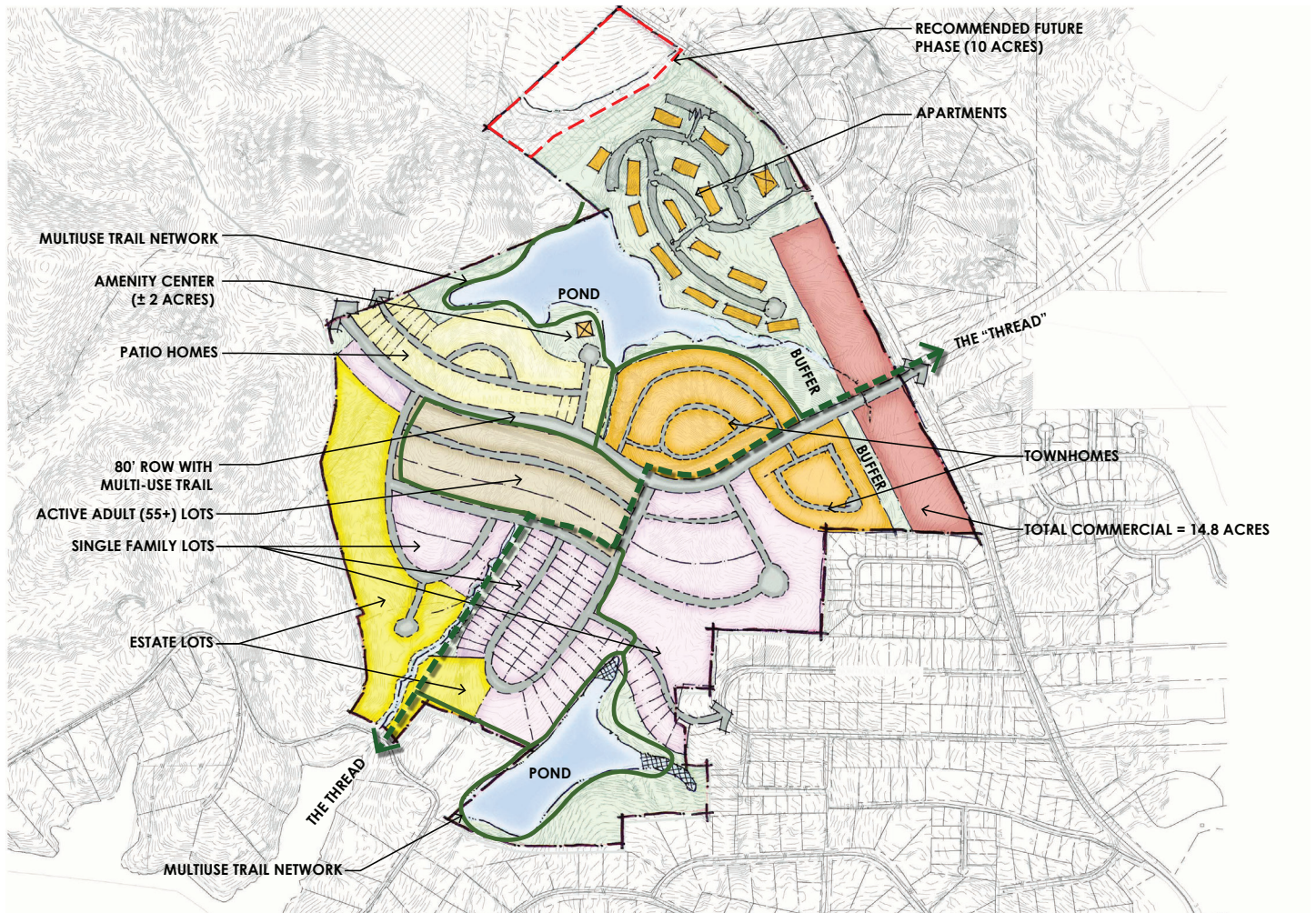


Proposed \$41 million development in downtown LaGrange



## NEWMAN PROPERTY

Proposals to develop a +/- 830 acre tract of land located on Mooty Bridge Road between Ann Bailey Way and West Point Lake, locally known as the Newman property, had previously been contemplated dating back to March 1996. For a variety of reasons, the previous visions for this picturesque property failed to come to fruition. The exciting news is that this property has recently been acquired by American Charter Development with site preparation anticipated to commence in late Spring 2022. The first phase of this five phase project is expected to consist of approximately 230 acres which will include single-family, active adult, and estate homes along with multi-family and neighborhood commercial components.



## RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

The City of LaGrange is currently experiencing a significant increase in proposed residential development options throughout our community, the likes of which have not been seen for nearly two decades. This is extremely exciting news based on our current lack of available housing inventory across all price points. While some of this potential development remains speculative in nature, builders and developers alike have shown significant, albeit not exclusive, interest in acquiring property in order to construct housing units along the South Davis Road and Hamilton Road corridors.



# DOWNTOWN INVESTMENTS

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## LAFAYETTE SQUARE FOUNTAIN LIGHTING UPDATE

Lafayette Square’s water fountain received a lighting update in 2021 that included repairing and updating the electrical components in the chamber below the fountain structure, as well as updating the fountain lighting to 56 multi-color LED color changing light fixtures. The new system will allow the color and lighting sequence of the fountain to celebrate special events in the community.

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## STREETSCAPE PROJECT AT RIDLEY AVENUE/WEST HARALSON STREET

Plans are underway for a new streetscape project at the intersection of Ridley Avenue and West Haralson Street. The improvements will include a four faced post clock, water fountain, new gas and electric lighting, pavers, stormwater mitigation efforts and landscaping.



## STREETSCAPE PROJECT AT BULL STREET AND BROOME STREET

The city plans to enhance this corner at the intersection of Bull Street and Broome Street, including installation of new pavers, electric and gas lighting, benches and landscaping.

# INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The City of LaGrange elected to issue a series of bonds to finance several water and sewer capital projects. These bonds will pay for improvements and updates that will keep the city's water and sewer systems in compliance with all regulatory requirements, provide for economic growth, and continue to provide quality water and sewer services to customers.

## WATER & SEWER CAPITAL PROJECTS

### WALTER WILLIAMS FILTRATION PLANT REPAIRS AND UPGRADES

The Walter Williams Water Filtration Plant located on Cameron Mill Road is undergoing repairs to the existing structure, including windows, doors, and roofing which will help to extend the life of the structure. We are also updating the plant's gravity filters, valves, and electric actuators. The building was initially built in 1949 and expanded in 1969 and again in 1992.



Walter Williams Filtration Plant

### HAMILTON ROAD WATER AND SEWER RELOCATION PROJECT

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is in the process widening Hamilton Road from Morgan Street to Auburn Street. The city will need to relocate water and sewer lines within the Right-of-Way of this 1.42 mile project. The relocations will require a complete replacement of the existing water and sewer system within the project limits.

### LIFT STATION REPLACEMENTS

The city will be installing lift stations at the following locations:

- Mooty Bridge Road Lift Station including infiltration and inflow mitigation
- Whitesville Road Lift Station
- Hills and Dales Farm Road Lift Station

### ROSEMONT WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

The City of LaGrange will provide a water main extension for both public drinking water and fire protection to the proposed new Rosemont Elementary School. The existing water main near the intersection of John Lovelace Road and Wexford Drive will extend to Lower Big Springs Road, down Robertson Road, and out Hamilton Road. The construction cost will be shared with the Troup County Board of Education and Troup County Board of Commissioners. Troup County will also be responsible for the capital cost of fire hydrants installed in the unincorporated area.

### LONG CANE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS

The Long Cane Wastewater Treatment Plant located on Old Hutchinson Mill Road will receive improvements to the pre-aeration basin, the aeration basin, secondary clarifiers, RAS pumping, thickening and aerobic digestion, SCADA System, onsite storm water piping, and effluent discharge. This project will increase treatment capacity and improve operational efficiencies at the plant.



Long Cane Wastewater Treatment Plant

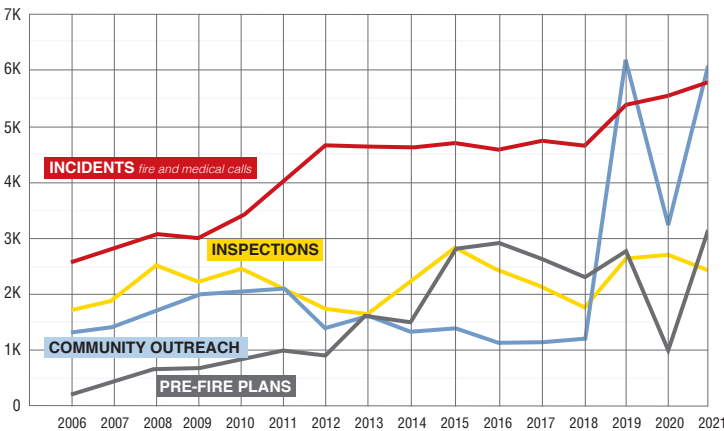
# PUBLIC SAFETY / FIRE

## WHAT WE DO

The LaGrange Fire Department (LFD) provides **fire protection** and **emergency medical services (EMS)** to the residents of LaGrange. Engines, ladders, and ambulances are housed at 5 stations across the City. The department also contains specialized divisions that investigate fires, provide public education and deal with hazardous materials,

The City of LaGrange maintains an **'ISO Class 2'** rating by the Insurance Services Office which is the second highest possible rating and ranks LaGrange as providing superior fire protection. The rating provides measurable savings in property insurance premiums for home and business owners in our community.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY 2006-2021



## EMPHASIS ON TRAINING

Firefighters completed 26,000 hours of training in 2021. Also, recognizing the shortage of paramedics in the area, LFD initiated a local paramedics class in 2020. Ten students graduated from the program in 2021. The department also gained five additional fire investigators through the four-week fire investigation program at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC).

Chief John Brant and Garrett Brubaker both achieved Fire Chief Certification through the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION... DID YOU KNOW?

It is the mission of the LaGrange Fire Department to provide the community with life safety education. The members of the department believe strongly in the power of fire and life safety education. Education is one of the most effective tools we can use to have a positive influence in reducing injuries and deaths. By educating those who live and work in the City of LaGrange and surrounding areas, we can save lives and protect property.

The Public Education/Prevention Division provides the following services to our community:

- Presentations to Adult and Senior Programs
- Fire Station Visits
- Smoke Detector Installations
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- CPR and First Aid Training
- Partners in Education Program
- Blood Drives
- School Career Days
- Boot Drives
- School Programs
- Demonstrations of the Fire Safety House
- Workplace Safety Information

## WE WILL NEVER FORGET

The LaGrange Fire Department hosted its annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb Challenge Saturday, September 11, 2021 in the LaGrange High School Sports Complex. More than 100 people participated in running 110 stadium steps up and 110 stadium steps down. There were 110 flights of stairs in the Twin Towers. During the event, radio traffic from 9/11 and inspirational music was played. All the proceeds from this event were donated to the Terry Farrell Firefighter Fund.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Conducted **88** public education events
- Installed **110** smoke detectors
- Conducted **528** blood pressure checks

# PUBLIC SAFETY / POLICE

## CALEA & STATE ACCREDITATION

The LaGrange Police Department received its 8th CALEA Accreditation award. This year they also received the Meritorious Advanced Accreditation award for receiving accreditation for fifteen or more consecutive years. To receive the CALEA Accreditation, the agency must demonstrate a commitment to professional excellence in policy and practice. The accreditation is accomplished through a highly regarded and broadly recognized body of professional standards. The agency is required to maintain continuous compliance during the four year assessment cycle.

LPD also received the its eighth consecutive State Certification by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, or GACP. The LaGrange Police Department was initially certified in 1998 and has been in the State Certification program for twenty-three years. This marks LPD's 8th Re-Certification. State Certification is a voluntary program that the agency elects to participate in to improve overall performance and to continue to strengthen the connection with the agency and the citizens it serves. This program requires compliance with a set of standards that, when followed, incorporate contemporary professional thought and practices into Georgia law enforcement. The Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police also presented LPD Accreditation Officer Lt. Karen Sanders with a Certificate of Appreciation for her dedicated work on the Accreditation process.

PART I CRIME	2020	2021	%
HOMICIDE	4	7	75%
RAPE	4	3	-25%
ROBBERY	38	36	-5.3%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	74	100	35%
BURGLARY	168	182	8.3%
LARCENY THEFT	1,384	1,106	-20%
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	117	91	-22.2%
ARSON	5	4	-20%
<b>TOTAL PART I CRIMES</b>	<b>1,794</b>	<b>1,529</b>	<b>-14.8%</b>

## LPD RENOVATION

Phase Two of the Police Department renovation is currently underway. This phase consists of enhancements to the lower level parking lot with new storm drainage, decorative lights, pavement demolition and a new security fence and gate. Phase one of the renovation included building improvements including an additional 5,000 square feet of usable work space. The first phase was completed in 2020.



## CHIEF LOU DEKMAR

Chief Dekmar was selected to serve on the National Council on Criminal Justice based on LPD's accountability systems and community outreach efforts.



Dekmar was also selected to co-chair the GMA Excellence in Policing Certification Program with College Park Mayor Bianca Motley Broom.

## COMMUNITY SECURITY

LPD conducted a comprehensive review of the city-based camera system and increased its coverage, eliminating a lack of coverage in most entry and exit points into LaGrange.



# JOBS

## REMINGTON FIREARMS

Remington Firearms announced in November plans to locate its global headquarters and open a new advanced manufacturing operation as well as a world-class research and development center in LaGrange, investing \$100 million and creating more than 850 jobs. Several of the company's strategic products will be manufactured in Georgia. The new headquarters will also become home to an innovative research and development center. The company will be hiring for positions in production, operations, engineering, and management, as well as careers in HR, finance, and administration in Remington's onsite executive offices.



### ABOUT REMINGTON FIREARMS

Founded in 1816, Remington Firearms is one of the nation's oldest firearms brands, operating for 205 years. Remington is one of the largest producers of shotguns and rifles in the world.



## KIMBERLY-CLARK

Longtime community partner Kimberly-Clark was in jeopardy of closing its diaper plant in 2021 due to competitive trends in the diaper industry. Fortunately, the company was able to commit a capital investment of \$62.7 million to retool the entire facility, securing 250 jobs located on the campus.



## JINTECH AMERICA

The commitment to the automotive industry remained strong in LaGrange in 2021 with new company JinTech America locating to LaGrange. The company made a \$12 million commitment in equipment and improvements in an existing facility located in the Jim Hamilton Park and has created an additional 55 jobs.



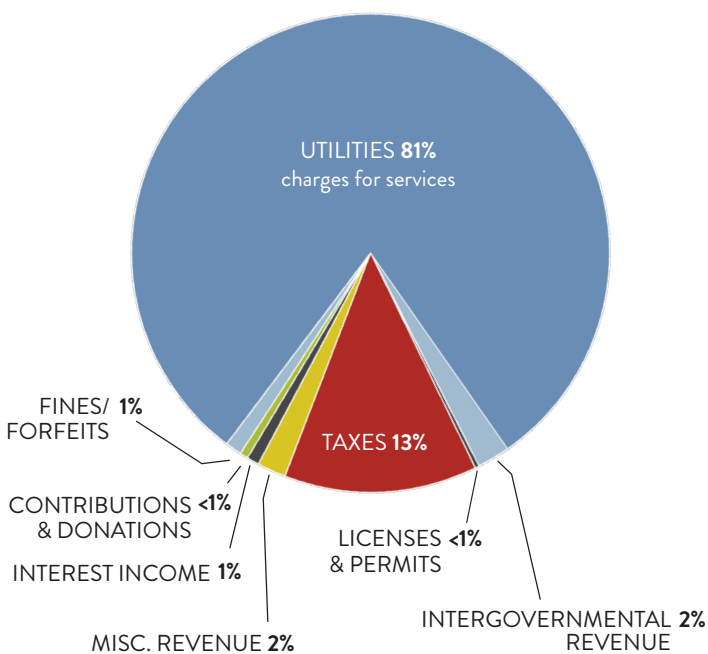
# FINANCE

## WHAT DOES IT COST? HOW DO WE PAY FOR IT?

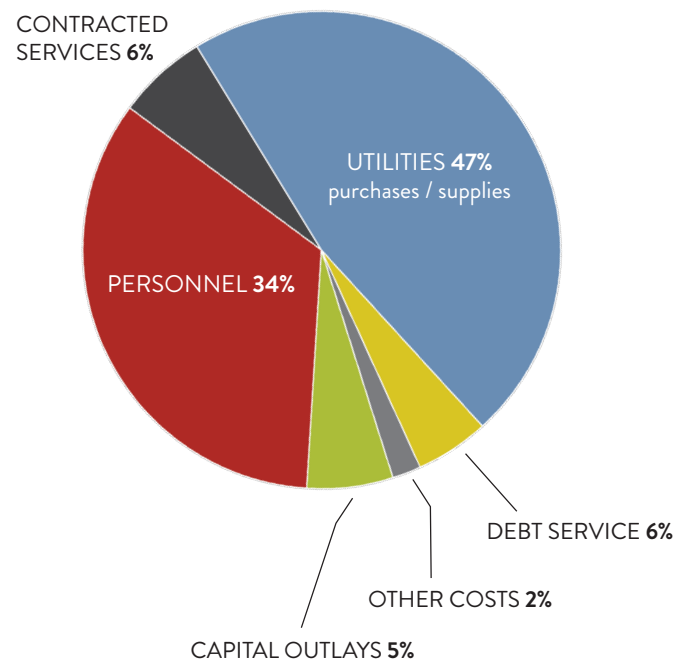
The City's operational and financial performance is very strong. Since 1998, municipal operations have been financed largely by sales tax and utility revenues. This allows the City to operate entirely without property taxes. Businesses and homeowners in LaGrange enjoy a lower tax burden and a higher level of service than other comparable communities throughout the Southeastern United States.

The City has historically offered utility rates that are very competitive when compared to other area suppliers. Tax exempt financing and efficient operations help us maintain low rates for our customers.

2021-2022 REVENUES \$109,273,420



2021-2022 EXPENSES \$108,622,378



## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (ARPA)

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) was passed by the U.S. Congress to provide for a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. ARPA provides \$350 billion directly to state and local governments, including the City of LaGrange, to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible uses for ARPA funds include addressing ongoing public health responses costs, addressing the negative economic impacts of COVID-19, and supporting city operations and government services.

Local governments with a population under 500,000 will receive allocations in two tranches. The first half was received in July of 2021. The second tranche is scheduled for one year later. The City of LaGrange will receive a total of \$11,316,988 of ARPA funds over the two tranches.

In addition to community investments, the City will allocate ARPA monies to address deficits in the city budget due to pandemic-related revenue losses. Allocating funds for revenue replacement allows the city to continue providing core services to residents without raising utility rates.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## INTERNS

The Marketing/Communications Department is proud to provide internships for young people wanting to learn more about city government. Four interns including Libby Criswell, Zoie Mitchell, Jamal Jones and Sydney Edelson completed internships in 2021 and presented what they learned to the Mayor and City Council at a regular meeting. All four interns were all either former or currently LaGrange Youth Council members.



2021 Interns Libby Criswell, Zoie Mitchell, Sydney Edelson & Jamal Jones

## MAYOR THORNTON GOES ON THE ROAD

Mayor Thornton will begin hosting a new monthly show in March 2022. The mayor will go out into the community for this show that will feature



a new guest every month with an update on important issues. You can watch the shows on [www.facebook.com/LGTV.org](http://www.facebook.com/LGTV.org).

## LAGRANGE 101

The City of LaGrange plans to offer an opportunity for citizens to learn more about local government in its LaGrange 101 class. This 6-week class offers citizens the opportunity to experience an inside look at city government and help participants develop into more informed and involved citizens. This free class will be held in October 2022, with applications available in summer 2022.



## YOUTH COUNCIL

In 2015, the Mayor and Council created the LaGrange Youth Council to provide the youth of our community with a more formal role in decision making, offer real world experiences with elected bodies, provide leadership opportunities and enhance civic education. The LYC voted to focus their efforts on three priorities this year including mental health awareness, mentorship & sustainability. During the year the group learns about government from local and state elected leaders as well as city staff. The group participates in an escape room exercise to learn about team building and tours the state capitol. LYC will begin accepting applications for the 2022-2023 year in spring 2022.



LaGrange Youth Council 2021-2022



# ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN



## LEAVING LAGRANGE BETTER THAN WE FOUND IT

The City of LaGrange continued its monthly litter cleanup campaign, Leaving LaGrange Better Than We Found It, in 2021 despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Participation continued to grow in 2021 and at the March 6th event, more than 100 volunteers from several organizations worked together to clean up the Calumet neighborhood.

Some of the organizations that partnered with the city in 2021 include Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Calumet Neighborhood Association, LaGrange Troup Chamber of Commerce, LaGrange College, Junior Service League of LaGrange, the Bell Line Community, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, LaGrange Youth Council, LaGrange Fire Department, LaGrange Police Department and countless other groups joined too.

City staff were invited to discuss the litter cleanup campaign and hold a cleanup in downtown LaGrange with the students at the First Presbyterian Montessori School. Dozens of young people learned the importance of leaving LaGrange better than we found it.

City Manager Meg Kelsey began this litter cleanup campaign in April 2018 hoping to send a message to the community that the City of LaGrange is serious about cleanup up our community. This initial event was so successful the city decided to begin hosting monthly litter pickups.

## THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

The city invested in new equipment in the fight against litter. The city's new litter picker picks up litter 10 times faster than city staff alone. The machinery is pulled behind a tractor and picks up litter as it drives over the trash. When this equipment is on the roadway, citizens will also see a dump truck as well as two city employees picking up litter in areas the machinery can't reach.



INTERESTED IN PARTNERING WITH THE CITY ON A CLEANUP?  
Contact Parks Director Michael Coniglio [mconiglio@lagrangega.org](mailto:mconiglio@lagrangega.org)



# SWEETLAND AMPHITHEATRE

## THE SHOW MUST GO ON

Sweetland Amphitheatre opened its 2021 Concert Season July 16th just weeks after Governor Kemp lifted the ban on outdoor events. The 2020 Concert Season was cancelled because of Covid but Sweetland staff were able to reschedule the majority of the concerts.



Boyz II Men

## LIVE MUSIC COMES BACK

The 2021 concert season opened to a sold out crowd July 16th with country music star Travis Tritt. Concerts were held nearly every weekend in an effort to honor the 2020 concert season schedule. Sweetland Amphitheatre held the following concerts in 2021:

- Travis Tritt
- Emmylou Harris
- Bethel Music
- STYX
- Amy Grant
- Black Jacket Symphony
- Steve Earl & the Dukes and Los Lobos,
- Boyz II Men
- Kip Moore



## SWEETLAND ON ICE

The Great Lawn of Sweetland Amphitheatre was transformed into Sweetland on Ice November 19th through February 14th. Sweetland on Ice is a 5,500 square foot open-air ice-skating rink provided and operated by Sweetland Amphitheatre. New this year, Sweetland offered free holiday movies including Elf, The Christmas Story, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, It's a Wonderful Life and The Polar Express. These events are free and open to the public. You do have to pay to go ice skating. Also new this year, concessions offered will include beer, wine, spirits, hot chocolate, coffee, popcorn, hot dogs, chips, nachos and s'mores kits.



# VISIT LAGRANGE

Formed in 2020, Visit LaGrange, Inc. promotes LaGrange, Georgia as a tourist destination for travelers. The mission of Visit LaGrange is: **To champion unique opportunities for travelers to fall in love with LaGrange through unforgettable experiences and homegrown hospitality.**

Since 2019, local tourism tax revenue has increased 52%\*. Visitors stay overnight in LaGrange and explore a variety of attractions like Great Wolf Lodge, Biblical History Center, Hills & Dales Estate, West Point Lake, Nutwood Winery, Wild Leap Brewery and much more. An increase in tourism tax dollars means that more tourists are visiting LaGrange. Hotel occupancy is up across all hotels in 2021.

**SINCE 2019, LOCAL TOURISM TAX REVENUE IS UP 52%.**

*\*Calculated from hotel-motel tax receipts reported from 2019 and 2021, respectively.*



## VISITOR CENTER

In November, Visit LaGrange, Inc. opened a brand new Visitor Center on Ridley Avenue. This gorgeous facility is now the basecamp for all things tourism in LaGrange. Guests to our community can stop in and speak with knowledgeable staff to learn about attractions in our area.

## VISITOR CENTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Are you interested in helping visitors in our community? The Visitor Center is looking for individuals to help work in the Visitor Center to assist guests with their questions about LaGrange. Contact Lynne Holle at [lholle@visitlagrange.com](mailto:lholle@visitlagrange.com) for more details!



## SOCIAL FOLLOWING

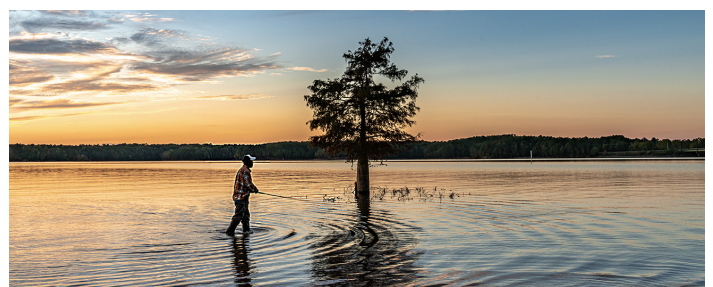


Visit LaGrange has an active digital and social media presence online, continuously posting and promoting information about our community. We have an active presence on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and now TikTok. We encourage you to follow us on any of those social channels!



## DID YOU KNOW?

- Visit LaGrange has over 25,000 followers on its social channels.
- In 2021, Visit LaGrange promoted a variety of advertisements to targeted audiences around Southeast. These ads were seen over 55 million times!



## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Animal Services  
(706) 298-3606

Business License and Permits  
(706) 883-2060

City Hall  
(706) 883-2000

City Manager/City Clerk  
(706) 883-2010

Code Enforcement  
(706) 883-2624

Customer Service  
(706) 883-2030  
*To establish or disconnect services or to pay your utility bill*

Human Resources  
(706) 883-2025

LaGrange Fire Department  
(706) 883-2650 - non emergency

LaGrange Police Department  
(706) 883-2603 - non emergency

Marketing/Communications  
(706) 883-2055

Municipal Court  
(706) 883-2026

Public Works  
(706) 883-2100

- Sanitation (Residential)
- Street Department
- Landscape Department
- Cemetery Division
- Landfill
- Recycling

Purchasing Department  
(706) 883-2046

Utility Service Center  
(706) 883-2130  
*To report a water, gas, sewer or electric service outage or emergency*



**LAGRANGE**  
GEORGIA

200 Ridley Avenue • LaGrange, GA 30240

## UTILITIES

**Billing & New Service:** (706) 883-2030

**Power Outages, Gas, Water & Sewer Leaks:**  
(706) 883-2130

### Want to pay a bill?

- **Pay online:** [www.lagrange.net](http://www.lagrange.net)
- **Pay in person:** Customer service located on the 1st floor of City Hall, 200 Ridley Avenue
- **Pay after hours:** There are 2 Drop boxes – one in drive thru and one in the city hall parking lot
- **Pay on the phone:** (706) 883-2030
- **Pay in the drive thru:** 200 Ridley Avenue, LaGrange, GA 30240
- **Pay by mail:** P.O. Box 4410, LaGrange, GA 30241-0088
- **Pay by setting up monthly autopay:** [www.lagrange.net](http://www.lagrange.net)



## CONNECT WITH LAGRANGE

706 883 2000 • [lagrangega.gov](http://lagrangega.gov)



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