



WARNING: Shark Attack! **Isle of Hope Swim Team Wins BIG!**

BY COACH DAN WILLOUGHBY

The Isle of Hope Sharks are City Champions once more! The Sharks were crowned champions of the 2023 Savannah Coastal Swim League, which has pitted local swim teams against each other for the title of SAVANNAH'S BEST SWIM TEAM every summer since 1967. Isle of Hope, a charter member of the League, had not won the title in over ten years. This year's win was a razor-thin

upset victory at the Savannah City Meet over an eight-team field that included the seven-time defending champion Savannah Golf Club Stingrays. The Discovery Channel has its SHARK WEEK, but it was SHARK DAY on July 1 at the Chatham County Aquatic Center and there were fins circling everywhere!

Summer swim teams are unique sports teams that include both girls and boys

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Front Porch

BY CHRIS BRANTLEY, EDITOR

One of the perks of living on Isle of Hope is the “Bluff Walk.”

This has become a ritual of mine since I got my dog Harper five years ago.

I used to walk the Bluff occasionally, but she forced me to do it everyday. On most days – minus those 105 heat index days when the breeze refuses to blow, and the humidity microwaves me like a bag of steamed veggies – I am grateful.

Some folks choose to drive a car, a cart, or even a bike down the Bluff. I get that.

Before I moved back to the island, I would often detour down the “most scenic road” in Savannah if I was nearby. My wife was not always amused with my diversion.

I’ve found that the slower you move down the Bluff, the more you see, smell, feel, hear and... savor.

My mind grinds away to solve some problem, but then the sun breaks through the Spanish moss hanging from an oak just right. Or the salty smell of the river tickles my nostrils just right, and I wake up. The wheels

stop turning in my head, and I become aware of what is in front of me. I unplug from my “monkey mind” and enter the here and now. I am thankful for the seemingly insignificant stuff that makes me feel alive and that life is worth living.

At times, I will stop and look out over the Skidaway River as the tide climbs or falls and notice how the river bends in the distance. Or how the flickering, flowing river kisses the marsh. I feel

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IOH Hosts Annual Art & Music Festival

2023 Isle of Hope
Art & Music
Festival

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www.iohartandmusicfestival.com

Join our historic Isle of Hope community to celebrate art and music on October 21, 2023. Nestled by the tranquil Skidaway River, the Isle of Hope Art & Music Festival welcomes local residents and visitors to enjoy a one-day festival hosting artists from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in designated show areas in and around the Isle of Hope Pavilion, Rose Avenue, Bluff Drive and Paxton Park. The festival will also feature bands on the stage

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Savannah Garden Tours- Isle of Hope 2023 invites you on a self-guided tour of 10 Isle of Hope Gardens ranging from cottages to one acre properties, on Saturday, October 14th, from 10:00 until 4:00.

"You will see a variety of gardens ranging from formal to exotic. The Gardens have water features and garden art, herb and vegetable gardens, arbors and garden gates, patios and garden paths" according to Steve Thomson, president of Savannah Garden Tours.

And that is just the beginning.

GUEST SPEAKERS will be giving 15 minute talks, including Ben Chaffee introducing us to native



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One of the intimate cottage gardens on tour



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IOH Arts & Music Festival

- Continued from page 3 -

at the Isle of Hope Marina and in Paxton Park. Art lovers will enjoy unique and handmade items from 125 local artisans such as pottery, traditional and multimedia painting, jewelry, food items, plants and photography.

For music fans, incredible musical talent will be featured from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

SINGER SONGWRITER STAGE IN PAXTON PARK

11:00 - 12:30 Josh Johansson
12:30 - 1:15 Jalen Reyes
1:15 - 3:00 Miley Kinner
3:15 - 4:45 Susana Kennedy

IOH MARINA STAGE

10:00 - 10:45 Army Band
10:45 - 11:00 DJ Dane Pentreath
11:00 - 12:15 Eric Jones Trio
12:15 - 12:45 DJ Dane Pentreath
12:45 - 2:00 Swamp Tooth
2:00 - 2:30 DJ Dane Pentreath
2:30 - 3:45 Lyn Avenue
3:45 - 4:00 DJ Dane Pentreath
4:00 - 5:30 Seth Walker Trio
5:30 - 6:00 DJ Dane Pentreath
6:00 - 8:00 Kinchafoonee Cowboys

The Isle of Hope Art & Music Festival will feature delicious food options throughout the festival. Food trucks and vendors will be located at the Isle of Hope Marina, Rose Avenue and Paxton Park with Strangebird, Okan, Nom Nom Sushi Cart, Smashed Savannah, The Burger Boat and many more.

For the younger visitors, we will have The Art Bus for

children and adults and face painting with Glitterboxx Studios, Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia and so much more.

Admission is free to the public.

Isle of Hope Art Show hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and the Isle of Hope Music Festival hours are from 10 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 21, 2023.

For more information visit us online at iohartandmusicfestival.com.

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IOH Swim Team

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and the young and the old. There are 12 different age groups on a team ranging from six years and under to 15-18 years. A 6-year-old event winner still in kindergarten scores the same number of points as an 18-year-old event winner in high school. Every single swimmer counts.

With four different strokes, two different relays, and 64 events in a swim meet, it takes a neighborhood full of swimmers to field a competitive team. (Do you "field" a swim team in a pool?) This year's Isle of

Hope team had 123 Sharks from 64 families. To steal a line from JAWS, "We are going to need a bigger pool."

The Isle of Hope pool has been an important community hub just as Willie and Rose Barbee hoped when they donated the park land to the old Isle of Hope Community Club in 1946. The pool was opened in 1965 and the swim team formed with the help of Isle of Hope families including the Tisons, Christiansens, Solanas, Pierces, Clements, Sowell, Shaws, Shumans, Espys, and Filsons.

The seven children in the Filson family could almost fill two relays by

themselves. Over the years, different families carried the Shark banner and won championships, including the Hughes, Quattlebaums, Fogartys, Miltiades, Newkirks, Bakers, Flanders, Sellers, Franklins, Jensens, Peaglers, Olivers, Biggerstaffs, and Artleys. The Sharks are now in their third generation of swimmers.

Six legacy families on this year's team, the Bernards, Bourbons, Cawthons, Longs, Martins, and Tylers, have parents and children who swam on the Sharks. The Christiansen/Castillo family has grandparents,

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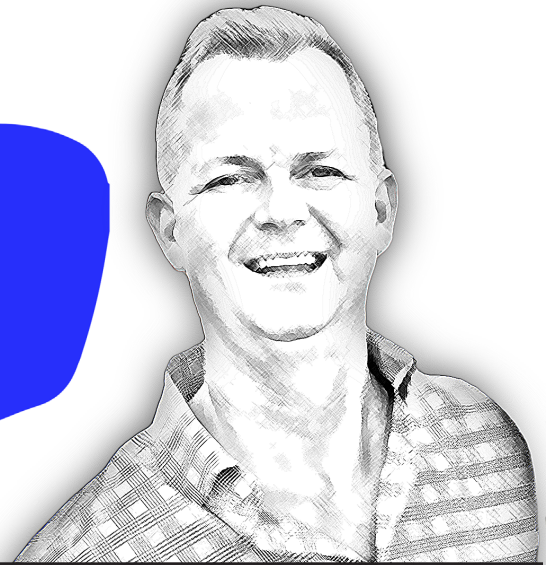
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The Economic Impact of the Hyundai Plant on the Savannah and Georgia Real Estate Market



HYUNDAI

BY ED YANNETT

Understanding the economic significance of different industries is crucial for economic development organizations seeking to maximize their investments. Economic multipliers play a key role in measuring the ripple effects of an industry's activity on job creation and overall economic growth. Among these multipliers, the manufacturing sector stands out as a driver of job creation and economic development. A prime example of this is the Hyundai Plant in Ellabell, GA. It is poised to substantially impact Savannah's economy and real estate market due to its impressive multiplier.

The Hyundai Plant's Multiplier Impact:

The Hyundai Plant is projected to create 3,000 new jobs with an average annual wage of around \$60,000 in Ellabell, GA. This amount is almost double the current Savannah average wage! The manufacturing sector boasts a multiplier of 9.0. That means every job created in the industry produces nine more in the national economy. Many of these will be local jobs. The multiplier accounts for direct employment, indirect employment, and induced jobs (jobs created when direct and indirect employees spend their increased incomes on consumer goods and services). As a result, the Hyundai Plant expects

to have a significant ripple effect on the local, regional, and national economies, including the real estate market in Savannah.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON SAVANNAH'S REAL ESTATE MARKET

Increased Housing Demand:

The creation of 10,000 plus direct and indirect jobs will bring an inpouring of workers seeking housing near the Hyundai Plant. Proximity to work is a primary consideration for many homeowners. The plant is 30 minutes from Pooler and should increase housing demand there, as well as Bryan, Chatham, Effingham, and Bulloch. The increased demand should cause property prices and rents in these areas to trend upward.

Diversification of Housing Market:

The arrival of workers from diverse backgrounds to the Hyundai Plant could also diversify Savannah's housing market. Single-family homes, townhouses, and apartments, may experience increased demand based on the preferences and demographics of the incoming workforce.

Infrastructure Development and Supporting Businesses:

The increased population in Ellabell and surrounding areas will necessitate infrastructure development to accommodate the growing

demand. The growth could result in the development of new housing projects, schools, shopping centers, and other amenities, contributing to the overall expansion and development of the region.

Real Estate Investment Opportunities:

The presence of the Hyundai Plant will attract real estate investors who recognize the region’s potential for growth and development. Increased investment activity will drive property values higher. New housing developments and other related services will be needed to accommodate the influx of new workers. (Call me to look at different investment ideas).

The Hyundai Plant’s imminent arrival in Ellabell, GA, is set to have a significant economic impact. With its high multiplier, it is going to drive substantial job creation and economic growth. This effect will resonate throughout the region, including Savannah’s real estate market. As the community navigates the changing landscape, it is essential for stakeholders and decision-makers to collaborate and strategize to ensure a well-balanced and thriving real estate market that benefits both current and future residents.

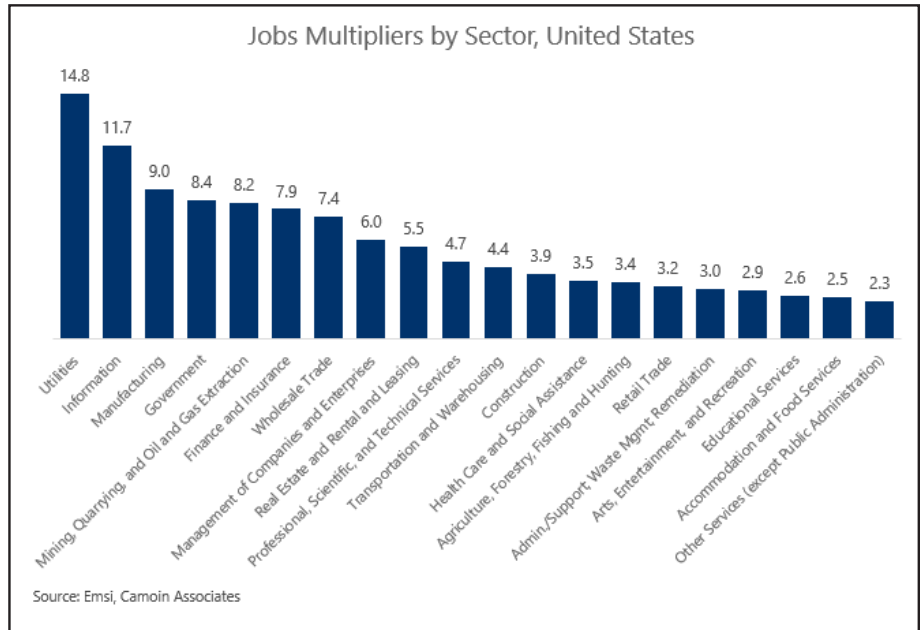
Savannah’s real estate market will experience shifts in housing demand, infrastructure development, and investment opportunities.

By closely monitoring the situation and planning for the future, the community can leverage the Hyundai Plant’s presence to bolster great-paying jobs for our economic prosperity and create a promising outlook for the real estate market in the years to come.

I will be closely monitoring this situation and report back any new developments! So stay tuned for future articles and blogs on this topic.

Industries With the Greatest Jobs Impact (Top 15), United States.			
Sector	NAICS	Industry	Jobs Multiplier
Manufacturing	324110	Petroleum Refineries	102.5
Real Estate	533110	Lessors of Nonfinancial Intangible Assets (except Copyrighted Works)	95.7
Manufacturing	311224	Soybean and Other Oilseed Processing	90.8
Manufacturing	336112	Light Truck and Utility Vehicle Manufacturing	56.0
Manufacturing	311225	Fats and Oils Refining and Blending	46.8
Manufacturing	312230	Tobacco Manufacturing	45.4
Manufacturing	325199	All Other Basic Organic Chemical Manufacturing	44.9
Manufacturing	325110	Petrochemical Manufacturing	44.1
Manufacturing	325193	Ethyl Alcohol Manufacturing	38.8
Manufacturing	325194	Cyclic Crude, Intermediate, and Gum and Wood Chemical Manufacturing	38.4
Wholesale Trade	424720	Petroleum and Petroleum Products Merchant Wholesalers (except Bulk Stations and Terminals)	35.6
Wholesale Trade	424710	Petroleum Bulk Stations and Terminals	32.2
Information	517312	Wireless Telecommunications Carriers (except Satellite)	31.6
Manufacturing	311514	Dry, Condensed, and Evaporated Dairy Product Manufacturing	31.4
Information	515210	Cable and Other Subscription Programming	27.5

Source: Emsi




Lisa, Ed & Lauren

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IOH Swim Team

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parents, and grandchildren who were Sharks.

A review of the current Savannah City Meet records shows many Shark record holders who went on to greater swimming glory, including Toni Paruso (who later swam for the US Naval Academy), Sam Parker (who currently swims for the University of Georgia), Brennan Pastorek (who later swam for Stanford University), Aaron Seymour (who currently swims for the University of Georgia), Darby Wayner (who later swam for University of Utah) and Alex Wayner

(who currently swims for Ohio University). No doubt, some current Sharks will be future record holders and NCAA swimmers!

This year's City Championship was not an overnight success. Practice started at the beginning of April shortly after the Sharks' "JOIN NOW!" roadside signs appeared on the causeway.

The first few weeks of practices were in the frigid waters of the Chatham County Aquatic Center before the Isle of Hope pool was opened. By May, the Sharks quit shivering and were working out daily, sometimes twice daily, in the warm waters of the Isle of Hope pool.

Every day, the Sharks practiced streamlining, flip turning, breath control, block starts, and championship finishes. They kicked on their fronts, backs, left sides, and right sides until they were dizzy. Daily diving drills progressed from pencil dives to side-slappers to knee-raisers to starfish jumps to rainbow dives to splashless entries that defied physics.

Each week was highlighted by a Saturday morning practice that ended with the Sharks devouring dozens of BAKER'S PRIDE donuts, the BIGGEST, BEST DONUTS

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Garden Tour

- Continued from page 5 -

plants, Jenni Brody from the Deep South Orchid Society, Terry Beasley of Oelschigs Nursery showing us perennials, Brittany Dodge from the Audubon Society and Camellia Society secretary Emilie Miller.

RENEGADE PAWS RESCUE, one of the two benefiting nonprofits, will have furry adoptable pets at the tour.

ARTS SOUTHEAST, the other benefiting nonprofit, will have one of their artists in each of the gardens displaying a few pieces of their work, all plant or nature or animal related.

Several for-profit and nonprofit VENDORS will be on hand along with a food truck.

The tour is topped off by a SPONSORS THANK YOU PARTY at a fine Bluff Drive home.

\$20 tickets are available on our Facebook page (Savannah Garden Tours - Isle of Hope 2023) and at several local businesses and at our ticket tent the day of the event.

All guests START at our TICKET TENT where they will be given a wristband and a map showing all of the gardens. The ticket tent, parking, vendors, adoptable pets and guest speakers are at St Thomas Episcopal Church on Cornus Drive. Overflow parking is available at Isle Of Hope Baptist Church.

Join the 70 good people



A colorful Bluff Drive garden

making this event happen by going to our Facebook page and signing up to be a volunteer or sponsor or member of our golf cart brigade.

Special thanks to Saint Thomas Episcopal Church,

Isle of Hope Baptist Church, the Wymberley Garden Club and the Parkersburg Garden Club.

Visit on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/officialsavgardentours>; [@MarksGarden214](https://www.facebook.com/MarksGarden214); 912-503-4755@gmail.com;

IOH Swim Team

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in the world. Sugar makes speedy Sharks.

This season included opportunities for Sharks to earn rewards for milestone performances. Older Sharks who swam a mile without stopping - 66 laps all with flip turns - earned their own "MILER SMILER" towels. Younger Sharks earned "SEMI MILER SMILER" towels for 33 laps (7-9 year-olds) or 16 laps (6 year-old and younger). Over 100 Sharks earned towels, including 5-year-old Joaquin "Spiderman" Castillo. Sharks with super-sized lungs who swam a complete lap underwater in streamline position using only a dolphin kick were dubbed "UNDERWATER WONDERS" and earned a water bottle. Over 30 Sharks met that challenge, including 8-year-olds Ruth Castillo (Spiderman's sister) and Owen DeLoach.

You would think they had gills. Sharks who completed 50 consecutive flip turns earned "TURNER BURNER" buttons. Sharks who met the qualifying times for the City Meet earned Shark-shaped key chains. No team had more swimmers qualify for the City Meet this year than the Isle of Hope Sharks.

There were five dual meets in the regular season and then the championship City Meet. The Sharks FIN-ished their

dual meet schedule with an undefeated 5-0 record. In the first four meets, they outpointed the Savannah Yacht Club Commodores 299-131, the Savannah Quarters Sailfish 299-156, the Horizon Hurricanes 311-55, and the Landings Lightning Bolts, 322-68.

That set up the head-to-head showdown with the unbeaten Savannah Golf Club Sting Rays, who could not remember their last loss. The Golf Club pool quickly became SHARK-INFESTED WATERS and those Stingray skates were no match for the hungry Sharks. In the very first event, the 6 and under girls 25-yard freestyle, 10 different Sharks, led by Peyton Hunt and Charlotte Bourbon, beat the fastest Stingray swimmer. With that 1-10 SWEEP, the Sharks never looked back (Sharks do not have necks) and went on to win 251-219. Afterwards, we had a pool party celebration, complete with cannonballs, in the deep end of the Golf Club pool to the theme music from JAWS.

The Golf Club hoped to avenge their dual meet loss at the City Meet. That meet includes all 8 teams and hundreds of swimmers. Points are awarded for the first 16 places in 64 different events. Literally 10,000 points are up for grabs. Last year at the City Meet, the Golf Club extended



their winning streak and beat the Sharks by over 1,000 points -- 2,344-1,221. Not this year.

After a full day of swimming, with school after school of Sharks swimming their hearts out, Isle of Hope had eked out a 17-point victory - 2,138-2,121. In a 10,000-point meet, 17 points can be lost in a heartbeat when a 6-year-old's goggles fill with water or a 9-year-old slips on a wet starting block. Happily, our goggles were tight and our blocks were dry.

It was a TOTAL TEAM VICTORY and there were highlights. Seven Sharks won City Championships in individual events. (Peyton Hunt, Merrick Bourbon, Owen DeLoach, Grant Adams, Ethan Zimmerman, Rhett McCarthy, and Emily Semones).

Nineteen Sharks won City Championships as members of first place

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IOH Swim Team

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relays. (Collins Sewell, Ryan Fulchi, Ruth Castillo, Merrick Bourbon, Mary Parkinson, Penny Paasch, Wyatt Tyler, Grant Adams, Owen Myers, Owen DeLoach, Walker DeLoach, Jones Sewell, Jack Paasch, Ethan Zimmerman, Foster McGarity, Joey Leiter, Rhett McCarthy, Gaines Sewell, and Wilkes Sabogal). Owen DeLoach and Ethan Zimmerman won high point awards for their age groups.

And the Sharks won a City Championship team trophy as big as the trophy for the Indy 500. Of course, the Sharks swam a lot more than 500 miles this summer for their trophy.

A big thank you to Assistant Coaches Maggie Weeks, Emily and Caroline Semones, and Ella and Andrew Zimmerman. We would not have been undefeated without them.

Special thanks to Team Moms Sarah Adams, Emily DeLoach, Lauren Martin, and Erin McGarity, the envy of the league. (Back off, they're ours!) We would not have been Sharks without them.

In Isle of Hope tradition, the Sharks are APEX PREDATORS again! The SUMMER OF THE SHARKS was historic, memorable, and full of fun!

Front Porch

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more than grateful to be where I am with no care in the world... if only for a little while.

Then Harps sees a squirrel and jerks me out of my reverie.

In Thoreau's essay on Walking, he writes, "The walking of which I speak has nothing in it akin to taking exercise, as it is called, as the sick take medicine at stated hours ...but it is itself the enterprise and adventure of the day."

He goes on to describe the meaning of "SAUNTERING, which word is beautifully derived 'from idle people who roved about the country, in the Middle Ages, and asked charity, under pretense of going a la Sainte Terre,' to the Holy Land, till the children exclaimed, 'There goes a Sainte-Terrer,' a Saunterer, a Holy-Lander."

So if you see me walking down Bluff Drive with my Brittany, know that I'm not merely "exercising." No, I am sauntering toward the Holy Land.



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