

**Mayor Jason Buelterman**

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## **CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND**

PRESS RELEASE:  
For immediate release

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### **Tybee Gives Free Parking for the Holidays**

Tybee Island, Ga. – (November 25, 2009) The City of Tybee Island is promoting island businesses this holiday season by doing away with all parking fees on the island, beginning Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and ending Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. All parking, whether controlled by meters or Pay-and-Display stations scattered on the island, will be free during this period. Parking enforcement will still take place for No Parking zones, disabled parking areas, loading zones, and the like.

Free parking is just one of the enticements to draw visitors to Tybee and to keep residents shopping locally this holiday season. The City's Better Hometown Initiative has partnered with island businesses and organizations to plan a number of activities, all detailed at the Tybee for the Holidays web site, [www.tybeefortheholidays.com](http://www.tybeefortheholidays.com). This weekend officially gets things rolling with a community decorating day starting in Memorial Park, next to City Hall, on Saturday at noon. At 3PM, the Christmas tree procession will roll down Highway 80 and Butler Avenue to place the City's tree at the Tybrisa/Strand roundabout near the Walter Parker Pier and Pavilion. "A Christmas Carol" will play at the River's End Campground at 8PM – staff will host Saturday night movies all during December.

The following weekend on Friday evening, the traditional "Lights on for Tybee" kicks the season into high gear for the island, with the tree lighting, St. Michael's Choir, 'best decorating' awards given by the Tybee Beautification Association, and performances by members of Gretchen Greene School of Dance. Mayor Jason Buelterman will start the ceremonies. According to the Mayor, "Doing your shopping on Tybee is not only good for our local business community, it is a very enjoyable and relaxing experience to stroll around the Island looking for gifts for your friends and loved ones." Festivities will begin at 6:30PM.

Tybee merchants and eateries will be providing specials to shoppers throughout the holiday season, and many more events are planned for the month of December, including hotel deals for revelers who come to the island for our New Years' Eve fireworks display and elect to stay off the roads for the evening. Remember, when you see the holiday décor on the Pay & Display machines and meters, know that Tybee thanks you for buying local and making this holiday season special on the island!

*About Tybee Island, GA.: The City of Tybee Island, Georgia is on the outermost barrier island off the Savannah area coast. With a wild bird sanctuary, over three miles of ocean beaches and salt marshes on the back river, outdoor recreation activities abound for visitors to the island. As a key defense point to the important Savannah port, Tybee's Fort Screven, Tybee Fort Theater, Fort Pulaski, and the Tybee Island and Cockspur Lighthouses combine with the unique architectures of*

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*the island's raised cottages to form a rich backdrop for history buffs. Attracting a strong artistic community, there are several local supporting art galleries. Keeping the island interesting year round are several arts festivals, the Annual Pirate Fest, the Beach Bum Parade, St Patrick's Day celebrations, the Hot Rod Run, the Beach Bash, and the Christmas Parade, as well as fireworks displays on Independence and New Year's Days off the Parker Pier and Pavilion. The Marine Science Center cooperates with Georgia's DNR to protect threatened sea turtle species by searching for nests, protecting their eggs, and making sure hatchlings make it to sea. For visitor information, stop by <http://www.tybeevisit.com/>, and to find more about the City of Tybee Island, visit our web site at <http://www.cityoftybee.org/>.*

*About Tybee Island's Better Hometown Initiative: Tybee's Better Hometown initiative follows a comprehensive revitalization process that improves all aspects of a commercial district. Better Hometown is a self help approach to economic development for downtown areas designed to grow business and improve a community's quality of life. With broad based community support, it integrates a practical management strategy with the physical improvements of buildings and public spaces, promotion and image building, and economic development in the area. For more information, visit <http://www.cityoftybee.org/BetterHometownProgram.aspx>.*

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