



TYBEE ISLAND

GEORGIA

December 29, 2024

Greetings Mayor and Council, and Happy Last Days of 2024!

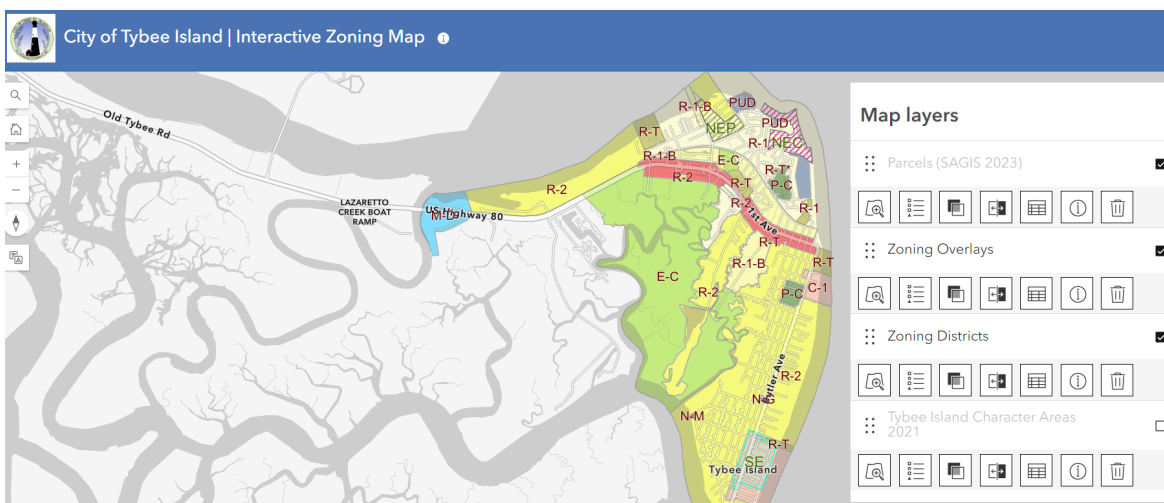
We're going to start off sharing some tremendous progress from our Community Development shop. For the past six months Department Head Patricia Sinel has been working to develop a GIS program for the City utilizing an existing software subscription. She just wrapped up the first phase – an interactive zoning map – after partnering with Lisa Schaff to research 10 years of Council zoning decisions to ensure all amendments were captured. It's like SAGIS – zoom in and you can click on individual parcel data – but Tybee-specific.

You can view the beta version of the map here - [City of Tybee Island Interactive Zoning Map \(DRAFT\)](#). Staff will spend the next week testing it out before releasing to the public as a feature on our website. I encourage you to play around with it and report to Patricia and I any problems, omissions or suggestions.

The beta GIS site has four layers – individual parcel information, zoning districts, zoning overlays, and character areas. In coming months we'll add more interactive layers to the map – STR permits, bike paths, public and private roads, flood plains, wetlands, etc. We have also used GIS to map out the adopted areas of our [Adopt-an-Area Program](#), included in the attached static map that we'll make available to the public.

We're working on an internal version of the program that will also map our raised houses, repetitive loss properties, and substantial damaged properties, and add existing GIS layers housed in a different application that map our water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure.

Development of an in-house GIS program is a big deal – a database that will enhance our operations, benefit the public, and serve as a “single source of truth” for land use in our community. Please join me in congratulating Community Development on moving Tybee Forward.



Dune Resilience Grant Final Report

This week we received the final preliminary report from Georgia Southern University's Dr. Lissa Leege and Graduate Assistant Skyler Fox, who completed a two-year grant-funded study monitoring dune resilience on Tybee. The report is linked here: [COTI Grant Final Report](#)

As you know, in 2020 Tybee constructed a half-mile-long, 8-foot-tall dune system, and vegetated it with six native dune species. We contracted with Georgia Southern to evaluate the success of this restored dune by comparing it to more natural, previously established dunes. The team, with Tybee citizen volunteers, also studied the impacts of beach access pathways on the health of the dunes.

Among the conclusions of the study:

Vegetation is being supported in the restored dune to the same extent as in the established dune. The variety of plant species in the restored dune has increased significantly over the past year. The restored dune crest is accumulating only minimal sand – notably less than established dunes – which means the restored dunes are not growing vertically. This is problematic because limited sand accumulation reduces the resilience of dunes following storm impacts and leaves these areas more vulnerable to damage.

Since summer 2024, significant erosion has occurred in the restored dune, especially near 2nd Street, where high tide now hits the dune. Because there are still two more years until Tybee's next beach renourishment, it will be critical to continue to monitor the restored dune to determine its continued effectiveness in storm protection and natural sand accumulation.

Damage to dunes from pedestrian trampling and creation of new footpaths can occur relatively quickly, but it may take longer for recovery to occur.

Closed-off footpaths may not be recovering well because people seem to be still using these paths. Additional methods of redirecting the public may be necessary, including planting vegetation.

Again, this report is preliminary. The final report will be presented to the City in 2025.

The Week in Fire

Chief McMillian reported for duty on Dec. 23, and is settling in nicely with assistance from Team Tybee. He's been working with Chief Waterfield on day-to-day processes like budgeting, computer programs, purchasing rules, inventories, invoices, coding, overtime, and hiring, etc. He's also being briefed on past and ongoing projects, and decisions ahead. With the transition going smoothly, Chief Waterfield has scheduled his last day for Jan. 6, 2025. Please join me in thanking Jason for his service to Tybee and steady hand guiding the department for much of 2024.

Calls for Service – Dec. 13-27, 2024

Total: 34

9- False Alarms	4- Man Power Calls	2- Investigation Calls	7- Power Lines
4- BLS Calls	3- Med Assist	2- MVC	1- Police Matter

Engagements:

1. The annual 2024 Christmas parade was a huge hit this year with the kids and citizens. Next year the fire department “WILL” take the trophy!
2. Tybee Fire is preparing for New Year’s Eve and the big fireworks display. This year the City of Tybee is using a different vendor that has assured us it will be safe and power-packed with entertainment. The event is planned to have three separate shot sites off the end of the pier. They stated that there will be more action and less breaks in between shots.

December Safety Message:

The very best safety is prevention. Whenever you’re heating oil for pan-frying or deep-fat frying, stay in the kitchen. Use a heavy pot with a lid and clip a thermometer to the side so you know the temperature of the oil.

Keep an eye on the oil as it’s heating. If you see wisps of smoke or smell something acrid, immediately turn down the heat or remove the pot from the burner completely. The oil won’t immediately catch fire once it starts smoking, but smoke is a danger sign that it’s well on its way to getting there.

If the worst happens and your oil does catch on fire, do the following:

- Turn the Heat Off – Don’t try to move the pot. You might accidentally splash yourself or your kitchen with burning oil. And that would be bad.
- Cover the Pot with a Metal Lid – Fire cannot exist in the absence of oxygen. With the lid on (and the heat off), the fire should quickly consume all the oxygen and put itself out. Use a metal lid since glass will shatter.
- Pour on Baking Soda – Baking soda will extinguish grease fires, but only if they’re small. It takes a lot of baking soda to do the job.
- Spray the Pot with a Class B Dry Chemical Fire Extinguisher – This is your last resort, as fire extinguishers will contaminate your kitchen. Still, it’s better than the alternative if the fire is getting out of control.
- Get Out and Call 911 – If the fire does break out of control, don’t try to be a hero. Get out and find a phone to call 911.

Whatever you do, DO NOT do the following:

- Do Not Use Water – Pouring water can cause the oil to splash and spread the fire. The vaporizing water can also carry grease particles in it, also spreading the fire.
- Do Not Move the Pot or Carry It Outside – Throwing the pot outside might seem logical in the frenzy of the moment. But trying to move the pot might splash burning oil on you, your home, and anything outside.
- Do Not Throw Any Other Baking Product On the Fire – Flour might look like baking soda, but it won’t react the same. Only baking soda can help put out a grease fire.

The Week with Police

Accidents:

This Week: 1 accidents, 0 injuries
YTD: 103 accidents, 18 injuries
2023 YTD: 133 accidents, 17 injuries

Calls For Service:

This week: 161
YTD: 14,323
2023 YTD: 15,432

Arrests:

This Week: 5 total -- 5 DUIs / 0 Felonies
YTD: 498 total
2023 YTD: 584 total

Citations:

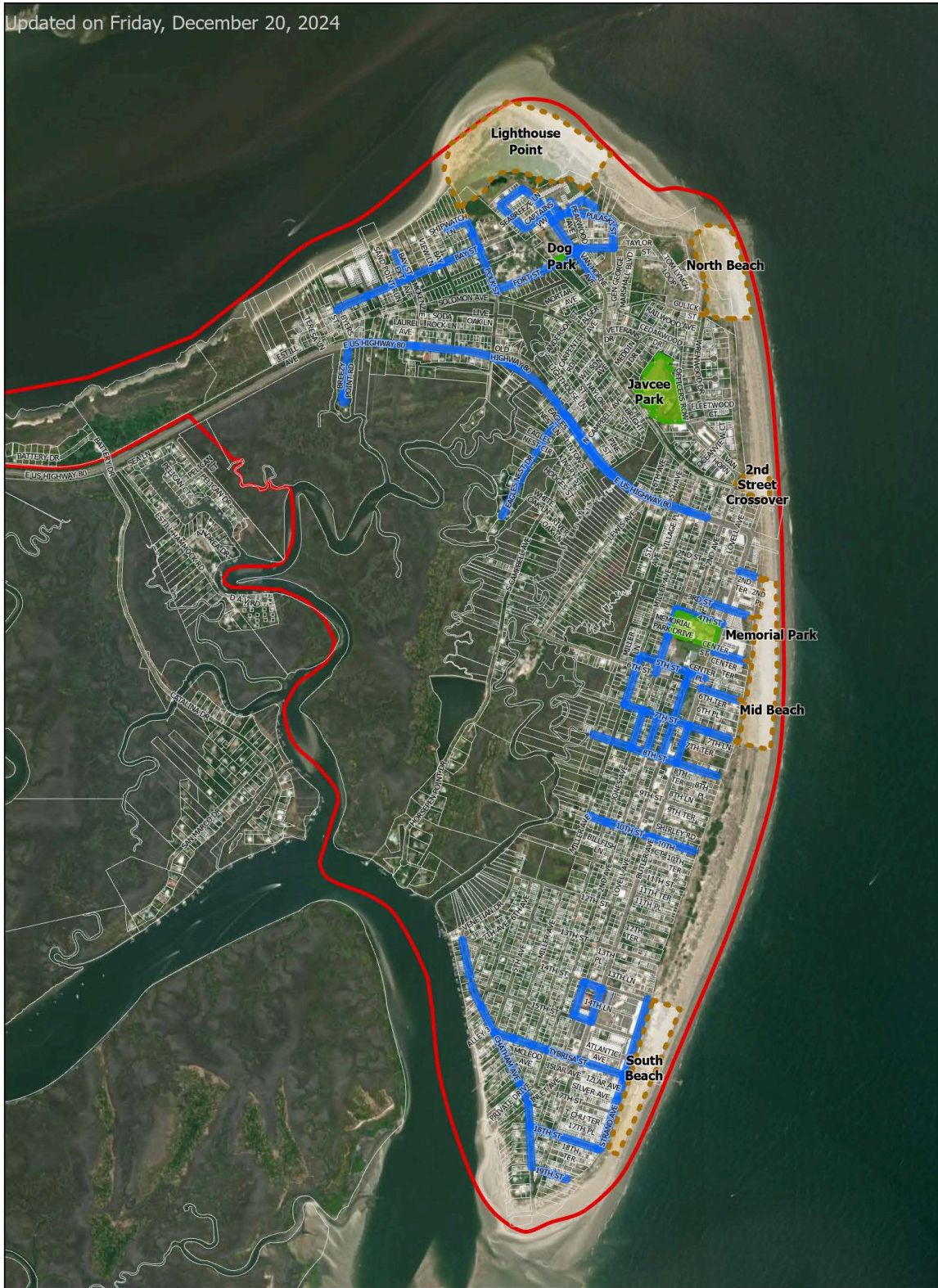
This week: 17
YTD: 1,772
2023 YTD: 2,158

Part 1 Crimes									
	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Arson	Motor Vehicle Theft	Total Part 1
2024 (thru Dec.)	0	3	0	10	3	50	0	0	66
2023	0	0	3	8	2	37	0	0	50
2022	0	0	0	2	1	17	2	1	23

Daily Information:

- All officers and communications officers are currently undergoing our annual CJIS Security Policy Awareness Training, which allows them to run people and vehicles through the GCIC terminal.
- Officer Santiago successfully passed the certification for speed detection device.
- Please see the attached flyer for the FBINAA Youth Leadership Program. If you have an interested rising 10th or 11th grader this is an amazing opportunity held in Quantico, Va.
- A collection bin for The Front Porch to collect gently new or used school uniforms, jackets, and school supplies during the holidays was placed in the lobby of the police department. These items are greatly needed at The Front Porch.

Updated on Friday, December 20, 2024



City of Tybee Island Adopt-an-Area Locations

- Adopted Beach
- Adopted Street
- Adopted Park
- City Limits



Data Sources: SAGIS, ESRI,
ArcGIS Online,
City of Tybee Island

PROGRAM CORE COURSES AND PRESENTATIONS

- Fundamentals of Leadership
- Fitness, Nutrition, and Resiliency
- Time Management
- Bad Leadership
- Ethical Leadership
- Business Leadership
- Values and Choices
- Situational Leadership
- Social Media and Internet Survival
- Managing Change
- Meet with New Agents
- Firearms Safety Demonstrations
- Local Field Trips
- Situational Leadership
- Truth and Honesty, Error Management, and Calm in the Chaos

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants must apply through one's local FBINAA U.S. or International chapters. Individuals interested in applying for this program should contact their local FBINAA Chapter for additional information.

Visit www.fbinaa.org for additional information.



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