



TYBEE ISLAND

GEORGIA

January 12, 2025

Greetings Mayor and Council!

Hope everyone's off to a great start to the New Year. It was a productive 2025 brainstorming session on Wednesday. This week I plan to review Council's input with Department Heads as we map out 2025 and align our workplan with Council priorities for the FY26 Budget process.

During Wednesday's meeting, Councilwoman Williams asked for an update on the Corps' potential near-shore sand placement. As you know, the Corps is looking to add sites for beneficial use of dredge, and nearshore Tybee, at the turn, remains on the list. They have been holding a series of public comment meetings throughout the coast and will continue to do so. They are scheduled to contact us this spring to freshen up their plans for a possible placement this fall, if they get budget approval and if they need the site. I'll provide updates as I receive them.

As I look ahead to 2025, I would like to resume regular meetings with individual Council members, which I really appreciated but slipped during the busy holiday season. I would like to try meeting in groups of two Council members, and pare them down to once a month initially to minimize the frequent rescheduling. Look for an email from me this week.

We have held several meetings with the would-be Orange Crush organizers over the past several weeks. Discussions have largely focused on security and event location. I plan to make a decision on the special event permit by the end of the month. Look for weekly updates on Orange Crush from the City Attorney starting this week.

A reminder that we will have a workshop on Jan. 22, where our partners at Thomas and Hutton will present an overview of our Stormwater Management Plan. That will be preceded by a brief special meeting where the 2025 Municipal Election will be called, as well as a compensation agreement with Live Oak Fiber.

Finance Weekly Update

- Received the 2024 Financial Audit, which was "clean" with no findings of weakness from our third-party auditor. The audit was submitted to the State as required by Statute. The Audited 2024 Financial Statement is attached. Congratulations to Finance Director Jen Amerell and her team.
- Processed 25+ STR applications
- Sent out utility bills -- consumption for December approximately 8% higher than December 2023
- December budget to actual attached. Revenues continue to be lower than budgeted as they retreat from the highs during the pandemic.
- Welcomed back Steph, our AP Clerk, who has been out for over a month
- Reviewed 30 applicants for Finance Manager position

The Week with Police

Accidents:

This Week: 3 accidents, 0 injuries
 YTD: 3 accidents, 0 injuries
 2024 TOTAL: 104 accidents, 18 injuries
 2023 TOTAL: 134 accidents, 17 injuries

Calls For Service:

This week: 285
 YTD: 14,323
 2024 TOTAL: 14,588
 2023 TOTAL: 15,432

Arrests:

This Week: 13 total -- 6 DUIs / 0 Felonies
 YTD: 13 total
 2024 TOTAL: 504 arrests
 2023 TOTAL: 584 arrests

Citations:

This week: 31
 YTD: 31
 2024 TOTAL: 1,792
 2023 TOTAL: 2,158

2024 Highway Safety Stats	
Violation	Total
Seat Belt	320
Child Restraint	35
Speeding	1,056
Reckless Driving	15
Uninsured Motorist	74
DUI	255
Suspended/Revoked License	97
Distracted Driving	264
Drug Arrests	12
Other Felony Arrests	57
Fugitives Apprehended	62
Stolen Vehicles	5
Road Checks	2
Other	2,920

Here are Tybee's stats being sent to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety for the 2024 Year-End Report:



Part 1 Crimes									
	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Arson	Motor Vehicle Theft	Total Part 1
2025	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3
2024	0	3	0	10	3	51	0	0	67
2023	0	0	3	8	2	37	0	0	50
2022	0	0	0	2	1	17	2	1	23



Daily Information:

- 01/06-07: TIPD hosted a multi-agency search and rescue drone class.
- 01/08: Discovery Flights for new drone operators in Jaycee Park at 3pm.
- 01/10: Capt. Randolph and Chief Hayes dropped off all donations collected for the Front Porch. Thank you all who donated!

Upcoming Events:

- 01/13-15: Command Staff and shift supervisors will attend the Georgia FBI National Academy Association Winter Conference in Savannah at the Desoto Hilton.
- 01/31: Tybee YMCA Critz Run. This event is scheduled for 01/31-02/01. The police department is currently filling spots for off duty police officers to be paid by the Tybee Island YMCA.
- 02/10: Operation Starlight Volunteer meeting at 5:30 pm in the court room. This meeting is for suggestions, ideas, and prospective volunteers.
- 02/13-14: Crowd Control Training for all patrol officers in Savannah with the Savannah Police Department mobile field force.

Communications & Outreach Department This Week

- Coordinated 3 introduction interviews (WSAV, WJCL, WTOG) for Chief McMillian
- Coordinated AJC interview for Mayor West
- Completed and published STR/OTC Fact sheet, including distribution online. Trained front desk customer service on the information.
- Published public notice for vacancies on City of Tybee Ethics Commission
- Updated Resilient Tybee website, publishing final grant report from Georgia Southern University on Dune Monitoring Grant Project. Also publicized this on City website and social media platforms.
- Assisted Human Resources with advertising of Ocean Rescue Lifeguard recruitment.
- Reached out to local filmmaker about sharing recent projects filmed on Tybee for publication on Tyb.TV channel.
- In coordination with Tybee Island Marine Science Center for filming of long-frame content for Tyb.TV channel.

Special Events:

- Publicly launched full use of online reservation platform, as well as added educational information online and in print outlining new reservation process.
- Coordinated meeting with DPW to continue pursuing keyless entry for city rental facilities.
- Met with Hotel Tybee to discuss permitting process for new event concept.

Main Street:

- Held Main Street Committee Meetings (Design, EV and Promotion).
- Completed Georgia Main Street Annual Assessment documentation
- Began registration and publicizing 2025 Restaurant Week.
- Polar Plunge Overview Recap:
 - 769 shirts sold
 - \$19,406 funds raised
 - 3,000 visitors
 - 17 entries to Gang of Goofs contest
 - Roughly 55 volunteer hours logged for the day (not including staff, 13 volunteers were present).

Customer Service:

- Provided 32 notarization services
- 327 calls to main line
 - Top Call Topics:
 - Finance (business license, OTC, STR, utilities bill payment, leak adjustments)
 - Building Department, Planning and Zoning (building permits, tree permits, inspections, stop orders, etc.)
 - Water Department (leaks, broken pipes, questions about water shut off, water meter's location, etc)

Facility Rentals/Permits Issued:

- Beach Permits- 5
- Cafeteria and Room 6 Reservations- 6
- Guard House- 3
- Memorial Park Pavilions- 0

Tybee in the News:

WTOC

- <https://www.wtoc.com/2025/01/01/tybee-island-celebrates-new-years-day-with-25th-annual-polar-plunge/>
- <https://www.wtoc.com/2025/01/09/tharros-place-host-events-human-trafficking-awareness-month/>

WJCL

- <https://www.wjcl.com/article/taking-the-plunge-tybee-island-hosts-annual-polar-plunge/63316893>
- <https://www.wjcl.com/article/tybee-island-welcomes-new-fire-chief-justin-mcmillian-with-big-plans-for-change/63376778>
- <https://www.wjcl.com/article/tybee-island-vacation-rental-owners-demand-refunds-after-years-of-improper-fees/63387859>

Savannah Morning News

- <https://www.savannahnow.com/picture-gallery/entertainment/2025/01/01/revelers-take-a-chilly-dip-in-the-ocean-during-the-tybee-polar-plunge/77386525007/>
- <https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/environment/2025/01/08/two-melon-headed-whales-found-stranded-on-georgia-coast-in-december/77517936007/>

Atlanta Journal Constitution

- <https://www.ajc.com/partner/scientists-aim-to-track-save-endangered-right-whales-off-georgia-coast/2ZZJ4E7KNVF4RCXHTTGUZWAZH4/>

This Week at the Fire Department

Calls for service: 21

- Fire calls, 1
- Medical calls, 10
- Manpower/lift assist, 6
- False alarms, 3
- Investigations, 1

Of Note:

1. On January 9 we had a small haz mat spill at Butler and 2nd. E1 was dispatched to the Intersection of Butler Ave. and 2nd St. for an automotive oil spill. Upon arrival, a PD unit was on scene waiting with a vacated car. There was a noticeable amount of spilled oil coming from underneath the car. E1 crew covered the spill with oil dry. There were no other hazards. E1 crew went back into service.

2. A meeting was had with city leadership including finance to make sure we are calculating salaries correctly at the FD for the upcoming budget year. It was a very productive team meeting and we are prepared.

3. The department successfully passed our yearly audit this week with the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council. This is a yearly check to make sure we are doing what we are supposed to with our training and qualification records and notification. We passed with flying colors due to the organizational skill of former Chiefs Waterfield and Socks.

Upcoming Events:

Chief McMillian has scheduled numerous interviews over the next two weeks with applicants for our part time firefighter positions. These part timers help alleviate some of the overtime costs for the city and take some of the pressure off the full-time personnel to always fill in empty slots. In addition, several applications for our full-time firefighter positions have been turned over to Chief McMillian and they are being assessed.

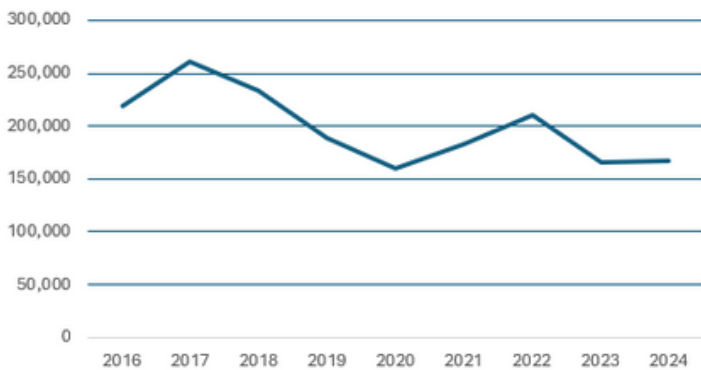
Chief McMillian notified the department that we will be getting back involved with the community and will be attending more community events moving forward. The department will also be more actively assisting with beach rescue this season. Expect to see your firefighters out and about.

Chief is currently working with leadership on the logistics of possibly changing the work schedule at the Fire Department from its current 24/48 schedule to a 48/96 schedule. There are some financial considerations to keep the move budget neutral. The third party study that the city had done recently suggested the 48/96 as a possible improvement and the department themselves are heavily in favor of trying the new schedule.

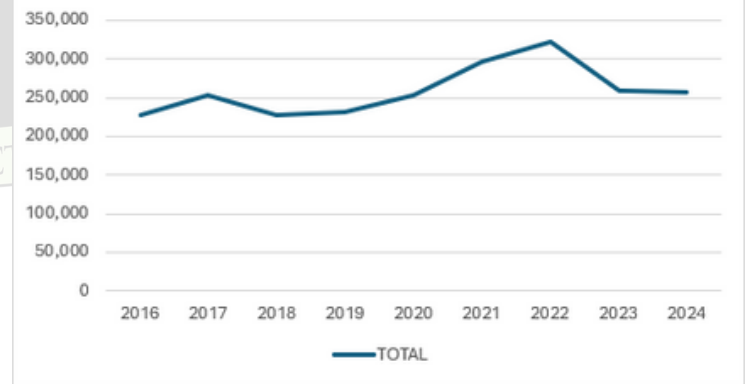
Infrastructure Update

Below are year-end totals for Beach and Street trash collected, as well as effluent treated at the Wastewater Treatment Plan. Attached is more detail on the litter collection.

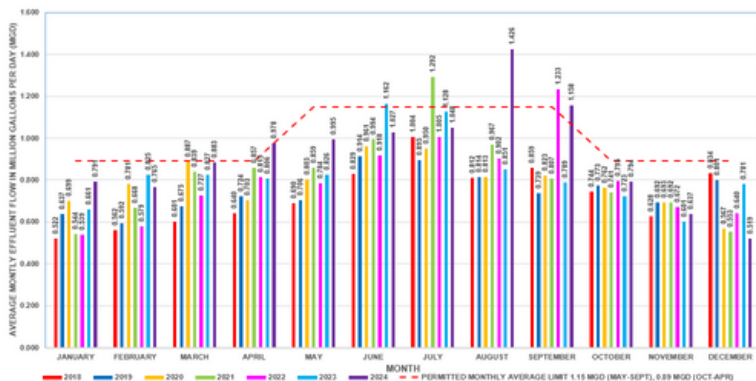
Pounds of Beach Trash Collected



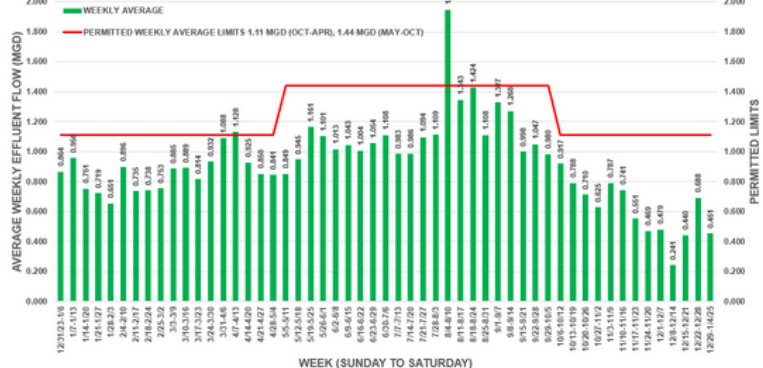
Pounds of Street Trash Collected



CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND
AVERAGE MONTHLY
EFFLUENT FLOW (MGD)



2024
WEEKLY AVERAGE
EFFLUENT FLOW



Weekly Action at DPW:

- Assisted in the taking down Christmas decorations city wide
- Cleaned out the outfalls at Inlet Avenue and Alley 3
- Graded various streets
- Repaired City Hall trash corral gates
- Continued demolition for new DPW shop
- Investigated handicap push buttons at YMCA
- Conducted beach litter cleanup
- Conducted street litter cleanup
- Attended meeting regarding programmable locks on city owned buildings
- · Cut and trimmed MRS property
- · Cleaned city owned facilities
- · Cut back brush on US 80
- · Removed two city-owned dying trees on 7th Avenue
- · Cut brush around fire hydrants
- · Swept parks and parking lots and south end business district

Recycling/Dump

- Picked up and emptied recycling trailers from Memorial Park and Polk Street
- Baled cardboard
- Picked up litter on Bay Street
- Picked up recycling from South Annex Building
- Called in trash containers and yard waste containers in DPW Yard
- Assisted residents in unloading trash, yard debris, and recycling brought to DPW yard
- Delivered the new aluminum can roll-offs for pilot recycling program for businesses

Fleet

- Replaced and balanced tire of PD 184
- Plugged tire on PD 185
- Replaced battery on PD 185
- Fixed leaky hydraulic line on trash truck
- Ordered parts for DPW 266
- Repaired trailer used by Heavy Construction crew
 - Wiring
 - Replaced tail lights
- Repaired chainsaw for Sewer/Water

Management

- Completed and submitted LMIG application
- Met with City Manager to finalize costs for compactor with south end businesses
- Attended GEFA loan meeting
- Performed seven tree assessments
- Processed six tree permits

Water/Sewer

- Staff received final report on yearly bioassay testing and we passed.
- The odor control system at the WWTP was repaired and put back on line
- Repaired water leak at 1205 Miller Avenue
- Repaired water leak at 1203 Miller Avenue
- Continued to clean out existing maintenance building
- Performed several water shut offs due to the cold weather

Sanitary Sewer Project on Van Horne Avenue

- Contractor finished sanitary sewer installation on Van Horn Avenue
- Contractor back-filled and graveled sewer trench
- Contractor continued with the installation of sanitary laterals

Municipal Court Action

Court was held Jan. 7, 2025

71 cases/106 citations:

- 16 Bond Forfeiture
- 16 Bound over to State/Superior Court
- 4 Dismissed
- 17 Guilty as Charged
- 5 Merged
- 8 Nolo Contendre
- 8 Nolle Prosequi
- 4 Pre Trial Diversion
- 2 Warnings
- 10 Failure to Appear

Around the Campground

- Finished front office landscaping project (see picture below. We will plant more flowers and plants come springtime.
- 11 arrivals, 105 Site Nights, 29% Occupancy.
- 30 guests in attendance at Spaghetti Pot Luck for National Spaghetti Day.
- Installed new Beach Toy Borrow box to make it more visible and help keep plastics off the beach.
- Kicked off our Photo Contest and will accept submission until the end of the month.



Bret Bell, City Manager



That's it for this week folks. Until the next Update, please continue to enjoy living in Paradise.

Bret Bell, City Manager