



TYBEE ISLAND

GEORGIA

February 9, 2025

Greetings Mayor and Council!

Hope everyone got outside this weekend and enjoyed the fabulous spring-like weather. After a long and cold January, Tybee deserved that one. Hoping this portends a successful second half of the fiscal year.

As y'all know, visitation was down in 2024. We're now projecting to end the fiscal year roughly 6% below budget. We have been reducing expenditures since the start of the fiscal year, including tightening overtime across the board. I will meet with Department Heads this week to discuss a plan to delay hiring some unfilled positions, and reduce discretionary spending.

South-End Compactor Update

I will meet with South-End business owners this week to discuss a plan we have developed related to use of the shared compactor on Inlet Avenue.

As you know, we have screened in a portion of City property to locate a trash compactor and cardboard compactor that are shared by 18 businesses on the South End, primarily on Tybrisa. We bill participating businesses \$250 per month for the sanitation service. This is a bargain for some large restaurants. But some smaller businesses who produce little waste believe they are overpaying; some have refused to pay bills we have sent.

Team Tybee has sat down with the business owners and Atlantic Waste owner Ben Wall to develop a plan that more fairly allocates costs. We have also developed ways to reduce expenses. For example, rather than servicing the compactors twice a week on schedule, moving forward Atlantic will only service after DPW notifies them that compactors are full.

We have developed a new tiered fee schedule that groups businesses into type, and then adjusts fees according to the type, as follows:

TYPE	NUMBER IN TYPE	COST	SUB-TOTAL
Small Restaurant	6	\$100	\$600
Medium Restaurant	3	\$250	\$750
Large Restaurant	3	\$500	\$1,500
Small Bar	2	\$100	\$200
Medium Bar	0	\$250	\$0
Large Bar	2	\$450	\$900
Small Retail	0	\$65	\$0
Medium Retail	1	\$75	\$75
Large Retail	0	\$100	\$0
Extra Large Retail	1	\$700	\$700
			\$4,725

The goal of the compactor program is to present a clean, sanitary and decluttered central business district. The goal of the above fee schedule is for businesses to pay a fair fee for the amount of this service they use.

Fruit Orchard Planting This Saturday

It will be a special Arbor Day this Saturday as we gather to plant Tybee's first Community Fruit Orchard.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the property located at U.S. 80 and Polk Street. We're looking for volunteers to help plant trees, and will be giving away seedlings to participants.

As I noted last month, we have partnered with the Fruitful Futures Foundation of Savannah on the project. The plan is to plant 12 fig trees, 12 loquat trees and two avocado trees – all resilient, low-maintenance trees that have a high likelihood to succeed in Tybee's unique climate.

Fruitful Futures will prepare the site with soil amendments and mulching, source the trees and work with the City to develop partnerships with community groups and residents for support. The nonprofit will also launch workshops on Tybee, and help us identify other potential sites for more orchards.

A great idea from our City Council!



Communications & Outreach Department This Week

- Participated in South-end compactor planning meeting
- Participated in Main Street annual planning meeting
- Participated in NFWF briefing
- Completed first training with Civic Plus for Civic Optimize
- Attended and publicized Fire Chief Reception

**CELEBRATE
Arbor Day**

JOIN US IN PLANTING A COMMUNITY
FRUIT ORCHARD AT HWY 80 & POLK ST.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED & FREE TREE
SEEDLINGS FOR PARTICIPANTS! CHEERS
TO 14 YEARS AS A TREE CITY USA
MEMBER!

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 15TH
11AM - 3PM
HWY 80 & POLK ST.**

Logos for Georgia Power, Tybee Island, Tree City USA, and Fruitful Futures are displayed at the bottom.

- Coordinated 2025 Historic Planning Commission budget planning
- Attended City Council Workshop
- Attended and participated in Q1 Visit Tybee Advisory Board meeting
- Completed filming of first Tyb.TV episode at Tybee Island Marine Science Center
- Set up Ocean Rescue interview with WTOC
- Completed Arbor Day advertisements

Facilities/Special Events:

- Coordinated 2025 Lazaretto Day planning meeting with event organizer and department heads
- Began working with CivicRec to do online ticket sales for Upcoming Trolley Tours
- Processed facility rentals and department permits requests

Main Street/HPC:

- Filmed additional 2025 Restaurant Week videos
- Participated in HPC 2025 budget planning
- Held monthly Main Street Promotion Committee meeting
- Completed planning for upcoming Sustainability event
- Began working with CivicRec to do online ticket sales for Upcoming Trolley Tours
- Publicized 2025 Billboard Program

Facility Rentals/Permits Issued:

- Beach Permits- 4
- Cafeteria and Room 6 Reservations- 5
- Guard House- 0
- Memorial Park Pavilions- 2

Tybee in the News:

WTOC

- <https://www.wtoc.com/2025/02/06/tybee-island-issues-letter-conditional-approval-orange-crush-2025/>
- <https://www.wtoc.com/video/2025/02/06/tybee-island-issues-letter-conditional-approval-orange-crush-2025/>

WSAV

- <https://www.wsav.com/news/stacker-lists-best-campgrounds-near-savannah/>
- <https://www.wsav.com/news/your-local-election-hq/savannah-chatham-day-at-state-capitol-legislative-preview/>
- <https://www.wsav.com/community/lace-up-your-running-shoes-tybee-run-fest-to-help-local-community/>
- <https://www.wsav.com/news/local-news/orange-crush-receives-conditional-approval/>

Savannah Morning News

<https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/local/2025/02/06/bioluminescent-inspired-paintings-featured-at-tybee-marine-science-center-exhibit/78251283007/>



AJC

- <https://www.ajc.com/news/georgia-news/tybee-green-lights-orange-crush-an-hbcu-spring-break-beach-bash/CBGQWWMXGVH4NNEH53M52DGWSQ/>

February Upcoming Events:

- Feb 15, 11am-3pm Arbor Day Event- HWY 80& Polk Street
- Feb 17, All Day President’s Day - City Hall Closure
- Feb 17, 4pm Turtle Friendly Business Program Launch- Marine Science Center
- Feb 17-28, Tybee Island Restaurant Week - Tybee Businesses
- Feb 20-22, Tybee Spring Shorebird Festival - Marine Science Center
- Feb 22, 8am Tybee Island City Wide Yard Sale- Maps @ Shoppes at 1207

The Week with Police

Accidents:

This Week: 1 accidents, 0 injuries
 YTD: 5 accidents, 1 injury
 2024 YTD: 2 accidents, 1 injury
 2024 TOTAL: 104 accidents, 18 injuries

Calls For Service:

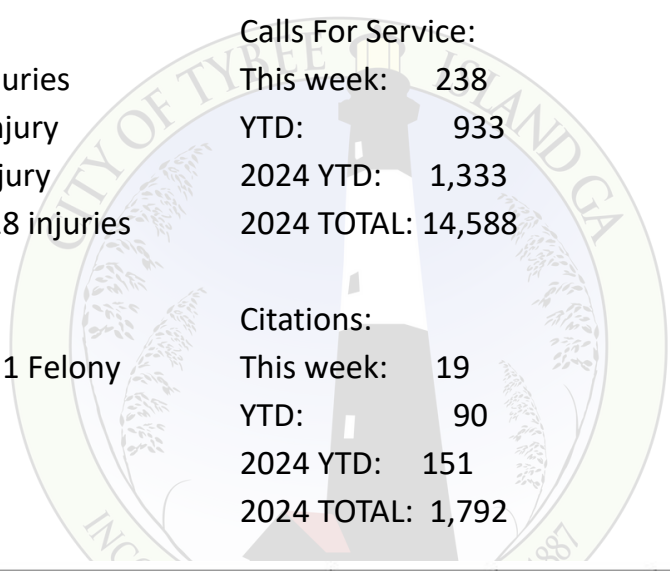
This week: 238
 YTD: 933
 2024 YTD: 1,333
 2024 TOTAL: 14,588

Arrests:

This Week: 5 total -- 1 DUI / 1 Felony
 YTD: 32 arrests
 2024 YTD: 51 arrests
 2024 TOTAL: 504 arrests

Citations:

This week: 19
 YTD: 90
 2024 YTD: 151
 2024 TOTAL: 1,792



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:

- Assistant Chief Whitley and Ofc. Goatley met Paul Coot at the 4H Camp. Coot gave them a tour and welcomed us to conduct any training that we’d like to plan on the property. This includes drone training, active shooter, and any other scenarios that we can come up with. He has a contract for us to fill out in the event. This would include any training that takes place, which would be free of charge for our agency.
- 3 of our 4 shifts have completed Taser 10 certification.
- Congratulations to NEW daddy, Sgt. John Paul Price. He and his wife welcomed a healthy baby girl into their family on 02/03/2025.
- TIPD welcomes back Communications Officer Keely Breininger after a year of deployment overseas.

- Four of our officers have been nominated for "Best Law Enforcement Officer" in Connect magazine's "Best of Savannah" awards. Chief Hayes has also been nominated in the "Best Public Servant" category. Voting officially begins on February 10th. Please encourage your contacts to vote, and bring this award back to Tybee for the 3rd year in a row. Nominees are:

Best Law Enforcement Officer

- Chief Tiffany Hayes
- Officer Spencer Santiago
- Officer Jonathan Westcott
- Officer Usamah Kareem

Best Public Servant

- Chief Tiffany Hayes

Upcoming Events:

02/10: Operation Starlight Volunteer meeting at 5:30 pm in the courtroom. This meeting is for suggestions, ideas, and prospective volunteers.

02/11: Second round of CPR training for officers and staff.

02/13-14: Crowd Control Training for all patrol officers in Savannah with the Savannah Police Department mobile field force.

02/26-27: TIPD will host Patrol Officer Drug Investigations course on 02/26-27 at the Tybee Island Public Safety Building. Several other jurisdictions will be joining us during this training. Topics Covered:

- Drug Identification
- Responding to Drug House Complaints
- Search & Seizure Case Law
- Knock & Talk Operations
- Consent Searches
- Vehicle Stops & Terry Frisks
- Concealment Methods & Highway Interdiction
- Report Writing

03/14: Road Safety checkpoint 5pm-9pm Hwy. 80 at Chimney Creek.

This Week at the Fire Department

Calls for service: 12

- Fire calls, 0
- Medical calls, 5
- Manpower/lift assist, 6
- False Alarms, 1

Of Note:

- We have begun in earnest our preparations for the upcoming tourist season and ocean rescue. The Fire Department employees will be assisting Beach Rescue this season as they have in the past. Sgt. Cooper is leading the Fire side and working hand in hand with our Beach Coordinator Jen Wittendorf. Jen has been doing a good job with recruitment and we currently have 16 people applied to be lifeguards with 10 returning from previous seasons. Recruitment will continue with the hope to get us up to around 30 lifeguards. As in the past, low numbers lead to staffing issues throughout the season. Jen and Cooper are currently working on revamping the lifeguard standard operating guidelines, and we have begun replacing outdated equipment so our team has the tools they need to succeed.
- Preparations for Orange Crush are in full swing with Tybee leadership coordinating with our regional partners to insure we have the help we need to insure a safe event for residents and visitors.
- Advertisements are continuing for Lifeguard recruitment for the 2025 season.
- Recruitment continues for vacant firefighter positions.

Human Resources Update

Fire Department

- 1 Full Time Firefighter offer made and accepted. Candidate going through pre-employment process now.
- 2 Part Time Firefighter offers made and accepted. 1 candidate has cleared and is ready to fill in as needed. 1 candidate going through the pre-employment process

City Manager & City Clerk Evaluation Process

- Councilman Garbett requested a meeting with HR to discuss how we complete this process for City employees.
- HR Director met with two council members, Bill Garbett and Kathryn Williams, to discuss this on Wednesday, 1/29.
- In this meeting the HR Director went through the employee process and recommended that Council follow the same.
- In conclusion of the meeting, the Council Members planned to put a timeline together and reach out to the rest of Council, as well as both the City Manager and City Clerk, to establish goals for each of them for 2025. At that time they would also discuss a collective evaluation for each employee at the end of the calendar year with a potential mid-year check in, and then begin following the same schedule as City employees going forward.

Other Updates

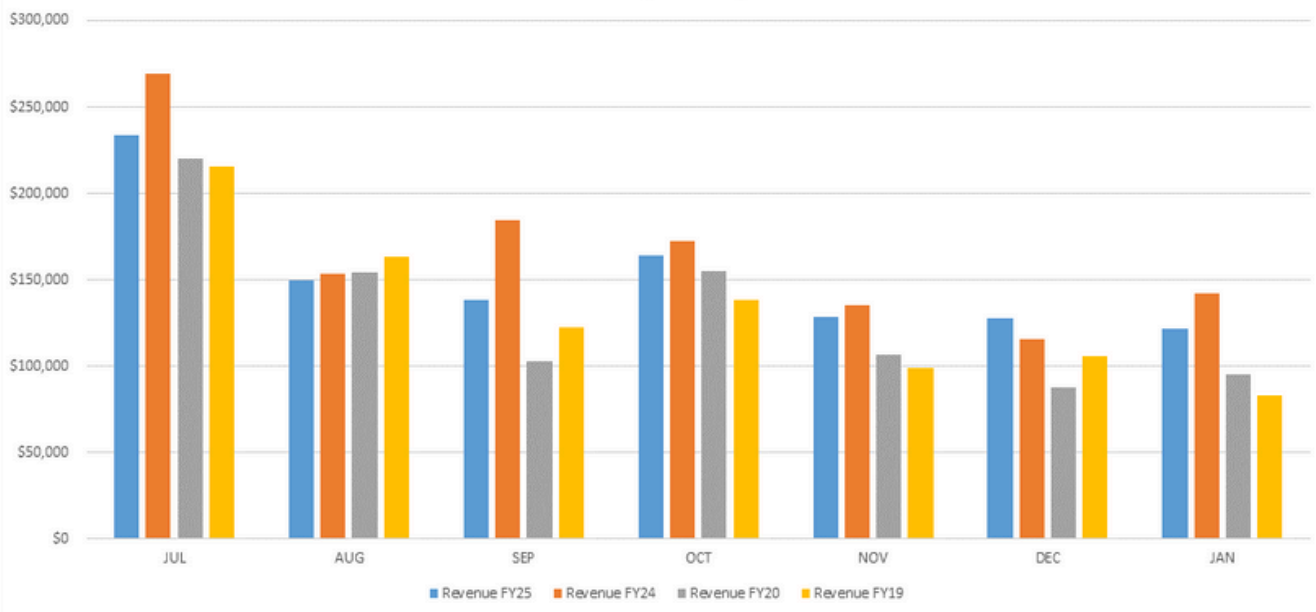
- Employee Recognition Dinner: Planning is being finalized for the annual Employee Recognition Dinner where we recognize employee's for their years of service (5, 10, 15, 20, etc). The event will take place on Thursday, March 6, at 6pm at the Tybee Lite Shrine Club. Council and City employees will be receiving their invitations next week.
- Jaime Spear, HR Director, recently received her SHRM certification as a Workplace Mental Health Ally. She completed a total of eight online courses through SHRM's Psych Hub that included courses on mental health stigma, suicidal behavior, workplace safety planning, overcoming bias in the workplace and workplace effective communication.

Around the Campground

- 51 Arrivals, 466 Site Nights, 64% Occupancy
- 9 Guests participated in paint and sip party
- Replaced deteriorated duct work under Upper Bathhouse
- Installed water meter on pool to track usage which will help identify future leaks

FY25		JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	
555-0000-34-7520	Camping Fees	\$160,132.49	\$110,339.97	\$105,376.62	\$117,389.77	\$99,489.16	\$102,726.67	\$107,886.00	\$803,340.68
555-0000-34-7521	Tent Site Fees	\$14,500.70	\$7,583.41	\$6,479.50	\$11,457.94	\$4,821.03	\$1,384.00	\$888.40	\$47,114.98
555-000-34-7522	Cabin Taxable	\$34,773.85	\$18,367.14	\$13,527.00	\$15,083.12	\$11,092.57	\$11,443.49	\$3,520.00	\$107,807.17
555-0000-34-7523	Cabin Tax Exempt	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
555-0000-34-7530	Camp Store Sales	\$13,690.01	\$9,315.44	\$9,376.78	\$13,011.38	\$9,812.31	\$8,585.96	\$7,915.85	\$71,707.73
555-0000-34-7534	Misc Revenue	\$7,166.12	\$2,672.73	\$2,257.09	\$6,151.46	\$2,757.70	\$3,348.13	\$1,257.10	\$25,610.33
555-0000-34-7538	Parking Pass Revenue	\$3,150.00	\$1,260.00	\$1,050.00	\$1,290.00	\$600.00	\$0.00	30	\$7,380.00
		\$233,413.17	\$149,538.69	\$138,066.99	\$164,383.67	\$128,572.77	\$127,488.25	\$121,497.35	\$1,062,960.89
FY24									
555-0000-34-7520	Camping Fees	\$194,511.29	\$112,479.47	\$131,942.58	\$123,521.33	\$107,792.41	\$92,909.00	\$129,850.00	\$893,006.08
555-0000-34-7521	Tent Site Fees	\$8,025.90	\$2,355.60	\$10,057.23	\$10,353.83	\$5,208.02	\$1,887.97	\$1,161.63	\$39,050.18
555-000-34-7522	Cabin Taxable	\$42,627.18	\$24,022.30	\$26,005.53	\$21,324.85	\$10,918.19	\$7,477.69	\$2,368.00	\$134,743.74
555-0000-34-7523	Cabin Tax Exempt	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
555-0000-34-7530	Camp Store Sales	\$15,040.58	\$9,611.62	\$11,597.73	\$12,573.86	\$8,053.21	\$8,647.73	\$7,259.15	\$72,783.88
555-0000-34-7534	Misc Revenue	\$4,783.94	\$2,612.41	\$3,096.53	\$3,090.14	\$2,738.02	\$4,581.35	\$960.62	\$21,863.01
555-0000-34-7538	Parking Pass Revenue	\$4,380.00	\$2,340.00	\$2,130.00	\$1,410.00	\$480.00	\$60.00	90	\$10,890.00
		\$269,368.89	\$153,421.40	\$184,829.60	\$172,274.01	\$135,189.85	\$115,563.74	\$141,689.40	\$1,172,336.89
YoY									
555-0000-34-7520	Camping Fees	(\$34,378.80)	(\$2,139.50)	(\$26,565.96)	(\$6,131.56)	(\$8,303.25)	\$9,817.67	(\$21,964.00)	(\$89,665.40)
555-0000-34-7521	Tent Site Fees	\$6,474.80	\$5,227.81	(\$3,577.73)	\$1,104.11	(\$386.99)	(\$503.97)	(\$273.23)	\$8,064.80
555-000-34-7522	Cabin Taxable	(\$7,853.33)	(\$5,655.16)	(\$12,478.53)	(\$6,241.73)	\$174.38	\$3,965.80	\$1,152.00	(\$26,936.57)
555-0000-34-7523	Cabin Tax Exempt	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
555-0000-34-7530	Camp Store Sales	(\$1,350.57)	(\$296.18)	(\$2,220.95)	\$437.52	\$1,759.10	(\$61.77)	\$656.70	(\$1,076.15)
555-0000-34-7534	Misc Revenue	\$2,382.18	\$60.32	(\$839.44)	\$3,061.32	\$19.68	(\$1,233.22)	\$296.48	\$3,747.32
555-0000-34-7538	Parking Pass Revenue	(\$1,230.00)	(\$1,080.00)	(\$1,080.00)	(\$120.00)	\$120.00	(\$60.00)	(\$60.00)	(\$3,510.00)
		(\$35,955.72)	(\$3,882.71)	(\$46,762.61)	(\$7,890.34)	(\$6,617.08)	\$11,924.51	(\$20,192.05)	(\$109,376.00)
		-13%	-3%	-25%	-5%	-5%	10%	-14%	-9.33%

Revenue Comparison by Month



Bret Bell

Bret Bell, City Manager