



# TYBEE ISLAND

## GEORGIA

March 17, 2025

Greetings Mayor and Council!

Congratulations to the whole island for a festive Irish Heritage Parade on Saturday!

The City saw strong visitation, a smooth parade, and a quick cleanup following the end of the event. I was particularly impressed with DPW's efficient removal of the barricades, which began even before the parade had ended.

It was also the first time that I've seen the Mayor in a skirt, and Councilman Garbett wearing horns. Hopefully not the last.



### Sand Bar Safety

Last week I met with the Fire Chief and City Marshal to develop a plan to enhance safety on south end of the island.

Ocean Rescue will hold its first lifeguard qualifying test at the end of March. We had an aggressive recruitment campaign in the off-season, attending nearly a dozen high school and college job fairs, and have received applications for nearly 30 lifeguards. However, it's getting more difficult to attract lifeguard recruits across the country, and we're short of where we'd like to be. So last week I authorized a paid social media advertising campaign and a \$50 referral incentive for every lifeguard recruit that our existing lifeguards bring in. We have also worked with our insurance provider on a new protocol that allows our lifeguards to work more hours without requiring the City to place them on our benefits or pension plans.

The signs alerting beachgoers to the dangers of the South End Sandbar took a beating during last fall's storms. Five of the eight sign poles (purple dots on map below) were knocked down.

Code and Fire have developed a new layout that will sink more than a dozen poles in more strategic locations, each fixed with new three-sided, very clear warning signs (locations depicted with small red dots below). These will be supplemented with the large sign sleds that will be placed at the high tide line (large red dots below).

The end result will be more signs, and clearer signs, better placed in the likely walking paths of beachgoers.



## Yellow Curb Painting

Parking staff last week began a much-needed yellow curb painting operation. We shifted yellow curb maintenance a few months ago from DPW to Parking, as Parking manages the enforcement of the no-parking yellow curb zones, which are created primarily for safety purposes, including lines of sight and turning radius.

The sand, salt air and street sweepers have taken a toll on the yellow curbs, and in some areas they are faded to such an extent that they are very difficult to distinguish from unpainted curbs. I have had to dismiss a few parking citations as a result.

We have a special spray-painting machine for this task. Last week City staff painted curbs from 14th street north to Byers and back south to roughly Memorial Park. We anticipate using approximately 150 gallons of paint to reach Tybrisa Street.

We are aware of sections of curb painted yellow by homeowners for various reasons. In areas where yellow curbs should not exist, we will paint over and issue warnings or citations to the homeowners.



## Other Code Compliance Action Last Week

Citations: 17

Sandbar Violation 2

Vehicle On The Beach 1

Dogs At Large 2

Unpermitted Tree Removal x 5

Uncovered Dumpster 1

No Building Permit 1

Failure to maintain BMP's 1

Pet on beach 2

Glass on beach 1

Smoking on beach 1

Warnings: 2

Dog At Large (Written Warning)

Dog On The Beach (Verbal Warning)

## STR Application Update:

754 applications received to date; 136 permits approved.

Most of these applications have been reviewed and have one or more incorrect or missing components. It is taking a considerable amount of time to follow up with each applicant. Code has three staff members working full time to get these issues corrected.

Golf Cart Inspections: 57

Wheelchair Checkouts: 2

### Additional Activity

- A report of suicidal Female possibly jumping from the pier was put out. Code Compliance Officer Thompson monitored the pier and beach on both sides, and communicated to responding officers, no person matching the description was seen in the area.
- The City Marshal, the CC Supervisor and CC Officers de Wolf and McNeely received their Code Compliance Level II Certification from the Georgia Association of Code Enforcement (GACE). Officers Wheat and Thompson also attended the GACE Conference working their certifications.
- Code Compliance was dispatched to Solomon Ave near Polk Street regarding 3 Boxer dogs running at large. Multiple officers responded to the location due to the number of dogs reported. The officers were able to safely capture the dogs and transported them to the kennels. Once the at the kennels the dogs were processed in and scanned for a chip. A chip was located, and the owners of the dogs were contacted. A short time later the owners came to pick up the dogs. The dogs were released to the owners and a citation for dog at large was issued.
- Code Compliance was dispatched to 28 Horsepen Point for a possible dog on dog bite case. An officer responded and took the information for a report. Further investigation is pending.
- Dispatched to the beach at Center Street to provide transport for TIPD Officer Santiago regarding a search for a subject being sought for a welfare check. Code Officer Wheat responded and while enroute to the location spotted the subject being sought at the shoreline near the Center Street Crossover. At the time it appeared that the subject was unresponsive. Officer Wheat picked up Officer Santiago and transport him to the scene. Officer Wheat was also able to assist Officer Santiago, who performed emergency life saving measures on the subject. After EMS transported the subject to the hospital Officer Wheat also assisted with the clean-up of the scene as well as transporting evidence off the beach for TIPD.
- Code Compliance was dispatched to Beach at Captain's Watch to assist TIPD in search of a vehicle on the beach. The vehicle was found, and owner received education on the beach rules and issued a written citation for having a motorized vehicle on the beach

### Parking Revenue Last Week

		KIOSK	APP	OFFICE	WEB	COINS	TOTAL	#citations
3/7	FRI	5057	2256	3,306.00	0.00	0.00	10,619.00	28
3/8	SAT	16383	11590	0.00	0.00	0.00	27,973.00	126
3/9	SUN	2481	1390	0.00	3,190.00	0.00	7,061.00	31
3/10	MON	1742	824	1,702.00	2,765.00	0.00	7,033.00	8
3/11	TUE	7571	3930	4,706.00	2,055.00	0.00	18,262.00	50
3/12	WED	10198	6016	2,510.00	1,580.00	0.00	20,304.00	27
3/13	THURS	5702	2840	3,368.00	1,140.00	0.00	13,050.00	29
		49134	28846	15,592.00	10,730.00	0.00	104,302.00	299

17 total boots since 7/1/24----\$8065.00 collected

<u>YTD FY25</u>	<u>FY 24 TOTAL</u>	<u>FY 23 TOTAL</u>	<u>FY 22 TOTAL</u>	<u>FY 21 TOTAL</u>	<u>FY 20 TOTAL</u>
3,386,475	\$6,995,949	\$6,519,000	\$6,652,450.00	\$6,174,682	\$3,823,152

## The Week in Infrastructure

### Public Works

- Cleared outfalls
- Cleared out storm basins and inlets
- Continued installing the new fence at the North Beach parking lot
- Repaired employee gate at DPW yard
- Fixed plumbing issues at 14-1/2 Street Comfort Elite restroom
- Swept streets on Monday and Friday
- Picked up trash off beach
- Picked up street trash Monday and Friday
- Pressure-washed Tybee Arts Building, Screened Pavilion and Open Air Pavilion at Memorial Park
- Unfurled Irish flags on Butler Avenue and Park of Seven Flags
- Set up barricading for Friday's check point for Police
- Set up barricades and message boards for Irish Heritage Parade
- Picked up street trash on Monday and Friday
- Cleaned City-owned facilities
- Cut and blew parks and Tybrisa Street
- Cut grass at Marine Rescue Squadron building
- Trimmed ditches island-wide
- Continued installing pine straw at various locations in front of City buildings and parks

### Recycling/Dump

- Picked up and emptied recycling trailers at 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
- Picked up aluminum can roll-offs for business pilot recycling program

### Fleet

- Replaced headlights on the new bucket truck
- Performed oil change on PD 184
- Installed new battery on PK6
- Continued to work on the campground's Kubota tractor
- Replaced the headlights on DPW 217
- Parts finally came in for the side by sides and all parts assembled on the side by side
  - Finished brakes on side by side
  - Performed oil change on side by side
- Began work on DPW 240.
- Changed out axles on barricading trailer

## Water and Sewer

- Worked on low pressure issue at 14<sup>th</sup> Street restrooms
- Performed routine maintenance on the water wells and lift stations
- Performed weekly sampling and testing
- Cleaned the UV disinfection system
- Additional staff trained on odor control equipment
- Continued locates for Live Oak Fiber installation
- Replaced valve at Fort Screven water tower
- Worked on leak list
- Cleaned foot showers
- Repaired sinkhole at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and 6<sup>th</sup> Street
- Prepared for relocation of water main at 409 Miller Avenue that currently runs through residents' back yard
- Repaired sewer backup at 8 Cedarwood Avenue
- Worked with UGMS on construction entrance for new WWTP maintenance building
- Cleaned and televised Logan Avenue sanitary sewer
- Repaired sinkhole in front of IGA
- Continued to scrape paint off walls of Clarifier #2

## The Week with Police

### Accidents:

This Week: 3 accidents, 0 injuries  
 2025 YTD: 14 accidents, 1 injury  
 2024 YTD: 5 accidents, 1 injury  
 2024 TOTAL: 104 accidents, 18 injuries

### Calls For Service:

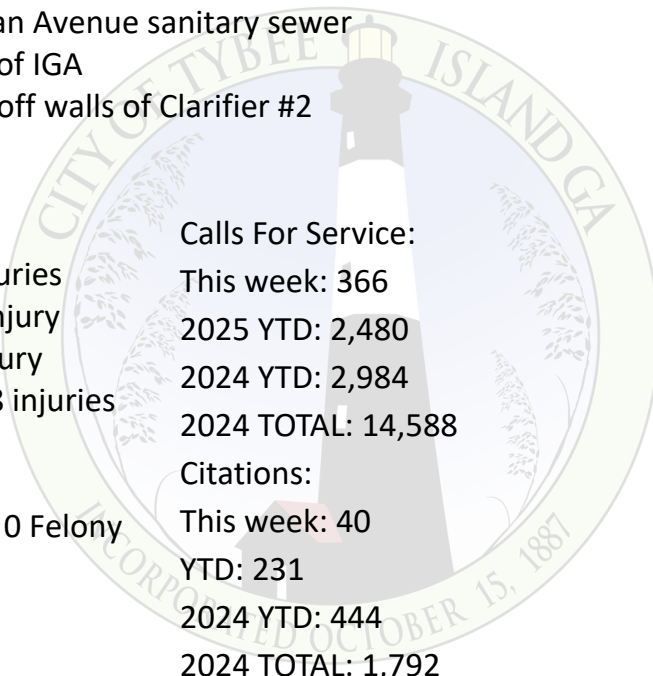
This week: 366  
 2025 YTD: 2,480  
 2024 YTD: 2,984  
 2024 TOTAL: 14,588

### Arrests:

This Week: 9 total – 8 DUIs / 0 Felony  
 2025 YTD: 63 arrests  
 2024 YTD: 96 arrests  
 2024 TOTAL: 504 arrests

### Citations:

This week: 40  
 YTD: 231  
 2024 YTD: 444  
 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	3	0	0	4
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:

03/11: Capt. Randolph gave an interview to WTOC about the upcoming Irish Heritage weekend. He repeatedly emphasized the need to drink responsibly and designate a sober driver.

03/11: Radios are installed in the Command Vehicle. They are just finishing up the cable management.

## Staffing:

We will be down 5 officers March 27 and have 3 applications and a potential candidate currently in the police academy.

03/30: Please mark your calendars for our 1<sup>st</sup> Touch a Truck event in Memorial Park! This will include city departments and outside jurisdictions. Please see the announcement below.

03/31: Meeting with Georgia State Patrol about the upcoming Orange Crush Event.

I'm proud to say that this year, four of our officers have been nominated for "Best Law Enforcement Officer" in Connect Savannah's "Best of Savannah" awards. Chief Hayes has also been nominated in the "Best Public Servant" category. Voting ends March 17, and we'd appreciate it if you'd take time to vote for your brothers and sisters, and bring this award back to Tybee for the 3rd year in a row.

Vote here: <https://www.connectsavannah.com/savannah/BestOf#//>

#### Last Week at the Fire Department

18 calls for service

0-Fire calls

5-Medical Calls

3-Manpower calls/Lift Assists

1-False Alarms

0-Rescue

#### Other Updates:

1. The addition of the full-timer firefighters and our three part-time personnel are already showing results in reducing the amount of OT shifts needed at the FD.
2. Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) Update - The department has officially begun the process of updating and replacing our Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs). This is a meticulous and time-consuming effort that ensures we establish a comprehensive framework covering all aspects of our operations. Our goal is to provide clear, structured guidance that leaves no ambiguity about expectations for our employees. These guidelines are essential in maintaining efficiency, safety, and consistency in our department's day-to-day operations. Once the updates are finalized, the revised SOGs will be reviewed by Human Resources and the legal team to confirm compliance with City policy and all applicable regulations. This step is crucial to ensuring that our policies align with City standards and best practices in public safety.
3. Community Engagement – Food Bank Assistance - This month, B Shift and the Chief once again volunteered their time to assist the local food bank with distributing groceries to families in need. These opportunities allow us to connect with community members outside of emergency situations, fostering trust and reinforcing the department's commitment to public service. We look forward to continuing our involvement in future food bank initiatives and other outreach efforts.
4. Ocean Rescue Preparation & Lifeguard Recruitment - As we approach the busy beach season, our Ocean Rescue Coordinator, Jen Wittendorf, delivered an insightful and well-prepared presentation to staff regarding the current state of Ocean Rescue operations. Her briefing provided valuable updates on expectations, challenges, and goals for the upcoming season.

In preparation for the influx of beachgoers, the Fire Department is working closely with Ocean Rescue to ensure they have the necessary support and resources. Additionally, recruitment efforts are underway to secure qualified lifeguards for the season. With the first lifeguard qualifying test scheduled for the end of March, we have ramped up our recruitment efforts by working with HR to launch a referral bonus and deploying paid advertisements on Facebook and other social media platforms.

5. Equipment Repairs & Seasonal Readiness - Maintenance and repairs are ongoing for our side-by-sides and jet skis as we prepare for the upcoming season. Ensuring that our equipment remains in peak condition is a continuous process that requires significant resources and investment. The costs associated with maintaining and repairing essential rescue equipment are considerable, but these efforts are necessary to guarantee the safety and effectiveness of our operations. We remain committed to keeping all necessary vehicles and gear in top working order, so our teams are fully prepared to respond when needed.

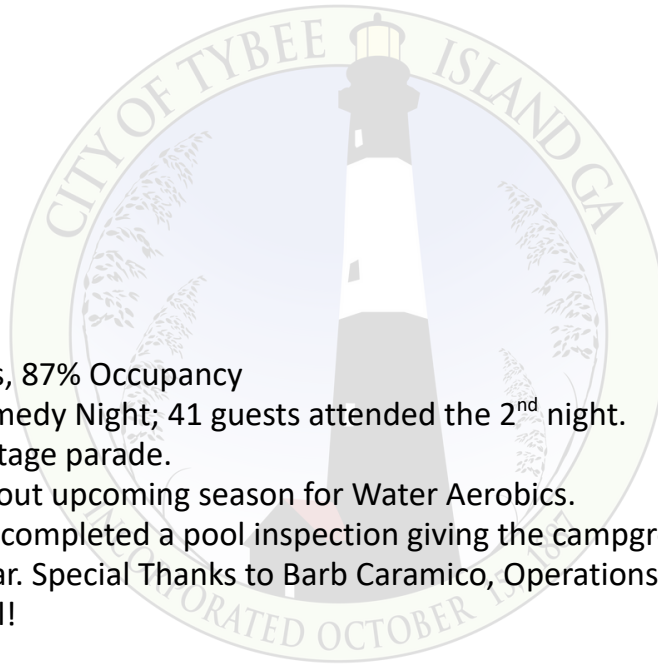
### **Municipal Court Update**

Court was held on March 11. The following are dispositions:

Bond Forfeiture	8
Bound over to State Court	5
Guilty as Charged	12
Nolle Prosequi	4
Pre-trial diversion	1
Merged	3
Warnings	30

### **Around the Campground**

- 158 Arrivals, 628 Site Nights, 87% Occupancy
- 30 guests attended first Comedy Night; 41 guests attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> night.
- Prepared float for Irish Heritage parade.
- Met with YMCA director about upcoming season for Water Aerobics.
- County Health Department completed a pool inspection giving the campground a score of 100 allowing the pool to open for the year. Special Thanks to Barb Caramico, Operations Supervisor, for all her hard work in keeping up our pool!



Bret Bell, City Manager