
City Council Weekly Update - July 7, 2025

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To #Council <#Council@cityoftybee.org>

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📎 2 attachments (544 KB)

DRAFT RFP-Cultural Arts Programming-2025.1.docx; RFQ 2025-786 Energy Services Program.pdf;

Greetings Mayor and Council,

Great job this weekend Tybee Island!

We appear to have gotten through the holiday weekend without any serious incidents, despite extremely large crowds and maddening traffic. Tropical Storm Chantal's big surf, heavy winds and intermittent rains kept crowds fairly light on Saturday, but Sunday was a beautiful beach day.

Cheers to all of Team Tybee for the massive effort, including DPW's daily magic trick whipping the beach back into shape, Police and Code for keeping order amidst the chaos, and Fire/Ocean Rescue for protecting our choppy shore.

Ocean Rescue had 2,200 advisements, 26 water assists, and 12 rescues on the 4th alone. Through the weekend Police made seven arrests, including four DUIs, and issued 31 citations. Dispatch received 289 calls for service.







Year-End Parking Revenue

While we won't know what 4th of July parking revenue looked like until later this week, I am excited to report that we finished off the fiscal year in great form, bringing in \$1.18 million during the month of June. That's our strongest month of the fiscal year and slightly better than June 2024. It capped an impressive second half rebound that saw parking revenue come in \$224,660 higher than the same period last year. While we still finished below FY24 totals, net revenue will come in very close to budget. Hopeful this momentum will continue through the remainder of the summer.

| MONTH | FY2025 | FY2024 | GAIN/LOSS |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| JULY | \$1,070,704 | \$1,200,607 | -\$129,903 |
| AUG | \$679,586 | \$701,020 | -\$21,434 |
| SEPT | \$447,400 | \$630,213 | -\$182,813 |
| OCT | \$376,017 | \$416,828 | -\$40,811 |
| NOV | \$200,387 | \$210,757 | -\$10,370 |
| DEC | \$22,345 | \$77,354 | -\$55,009 |
| JAN | \$152,287 | \$146,744 | \$5,543 |
| FEB | \$286,795 | \$238,367 | \$48,428 |

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| MARCH | \$542,160 | \$546,818 | -\$4,659 |
| APRIL | \$863,706 | \$685,106 | \$178,601 |
| MAY | \$976,406 | \$976,524 | -\$119 |
| JUNE | \$1,182,474 | \$1,165,611 | \$16,863 |
| TOTAL | \$6,772,253 | \$6,995,949 | -\$223,696 |

McQueen’s Island Trail Parking

Speaking of parking, you may have noticed that the informal McQueen’s Island Trail parking area just past the Bull River Bridge bend on U.S. 80 has been blocked off with cones. I recently spoke with the GDOT District Engineer, who said the pullout was never intended to be a secondary access to the trail, as it is in a dangerous location for traffic. The County was in agreement. GDOT last week seeded the shoulder with grass to further cut it off. The Ft. Pulaski entrance will now be the only access to the trail.

The County has received funding from FEMA’s Public Assistance Program to repair damage to the trail that occurred during Tropical Storm Debby last November. The County will use fill, limestone and rip-rap to repair 13 locations on the trail, as well as install additional tiebacks to the existing bulkhead, and install about 1,300 feet of new timber bulkhead.

Elsewhere Along Old Tybee Road

Three cheers to Councilman Tony Ploughe, who may or may not have dedicated a recent Saturday limbing and trimming up the grove of palms across from the Lazaretto Creek Boat Ramp, a facility co-managed by the National Park Service, Chatham County and the Georgia DNR. City DPW gave the bandit an assist hauling off the branches and laying down some pine straw.

While the City doesn’t own this property, it is our gateway and it looks very inviting now, particularly when paired with the new median landscaping on the other side of the bridge.



A Ploughe collaborator may have also been seen picking up litter along U.S. 80 on the 4th of July. The investigation continues.



Tybee Fruit Orchard Update

While we're on the topic of awesome Council initiatives, the new fruit orchard at Polk and U.S. 80 continues to take shape.

We've had issues with cars parking nose-in onto the property, and trampling some the young fruit trees we planted this spring. So this week DPW began installing a wooden perimeter fence to help protect the site and better define its boundaries. Most of the plants appear to be doing well as we head into the hottest part of the summer.



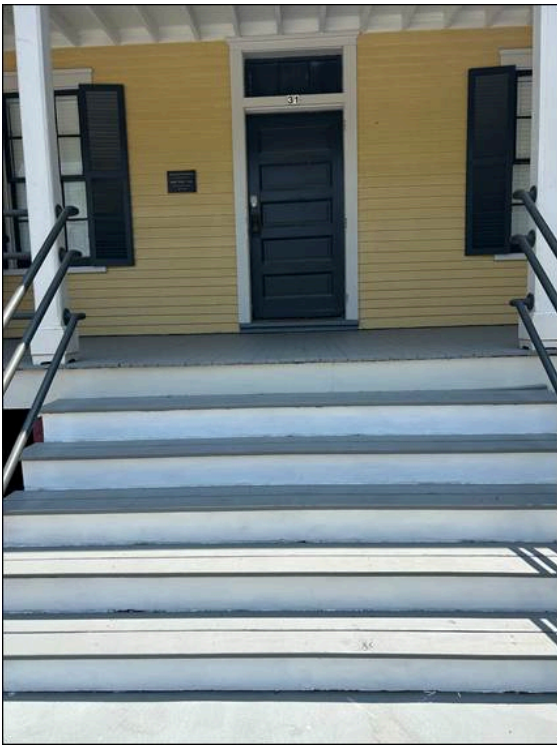
Marine Science Center Landscaping Refresh

Next time you head to the Marine Science Center check out the shell resurfacing our DPW crew added last week. Looks great!



Guard House Front Porch Repairs Made

While you're headed to the north end, slow down at the Guard House. DPW in recent weeks has replaced the front steps, repaired some rotted wood on the porch, and repainted the whole thing. Looks very inviting!



Some RFPs to Watch For

We'll be issuing two requests for proposals this week that you should take note of.

First, as you know we are operating under an expired agreement for operation of the City-owned historic firehouse on Cedarwood Drive, now home to the Tybee Arts Association and its Black Box Theater. State law does not allow any further renewals with the Tybee Arts Association without a competitive bidding process.

We will issue the attached RFP, which seeks proposals from registered nonprofit organizations that will offer:

- Live theater, music or dance performances
- Literary Arts (poetry reading, spoken word, storytelling)
- Visual Arts Displays
- Educational Programs (workshops, lectures, lessons and demonstrations)
- Community Arts Events (festivals, markets, celebrations)

The RFP process considers a number of criteria beyond rent to the City. We will score proposals based on:

- Organizational capacity and experience
- Proposed programming
- Marketing and outreach strategy
- Financial sustainability and budgeting
- References and past performance
- Completeness and professionalism of proposal

Unrelated to the issuance of the RFP this week, the Tybee Arts Association will present its annual update to City Council during our Thursday meeting. The update is a requirement of our agreement with the organization.

Also this week, the City will issue the attached RFQ seeking the services of an approved Energy Services Company to develop a comprehensive energy management program for City-owned facilities. These turn-key programs are specifically authorized by State law, and were contemplated as part of Tybee's Sustainability Plan presented this spring.

If the City moves forward and contracts with a registered Energy Services Company, that company will perform an investment grade energy audit of City facilities, and then propose various projects to reduce energy consumption at those facilities, including the addition of solar. The company would finance and manage these capital projects for the City, and guarantee energy cost savings over the length of the contract term.




These types of energy management program contracts have become increasingly common among Georgia local governments, and are a particularly cost-effective way of adding solar to existing facilities. The City of Savannah and Chatham County both have entered into this type of agreement.




We are planning a workshop prior to placing the contract on Council Agenda.

Communications and Outreach Update

Designated Driver Campaign

Below are results from our designated driver social media campaign, through July 3.

| | | | |
|--------------|---|---|--|
| |  |  |  |
| Views | 2,598 | 83,632 | 7,269 |
| Reach | 1258 | 55,060 | 4,827 |
| Interactions | 32 | 319 | 86 |

| | | | |
|--------------|---|---|--|
| |  |  |  |
| Views | 6,515 | 9,700 | 1,992 |
| Reach | 3,996 | 929 | 1,436 |
| Interactions | 132 | 10 | 29 |

| As of 7/3/25 | Views | Reach | Interactions |
|--------------|---------|--------|--------------|
| TOTAL | 111,706 | 67,506 | 608 |

Community Development Update

LiveOak Fiber

As of July 2, 2025:

- Over the past week, LiveOak Fiber/Coastal production crews installed 6,722 linear feet of conduit and passed 52 homes.
- Total linear conduit placed to date: 85,732 ft (16.23 miles); 1,368 homes passed. When this project ends, Live Oak will have 22 linear miles of conduit placed.
- Permanent erosion control, bollards, and privacy screening to be installed Tuesday or Wednesday next week.
- There were three utility conflicts in the past week, all impacting sewer lines. City of Tybee Water made repairs. Any repairs determined to be the fault of the contractor will again be billed to Live Oak and their subcontractors.

Code Compliance Weekly

- Cart Inspections: 33
- Wheelchair Checkouts: 7
- Audited 122 STR signs
- Dispatched to the beach near 10th Street for a noise complaint. Upon arrival the responding officer located two people making a video on the beach. The music being played was not at level to be considered a violation. The officer did speak with the subjects and asked them to turn the music down and explained the city ordinance to them. No further action was required.
- Dispatched to 710 Jones Avenue for a dog at large. It was learned that the dog belonged to that address and had been seen in the roadway by the complainant. When the officer arrived, the dog was back in a screened in porch with the door secured by a neighbor. The dog had gotten out due to the door getting blown open by the wind. No further action was required.

- Site inspections were made at 1601 Chatham Ave, 1303 & 1305 Miller Ave, 166 & 167 Lewis Ave, the marsh side of Venetian Ave, 1310 Venetian Ave, and the city right of way beside of 1315 7th Ave. Further action is pending.
- Assisted Ocean Rescue Lifeguards with closing the waterline, due to lightning in the area, from North Beach @ Byers Street to South Beach @ 19th Street
- Worked security for the containment zone for the July 4th fireworks.
- Assisted in locating the parents of three different missing children during the fireworks.
- Assisted Beach Safety with keeping beach goers from swimming too far out while double red flags were flying
- While performing a routine beach patrol, observed over 200 underage guests involved in a party on the beach at 10th Street, and notified TIPD. Later, dispatched to assist TIPD Officers in dispersing of the group from the beach area. While doing so, we organized the teens to pick up an enormous amount of litter left on the beach.
- Dispatched to 14 13th Lane regarding a Noise Disturbance, where there was "a large gathering on underage guests being loud". Teens were leaving upon officer's arrival, so no real noise was observed, however, officer found responsible occupants, issued them a verbal warning, and directed them to keep future noise at a lower level.

The Week in Infrastructure

DPW

- Collected beach trash every day.
- Removed debris from Lazaretto Creek Boat Ramp.
- Precut wood and began construction on the fence at the orchard.
- Removed debris from Laurel Avenue.
- Removed graffiti at Byer's Crossover.
- Repaired a pothole at Fisherman's walk.
- Completed repairs and maintenance at Byer's Crossover.
- Patched asphalt at Public Works for drainage project.
- Arranged setup of cones, barrels and signage for the holiday weekend traffic.
- Mounted American flags around the island.
- Responded in a timely manner to multiple work orders.
- Set out additional barrels on the beach for the holiday weekend.
- Performed maintenance on public restrooms.
- Prepared equipment for installing safety radius at pier for fireworks show.
- Assisted with and oversaw repairs to waterline on the 17th street bathrooms.
- Completed work on the A/C at campground.
- Painted the stairs at the Guard House.
- Completed installation of the new shell substrate at the Marine Science Center.
- Blew debris from parks and down Tybrisa.
- Picked up loose litter from parking lots, sidewalks and surrounding areas.
- Trimmed and cut around sidewalks.
- Mowed and trimmed the four lanes.
- Mowed and trimmed Jaycee Park and Memorial Park.
- Cleaned and maintained all public facilities.
- Cleaned and maintained all public restrooms.
- Completed six tree removal permit reviews and conducted four tree assessments.

Fleet

- Operated the sweeper to clear debris from the roadways.
- Completed installation of the Hydraulic Cylinder for vehicle #204.
- Reassembled vehicle # 412 to send to JC Lewis Ford.

- Serviced the A/C and installed a new belt in vehicle #271.
- Repaired the lock located on the back of Water & Sewer's Vac Truck.
- Initiated work on vehicle #149 for Code Enforcement and determined it will need new coolant pipes.
- Replaced the coolant pipes and changed the oil/filter on vehicle #149.
- Ordered and installed new tires for Mower LE87.
- Bled the cooling system for vehicle #149.
- Repaired and recharged A/C system for vehicle #406 for Water & Sewer.
- Submitted an order for more oil SW30.
- Replaced the voltage regulator, changed the oil and replaced the spark plugs for vehicle #501.

Recycling/Dump

- Picked up and emptied both cardboard trailers and both green recycle trailers.
- Supervised and assisted one community service worker.
- Completed four bales of cardboard.
- Sorted cardboard from local businesses.
- Called in containers with household trash, construction debris, yard waste and recycling.
- Assisted residents in unloading trash and recyclables.
- Monitored the scale.
- Cleaned up the main yard.
- Continued training new employee on daily tasks, heavy machinery and equipment use.
- Oversaw repairs to the compactor from Atlantic Waste.
- Set out additional trailers for cardboard collection in preparation of the long holiday weekend.

Water and Sewer

- Completed utility locates for LiveOak project
- Cleaned and televised sewer line on Chatham Avenue
- Replaced two water lines behind Pier 16
- Repaired water leak on Bay Street
- Deep cleaned the clarifiers
- Worked and cleaned the vac truck
- Cleaned the UV tanks
- Patched hole on 18th Street
- Picked up trash around the treatment plant
- Clean aerator motors
- Cleaned out work trucks

The Week with Police

Accidents:

This Week: 9 accidents, 1 injury
 2025 YTD: 59 accidents, 4 injuries
 2024 YTD: 58 accidents, 14 injuries
 2024 TOTAL: 104 accidents, 18 injuries

Arrests:

This Week: 15 total – 1 DUI / 0 Felony
 2025 YTD: 231 arrests
 2024 YTD: 322 arrests
 2024 TOTAL: 504 arrests

Calls For Service:

This week: 395
 2025 YTD: 8,060

2024 YTD: 8,389
2024 TOTAL: 14,588

Citations:

This week: 52
YTD: 844
2024 YTD: 1,284
2024 TOTAL: 1,792

| Part 1 Crimes | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------|------|---------|---------|----------|---------|-------|---------------------|--------------|
| - | Homicide | Rape | Robbery | Assault | Burglary | Larceny | Arson | Motor Vehicle Theft | Total Part 1 |
| 2025 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 22 |
| 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:

07/03: TIPD officers and Cadets spent three days on the range for annual qualifications, some days with a heat index over 100. We are 75 percent complete.

07/03: Golf Cart Enforcement results:

- Ofc Lawlor
WW x8
VW x2
- Ofc Santiago
WW x10
SGT Stuber
WW x 8
SGT Sims
WW x3
- Cpl Jung
WW x1
- Capt. Randolph
VW x1
- Rentals: 17
Privately Owned: 8

The next enforcement event will be August 28, 2025.

Upcoming Events:

07/05: Assistant Chief Whitley leaves for the Senior Management Institute for Police, Police Executive Research Forum at Boston University for 3 weeks.

07/09: Last Fresh Air Home visit scheduled.

07/10: Scheduled crosswalk enforcement.

08/28: Next date for Golf Cart Education and Enforcement.

Staffing:

We are down a total of four budgeted officers (one leaving July 7 for the Georgia Ports Authority Police Department). We now have three cadets who recently started with the police department. All have been accepted into the police academy beginning July 7. The police department currently has one open Police Officer position. We are in the process of background and interview procedures for a sworn officer. Her interview was June 27.

Communications is down two positions. The openings are due to the communications officer transitioning to a Police Cadet and one leaving to use his doctoral degree. We currently have four applications in to fill these positions. Two are certified communications officers, and two are not. Due to the short staff and busy season, former communications officer Sara Benton will return as a seasonal employee to help fill in during busy times while we conduct interviews and background checks on the four applicants.

The Week with Fire

Total Incidents: 19
Closed Incidents: 17
In Progress Incidents: 2

Incident Types:

- EMS calls (excluding vehicle accidents): 8
- Medical assist, assist EMS crew: 5
- Dispatched and cancelled en route: 2
- Watercraft rescue: 1
- Search for person in water: 1
- Gas leak (natural gas or LPG): 1
- Emergency medical service, other: 1
- Smoke detector activation due to malfunction: 1

| Date | Incident Type | Location | Status |
|------------|--|--------------------------|-------------|
| 07/03/2025 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | 900 Butler Avenue | Closed |
| 07/03/2025 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | 1621 Chatham | Closed |
| 07/03/2025 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | 12 8th Street | Closed |
| 07/02/2025 | Medical assist, assist EMS crew | 26 Van Horne Avenue | Closed |
| 07/02/2025 | Gas leak (natural gas or LPG) | 101 Lovell Avenue | Closed |
| 07/02/2025 | Search for person in water | 7th Street | Closed |
| 07/01/2025 | Dispatched and cancelled en route | 14 14th Street and Beach | Closed |
| 07/01/2025 | Dispatched and cancelled en route | 1601 Inlet Avenue | Closed |
| 07/01/2025 | Watercraft rescue | Alley 3 | Closed |
| 07/01/2025 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | 912 Lovell Avenue | Closed |
| 07/01/2025 | Medical assist, assist EMS crew | 40 Estill Hammock Drive | Closed |
| 07/01/2025 | Medical assist, assist EMS crew | 77 Van Horne Avenue | Closed |
| 06/30/2025 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | 1500 Strand | Closed |
| 06/30/2025 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | 9 2nd Avenue | Closed |
| 06/29/2025 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | 1402 Butler Avenue | In Progress |
| 06/28/2025 | Emergency medical service, other | 5 Village Place | Closed |
| 06/28/2025 | Medical assist, assist EMS crew | 15 1/2 and Beach | In Progress |
| 06/28/2025 | Medical assist, assist EMS crew | 304 9th Street | Closed |
| 06/28/2025 | Smoke detector activation due to malfunction | 8 Rosewood Avenue | Closed |

Notes:

- The department handled a high volume of EMS-related calls this week, consistent with seasonal trends and increased visitor activity.
- The gas leak at 101 Lovell Avenue was resolved promptly with no injuries reported.
- Water-related incidents, including a watercraft rescue and a search for a person in water, were successfully managed with coordination from local authorities.
- Two incidents remain in progress, and updates will be provided as they are resolved.
- All units performed efficiently, and no major equipment issues were reported.
- Special thanks to David Palowski for getting a third jet ski operational for Ocean Rescue's use, enhancing our water rescue capabilities for the busy July 4th weekend.

Around the Campground

- 122 Arrivals, 567 Site Nights, 77% Occupancy rate, Up 1% YoY.
- FY25 Total: 5,932 Arrivals, 24,345 Site Nights, 65% Occupancy Rate, Down 5% YoY.
- Updated Store Flavor of the Week to Bananas!
- Identified HVAC refrigerant leak in Cabin 106, replaced fitting with soldered joint.

Year-End Revenue

| | FY25 | FY24 | Difference |
|-----|-----------|-----------|------------|
| JUL | \$233,413 | \$269,369 | (\$35,956) |
| AUG | \$149,539 | \$153,421 | (\$3,883) |
| SEP | \$138,067 | \$184,830 | (\$46,763) |
| OCT | \$164,384 | \$172,274 | (\$7,890) |
| NOV | \$128,573 | \$135,190 | (\$6,617) |
| DEC | \$127,488 | \$115,564 | \$11,925 |

| | | | |
|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| JAN | \$121,497 | \$141,689 | (\$20,192) |
| FEB | \$147,278 | \$152,437 | (\$5,160) |
| MAR | \$228,996 | \$245,649 | (\$16,652) |
| APR | \$233,059 | \$217,153 | \$15,906 |
| MAY | \$218,217 | \$243,793 | (\$25,576) |
| JUN | \$216,480 | \$246,156 | (\$29,676) |
| YTD | \$2,106,991 | \$2,277,525 | (\$170,534) |

Have a great week everyone!



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