


City Council Weekly Update - July 28, 2025

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To #Council <#Council@cityoftybee.org>

Cc #Dept Heads <#DeptHeads@cityoftybee.org>; Brent Levy <blevy@cityoftybee.gov>; Daryl McCorkle <daryl.mccorkle@cityoftybee.org>

 1 attachment (637 KB)

LiveOak Service Areas07242025.pdf;

Greetings Mayor and Council,

Hope everyone had a productive week. Special thanks to Assistant City Manager Owens, who ran the show while I visited family.

As you know, we saw our first structure fire of the year on Tuesday. The building at 1305 7th Avenue was a large vacation rental duplex. It was fully consumed when C-Shift arrived. Thankfully, all human occupants had evacuated the building, though one suffered a broken foot and some burns. Sadly, two dogs died in the fire.

Given the proximity of neighboring homes (within 20 feet), the decision was made immediately to go defensive. Lt. Brandon Kaupp and his team—Sgt. David Pawloski, FF Tyler Hall, FF Billy Groover, and FF Ashton Bouknight—executed one of the best exposure protection efforts Chief McMillian had witnessed in his career, especially considering the 100+ degree heat index.

As I monitored the communications from afar, I was amazed at the “One Tybee” team response. On-scene support came from Tybee PD, DPW, Water and Sewer, and Code Enforcement. Administrative employees like Whitney Hooker from HR and Maggie Wright from Communications and Outreach brought sports drinks to cool first responders down in the extreme heat. Chatham Fire and EMS were instrumental as mutual aid partners, providing the additional personnel and resources needed to bring this incident under control after about 5–6 hours.

The city should be incredibly proud of how all departments worked together under intense conditions.







The Week with Fire

Fire and EMS Call Summary

07/24

- Police matter – Butler & 13th
- EMS call – 3rd Street
- Canceled en route – 78 Van Horne Ave
- Alarm malfunction – 7 Rosewood Ave
- EMS call – 1 9th Terrace
- EMS call – 7 Rosewood Ave
- Cancelled en route – 4 Pulaski St
- Alarm malfunction – 1 7th Ave

07/23

- Power line down – 7th St & 2nd Ave
- Medical assist – 701 1st St
- Citizen complaint – 212 2nd Ave
- Smoke/odor removal – 1305 7th Ave

07/22

- Lock-out – 404 Butler Ave
- Motor vehicle accident w/ injury – Hwy 80 & Teresa Ln
- Structure fire – 1305 7th Ave
- EMS call – 610 Jones Ave
- Medical assist – 77 Van Horne

07/21

- EMS call – 10 Center Place
- EMS call – 5 Fishermans Walk
- EMS call – 10 Center Place
- EMS call – 1701 Strand
- Other EMS service – 1413 Lovell Ave
- Medical assist – 7 Rosewood Ave

- Medical assist – Eagles Nest Dr & Hwy 80
- Medical assist – 7 Rosewood Ave

Tybee Island Ocean Rescue Activity

- Advisements: 3,985
- Jellyfish Stings: 159
- Water Assists: 13
- Water Rescues: 2
- Animal Assists: 2
- Public Transports: 7
- Missing Persons: 3
- Medicals: 35
- EMS-Required Medicals: 4
- Jet Ski Assists: 0

We're seeing an increase in jellyfish stings, although we haven't had a major swarm yet like in some previous seasons.

Most of our high school and college lifeguards return to school starting August 3, which will impact coverage and staffing at towers going forward.

The Week with Police

Accidents:

This Week: 5 accidents, 2 injuries
 2025 YTD: 69 accidents, 7 injuries
 2024 YTD: 75 accidents, 16 injuries
 2024 TOTAL: 104 accidents, 18 injuries

Arrests:

This Week: 13 total – 6 DUIs / 1 Felony
 2025 YTD: 259 arrests
 2024 YTD: 366 arrests
 2024 TOTAL: 504 arrests

Calls For Service:

This week: 339
 2025 YTD: 9,121
 2024 YTD: 9,423
 2024 TOTAL: 14,588

Citations:

This week: 49
 YTD: 989
 2024 YTD: 1,377
 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

07/21: The Police Department is currently in the process of finishing State-mandated training for the year. All personnel are in the process of taking Critical Tasks, which includes the following:

- Off-Duty Conduct

- Citizen Complaints
- Mentally Ill Civilian
- Domestic Violence Involving Law Enforcement Employees
- Ethics
- Sexual Harassment
- De-Escalation

07/24: Det. Villegas applied for the Digital Forensics LTP Grant Program regarding the DPX Acquisition Capabilities Forensics Software. The committee has accepted our application and will be voting this week on whether we will be awarded the DPX Forensics Software grant. We will be notified of the voting results once a decision has been made. If approved, Police will immediately receive the software package, which includes both desktop software and a handheld Android field device, all under a single license. The license will allow access to as many users as necessary.

The first year of software use is free. After the initial year, there will be an annual renewal fee per device. The renewal cost breakdown is as follows:

- Desktop: \$1,900
- Handheld: \$1,700
- Subtotal: \$3,600

We may choose to renew either one or both devices annually. If we renew both, a \$500 discount will be applied, bringing the total renewal cost to \$3,100.

This software will enhance TIPD's capabilities by allowing us to independently extract digital evidence pursuant to search warrants, eliminating the need for outside agency assistance in executing software-related search warrants.

07/24: Congratulations to Assistant Chief Whitley, who graduated this week from the Police Executive Research Forum, Senior Management Institute for Police. This 3-week-long program provides intensive training in management and leadership for mid- to upper-level police executives. It focuses on equipping law enforcement leaders with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively manage their agencies, address contemporary challenges, and foster positive change within the profession.

Back River Enforcement: Enforcement and extra patrols of the Back River continued daily.

Crosswalk Enforcement

July 23, 2025

Sgt Sims
WW x 2

Staffing

TIPD currently has no vacant Police Officer positions. 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. Police currently has four applications to fill these positions. Two applicants 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 Police conducts interviews and background checks on the four applicants.

Upcoming Events

08/14: Next date for crosswalk enforcement

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

Communications and Outreach Update

Key Updates & Highlights

- Comcast conducted multiple site visits this week to address reoccurring issues with broadcasting on cable channel. Next steps for resolving some of the issue is replacement of equipment.
- Staff met with Cablecast to readdress sound issues on live broadcast channel, and successfully adjusted the volume settings for a better sound quality for viewers.

Public Information & Media

Savannah Morning News:

- <https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/local/2025/07/22/house-fire-reported-on-tybee-island-leaves-one-injured/85328578007/>

WTOC:

- <https://www.wtoc.com/2025/07/23/tybee-island-beaches-deteriorating-next-beach-nourishment-not-slated-start-until-late-2026/>
- <https://www.wtoc.com/2025/07/22/fire-tybee-island-city-asks-residents-avoid-area/>
- <https://www.wtoc.com/2025/07/24/tybee-fire-victims-lost-everything-mayor-says/>
- <https://www.wtoc.com/2025/07/24/chatham-county-mosquito-control-treat-tybee-nearby-islands-today/>
- <https://www.wtoc.com/2025/07/21/get-flipper-facts-dolphin-whisperers-tybee-island/>

WSAV:

- <https://www.wsav.com/community/tybee-island-community-comes-together-to-help-house-fire-victims/>
- <https://www.wsav.com/news/gofundme-started-for-woman-who-was-injured-in-tybee-island-fire/>
- <https://www.wsav.com/crime-safety/house-fire-reported-at-7th-avenue-in-tybee-island/>

WJCL:

- <https://www.wjcl.com/article/tybee-island-house-fire/65477857>
- <https://www.wjcl.com/article/tybee-officials-shut-down-parts-of-beach-as-erosion-crisis-worsens/65493948>

Social Media & Digital Engagement

Page Insights:

- Views: 571,200 (up 176%)
- Total followers: 28,900 (up 317)
- Top Facebook Posts This Week:
 - House Fire Public Notice: 312,200 views, 1,293 engagements
 - Sand Bar Signage: 46,806 views, 298 engagements
- Website Updates:
 - Building & Public Facilities Authority
 - Bids
 - Calendar
 - Updated SEO descriptions for each department page on city website.

Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)

CLG Grant-Local Historic District Project

- On Monday, HPC Chair Holly Grell-Lawe gave a presentation to the Planning Commission to provide a project update and review community input gathered during the recent Input Session. The presentation was well received, and the Planning Commission asked very valuable questions and provided great feedback to help guide us as we continue to move this project forward
- The CLG Grant project team met on Tuesday to discuss next steps in developing design guidelines for the proposed Local Historic District.
- Staff is currently compiling a mailing list to notify property owners within the proposed district area (and within 200 feet of the project area) about upcoming public meetings. These meetings will allow residents to provide feedback and contribute to the development of design guidelines.

Main Street Program

- **New Resident Guide:** The Main Street Organization Committee, with staff support, has finalized the New Resident Guide ([click here to view the guide](#)). The committee is now working on printing copies to distribute to new residents when they visit City Hall.
- **WTOC Morning Break Segment:** The final filming for Tybee's WTOC Morning Break segment was held on Friday, July 25. This project has been an excellent platform to promote local businesses and

events, with each segment averaging over 11,000 impressions. The August segment includes promotions for the Labor Day Beach Bash

- **Streetscape Improvements:** Main Street is collaborating with the Department of Public Works to install new bike racks on the South End and to pressure wash the sidewalks on Butler Avenue, Strand Avenue, and Tybrisa Street.
- **Mobile Visitor Center:** The Mobile Visitor Center continues to move forward. Window decals were installed on the vehicle last Friday by Kennickel, and this week, new tires are being installed by the Department of Public Works.

Special Events

Permits issued YTD:

Special Events:		15
Special Events Vendor Permits:	77	
Beach:		97
Film:		20
Guard House:		54
Memorial Park Screened Pavilion:	49	
Memorial Park Open Air Pavilion:	57	
Jaycee Park Gazebo:		1
Community Cafeteria:		115
Community Classroom:		110
Event Banner Permits:		49

Reservation Website: 440 transactions with a transaction total of \$16,895.75

New Special Event Application Submission on Website: 23 submissions

Special Events:

Last weekend The Chapel By The Sea (aka the Miley Cyrus movie wedding chapel) hosted a grand opening event for their new business name under new owners and management. They obtained a special events permit with the city for this event to have food trucks and other various vendors set up and able to do business on the chapel's property. They obtained 14 vendor permits with special event permit fees totaling \$375 to host 4 food trucks, 3 dessert/cake bakers, and 7 local artist/makers with a variety of products and services ranging from handmade invitations, custom centerpieces, jewelry, hair styling, to custom keepsake bride & groom gifts.

Event Banners Permits:

The 'How to Reserve Event Banner Permit Locations Online' guide has been completed, added to the city website special events page and the reservation site where the event banner locations reservations are made, as well as provided hard copy and access to staff at the front window of City Hall. You can view the guide here: [Event Banner Guide](#). Now that the online reservation process and guide are completed, focus will be on establishing a rate fee and policy that will generate additional revenue for the City while meeting the special events/non-profit/community's needs for use of the locations.

Welcome! 0 Beach 0 Parks 0 Rental Facilities 0 Community Facilities 0

Event Banner Locati... 6 Special Event Permit ... 0 Campground 0 Recreation 0 Buy Local 0

List Banner Permit Locations at Tybee Welcome Sign X

Event Banner Locations :

The City has designated an area by the Tybee Welcome Sign along Highway 80 and an area in Memorial Park along Butler Avenue as approved event banner locations for advertising:

- City approved special events
- Events sponsored by a Tybee Island organization that has qualified for a City of Tybee Island community service award
- Events sponsored by a Tybee Island non-profit organization grant recipient
- Events to be held within the City of Tybee Island which are sponsored by a non-profit organization.

For help on how to reserve an event banner permit location, please click here.

Memorial Park Sign - Location 1	\$0/Multi-Day
Memorial Park Sign - Location...	\$0/Multi-Day
Tybee Welcome Sign - Locati...	\$0/Multi-Day
Tybee Welcome Sign - Locati...	\$0/Multi-Day
Tybee Welcome Sign - Locati...	\$0/Multi-Day
Tybee Welcome Sign - Locati...	\$0/Multi-Day

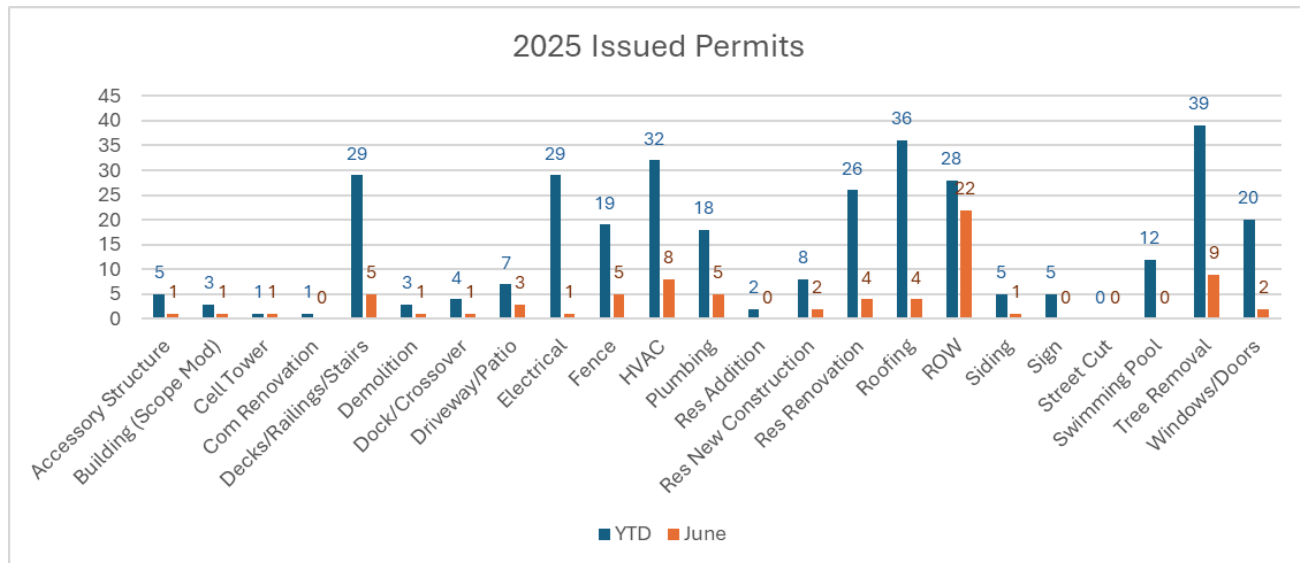
Community Development Update

June Permitting Activity: 76

- New Residential Construction: 2
- New Swimming Pool: 0
- Other permits (fence, electrical, sign, tree removal, etc.): 74

2025 YTD Building Permits: 332

- New Residential Construction: 8
- New Swimming Pool: 12
- Other permits (fence, electrical, sign, tree removal, etc.): 310



Planning and Zoning Activity (YTD): 15

- Site Plan: 2
- Site Plan with Variance: 1
- Variance: 5

- Administrative Variance : 0
- Special Review: 2
- Subdivision/Recombination: 2
- Administrative Subdivision: 1
- Map Amendment: 1
- Text Amendment: 0
- Tree Appeal: 1

LiveOak Fiber Update

- Crews installed 5,564 linear feet of conduit and passed 124 homes in the past week.
- Total linear conduit placed to date: 99,649 feet (18.87 miles); 1,632 homes passed.
- Total right-of-way permits issued to date: 47
- Total right-of-way permits under review: 7
- Map of service area status attached

The Week with Code Compliance

Citations:

Dog Confined in Car 1
 Glass on the Beach 1
 Pier Jumping 3

Warnings:

Fire (Grill) on the Beach 1
 Parking in a Restricted Zone 1
 Swimming >50yds From Shore 2
 Pier Jumping 2

Cart Inspections: 17

Wheelchair Checkouts: 35

Activities:

- Dispatched to an injured bird at 1405 6th Ave. He arrived to find an injured fledgling Mississippi Kite. He recognized that this was no ordinary bird and immediately contacted the City Marshal. The City Marshal was able to contact the Avian Conservation Center in Charleston, which immediately dispatched a volunteer to transport the bird to its facility.
- Responded to 409 Tybrisa Street regarding a report of a 3-4 ft rattlesnake on the property. Officers along with the City Marshal and the CC Supervisor responded to the call. The snake was located along a fence on the property very near the stairs to the front door. The snake was captured and relocated to a less inhabited area of the island.
- Dispatched to 408 Mcleod Ave. regarding a report of a rattlesnake at the residence. When the officer arrived, the snake was located in the yard. The officer removed the snake from that location and it was taken to less inhabited area.
- Dispatched to the Sandcastle Inn regarding a baby sea turtle that had been found. An officer responded and met Police and DPW at that location. It was learned that apparently a bird had picked up the turtle and dropped it at that location where it was found by a staff member. The turtle was eventually turned over to the Marine Science Center for care and nurturing.
- Dispatched to 10th Street regarding a dog locked in a truck. Officers located a large black dog inside a black pickup truck. The rear sliding window was open and there was water left outside the window where the dog could reach it. However, the water was sitting in the direct sunlight, so it was hot, and the dog was panting heavily. TIPD was called to assist. As Officers were preparing to remove the dog and impound it, the owner arrived on scene. After a field reclaim form was completed the dog was released to the owner and the owner was issued a citation for *Animal confinement and left unattended in a parked car*.
- Observed a small fire between the parking lot and Tybrisa Beach Resort on the pier side of the South Annex. TIFD was requested but the Code Officer and some good Samaritans were able to extinguish the fire before it got out of control.

- Assisted TIPD Officers with transportation on the beach at 13th Street, regarding a complaint of a disorderly male on the beach exposing himself and swinging a metal pole. The male subject was arrested by TIPD and the CC Officer transported the subject's property to TIPD for the officers.
- Dispatched to 600 Miller Ave. regarding a noise complaint stemming from a person operating a bobcat loader after sunset. When the officer arrived, there was no one on the bobcat and it was not running. The homeowner was educated on the ordinance.
- Dispatched to 1 Officers Row for two rattlesnakes in the yard. An officer responded but the snakes had left before the officer arrived. No further action required.
- Responded to the Surf Song Bed and Breakfast regarding a report of a rattlesnake on the property. Upon arrival it was learned that another resident had chased the snake into a wooded area. No action was required by Code Compliance at that time. The complainant was advised that if the snake came back out to call and officers would return.
- Assisted Beach Safety with a water rescue where 2 Swimmers were attempting to swim to Little Tybee Island. Guests were given Beach Education and a Verbal Warning to not swim that far offshore.

The Week in Infrastructure

DPW

- Completed concrete installation at the South Annex
- Installed new beach signs on south end
- Completed repairs on the crossover at 15 ½ Street
- Performed maintenance on water basin due to the rain
- Assisted the fire department during community fire
- Completed outfall maintenance
- Set up pylons on the beach as the tide and weather permitted
- Cut back 2nd Street crossover due to continued erosion
- Collected beach trash, recycling and litter five times throughout week
- Picked up loose litter from parking lots, sidewalks and surrounding areas
- Installed a TV and new electrical outlets at Marine Science Center
- Completed work orders as they were submitted
- Installed a new water fountain at the old school
- Picked up debris from 2nd St to Eastgate
- Installed a Mobi mat at the Tybrisa beach crossover
- Repaired multiple A/C units at the YMCA, Marine Science Center and Police Department Squad Room
- Cleaned the coils and filters dispatch for multiple A/C units
- Completed repairs to the water jet pilings at the sand bar
- Cleaned and maintained all public facilities
- Cleaned and maintained all public restrooms
- Mowed and trimmed Jaycee and Memorial parks
- Cleaned out storm drains to reduce flooding during the rain
- Trimmed brush on the beach crossovers and Eastgate
- Trimmed and mowed Polk St. and Bay St.
- Trimmed brush around sidewalks around the island

- Blew off debris on Tybrisa, south end parking lots for the sweeper, Jaycee Park and Memorial Park
- Issued two tree removal permits and completed five tree assessments

Recycling/Dump

- Picked up and emptied both cardboard trailers and both green recycle trailers
- Picked up aluminum and oyster shell recyclables from local businesses
- Supervised and assisted one community service worker
- Completed two bales of cardboard.
- Picked up recycling from Tybrisa and the beach crossovers
- 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 and blew debris off the main yard

Fleet Services

- Picked up and emptied both cardboard trailers and both green recycle trailers
- Picked up aluminum and oyster shell recyclables from local businesses
- Supervised and assisted one community service worker
- Completed two bales of cardboard
- Picked up recycling from Tybrisa and the beach crossovers
- Completed an oil change on two vehicles
- Aided other crews in cleaning up debris off the beach
- Replaced the battery in vehicle # 411 for Water and Sewer
- Replaced the gasket and pulse pickup coil for vehicle # 501
- Ordered new tires for the JCB backhoe and oversaw installation
- Assembled a new tool and supply cabinet
- Ordered and replaced the left rear tire on equipment LE92 for landscaping
- Finished all repairs on vehicle # 501
- Replaced all four tires on the Mobile Visitors Hut
- Cleaned and organized the fleet shop
- Repaired a hole in a floater pump and pull cord starter

Water and Sewer

- Responded to water leaks on Hosti Lane and Naylor Street
- Responded to water leak on 7th Street
- Televised line at 11th 8th Street
- Cleaned 500 feet of line at 8th and Lovell
- Raised manhole on 8th Street beachside
- Cleaned digester motors
- Filled in road patch on 7th
- Repaired sewer line on Logan Street
- Cleaned the clarifier
- Performed weekly maintenance on vac truck
- Performed routine monitoring, maintenance, and inspections on all three wells and lift stations
- Facilitated ongoing cellular communications upgrade at Main Well water tower

- Addressed issue concerning backup systems at lift station #4
- Responded to water shut off emergency at 15 Naylor Avenue
- Responded to sink hole at 807 Jones Avenue Unit G
- Continued water sampling protocols for sewage spill at 807 Jones Avenue
- Responded to a call from Tybee PD concerning a leak on 7th Street. Determined to be tidal event.
- Responded to water leak at Estill Avenue. Determined to be a private fire line. Water was turned off.

Around the Campground

- 111 Arrivals, 550 Site Nights, 75% Occupancy. Up 10% YoY.
- Celebrating Christmas in July with multiple events including tie dye, live music, Santa parade and themed pot luck.
- Trimmed vines and overgrowth behind Cabin 105
- Converted ATM machine to network instead of requiring a dedicated phone line in cost saving measure.
- Added Slatwall into section of front desk area to fit new copy machine and improve aesthetics.

Have a great week everyone!



www.cityoftybee.org

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