

City Council Weekly Update - June 23, 2025

From Bret Bell <bret.bell@cityoftybee.gov>
Date Mon 6/23/2025 12:08 AM
To #Council <#Council@cityoftybee.org>
Cc #Dept Heads <#DeptHeads@cityoftybee.org>

Greetings Mayor and Council,

Welcome to the official start of summer! It's exciting to see all the activity on Tybee as we hit peak season. Unfortunately, many of these visitors choose to drive home drunk after spending a day on the beach.

Last year we had more than 250 DUI arrests on Tybee, the highest number in recent history. Councilman Tony Ploughe correctly identified this as a pressing issue during the Council Priorities Workshop earlier this year, and has been providing extremely valuable input to the team as we have developed a gameplan.

We have met with alcohol license holders to inform them that we will begin enforcing Tybee's server training ordinance this summer. We have given them two months to come into compliance with training requirements, and plan to begin checking for compliance July 1.

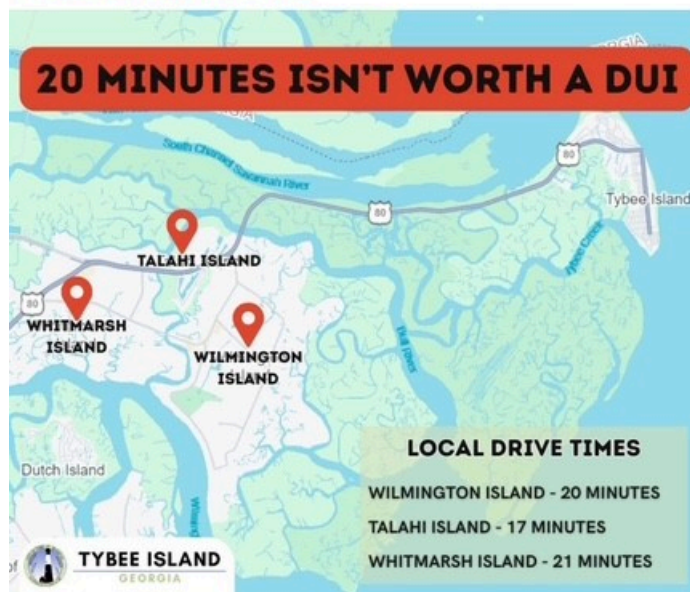
In addition, we continue to flesh out an advertising campaign designed to discourage drunken driving and encourage the use of designated drivers. Communications and Outreach Director Cassidi Kendrick has gotten clearance from her doctor to work on the campaign from home while on maternity leave. This week, we launched the first social media post as part of the campaign:



Live on the Islands? That's a 20-minute drive. DUI charges can last 10+ years. 🚗

Choose the smart route. Pick a DD.

#TybeeToSavannah #StartSummerSmart #SafeRidesGoodVibes



In two days, this post received 30,253 views, and 1,087 engagements. We will continue to refine and expand the campaign, building up to the July 4 holiday.

The designated driver campaign will include:

- Paid Facebook advertising
- Organic social media messaging
- Digital Billboard located on Victory Drive facing eastbound traffic
- Usage of the GDOT digital billboard at Lazaretto Creek
- Collaboration with local bars and restaurants to share information about designated drivers
- Outreach to local news media with story ideas and information about DUIs on Tybee and designated driver tips

Tybee Arts Academy Update

Michelle Owens and I recently met with Tybee Arts Academy board members to discuss concerns about the existing contract with the City. The contract is more than 12 years old. The following actions resulted from the meeting:

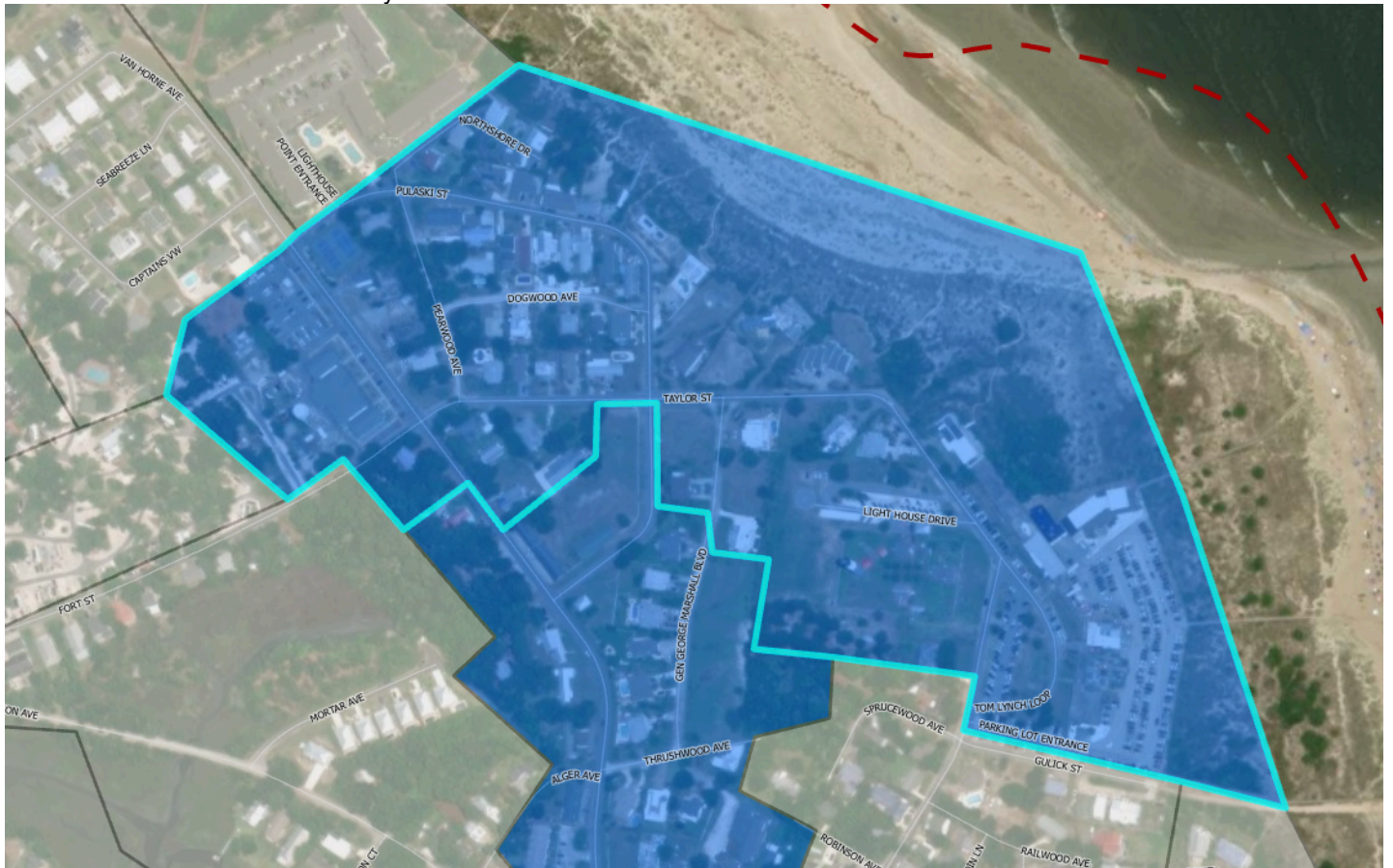
- We were informed the Tybee Ballet is working with an attorney to become a 501c3.
- We requested that the Tybee Ballet signage be removed from the TAA building. We will coordinate that with an upcoming paint job for the building
- TAA will give its annual update to Council at the July 10 City Council meeting
- In lieu of entering a new contract with TAA, the City will issue an RFP for Community Arts Programming so that we are in accordance with state law. We are currently writing a draft RFP to issue this summer.
- TAA suggested contract changes that the City should consider going forward

Community Development

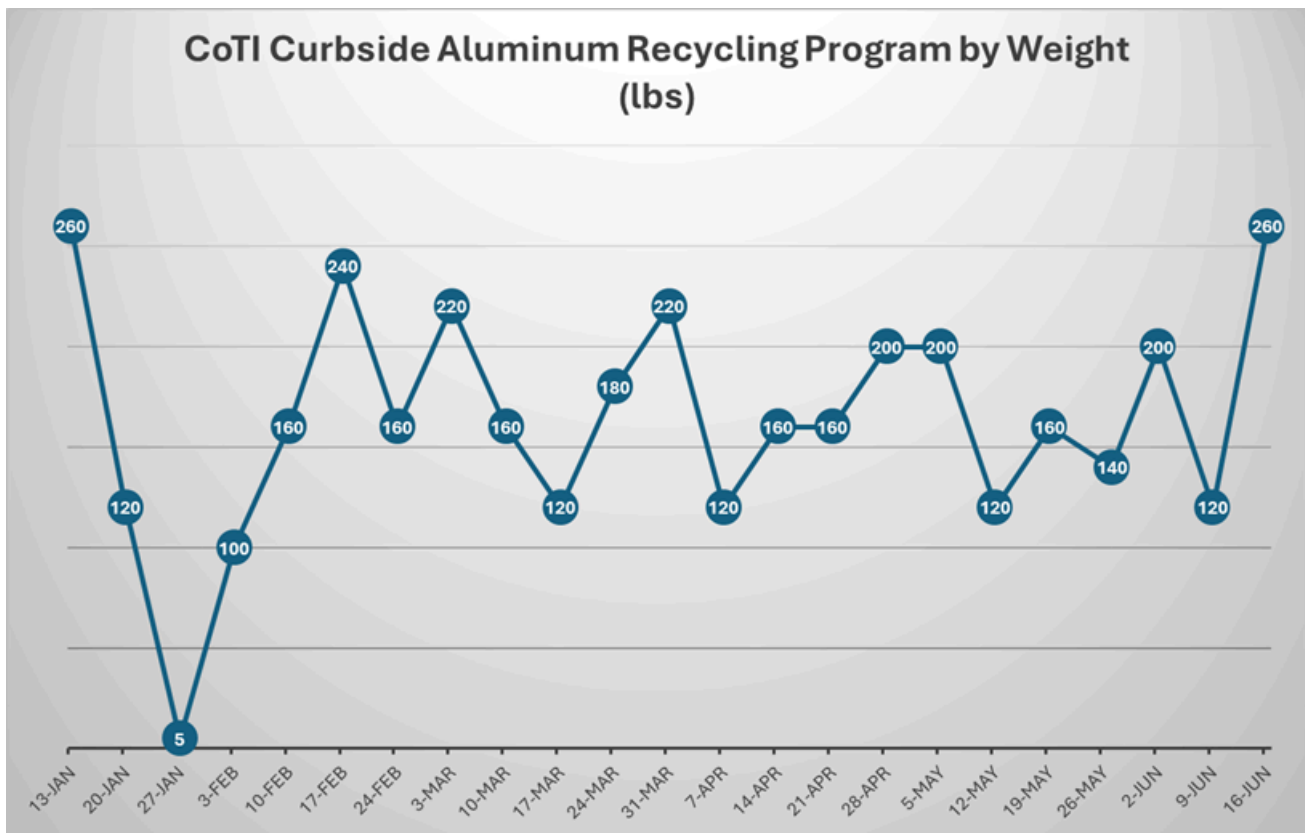
LiveOak Fiber Weekly Update

LiveOak Fiber/Coastal production crews installed **4,334** linear feet of conduit and passed **84** homes this past week.

- Total linear conduit placed to date: **75,168** ft (14.23 miles); **1,217** homes passed
- No production 6/12 or 6/13; City Staff stopped all work for working past allowable hours and digging beyond cleared locates, resulting in water line hits.
- Utilisouth (a Live Oak contractor) hit water lines again on June 18. The island on-site supervisor has been replaced. Staff met with Live Oak to develop a path forward to minimize disruption of services to Tybee residents, including limiting crews to a maximum of two at any one point in time and setting defined hours for digging.
- The fiberoptic cabinet and enclosure at 78 Van Horn was expected to be completed by last Friday.
- Fiber testing is complete for the first service area. The area highlighted below is now ready for residential service and will be the first area on Tybee with Live Oak FIOS.



Sustainability



Communications and Outreach Update

- Coordinated with Live Oak Fiber for second community event tentatively scheduled for June 26. This will be an indoor BBQ at Hotel Tybee. Additional details are forthcoming.
- Worked with GDOT to schedule community meeting July 24 and 25 on the U.S. 80/Butler Avenue project. Their plan so far is to have a community meeting the evening of July 24 and small focus groups July 25. Exact times are TBD.

Tybee In the News

- [Tybee Island City Council to hold TIMA charter school resolution vote](#)
- [Tybee Island denies Orange Crush permit applications — for now](#)
- [Tybee Island: Driver arrested for DUI after striking police car](#)
- [Tybee Island Police Dept. shares picture of person of interest in ongoing theft investigation](#)
- [New clothing line benefits Tybee Island Marine Science Center](#)
- [Tybee Clean Beach Volunteers to host a World Oceans Day beach sweep](#)
- [City of Tybee Island announces lane closures this week](#)

The Week in Infrastructure

DPW

- Collected beach and street trash.
- Set out cones, barrels and signboards along Highway 80 for the median work.
- Picked up cones and signboards along Highway 80.
- Finished repairs to a pothole on Old Highway 80.
- Completed outfall maintenance and inspections island-wide.
- Built and finished three-sided frames for beach signs.
- Graded Solomon and North Beach Parking Lot.
- Smoothed out intersections where the gravel meets asphalt.
- Coordinated with asphalt contractors on Miller Avenue.
- Replaced faded Stop Signs with new reflective Stop Signs.
- Mounted new sandbar signs on the beach crossovers.
- Received and completed multiple administrative requests.
- Used the street sweeper to clear the roads of debris.
- Received and completed multiple work orders.

- Installed two new A/C units.
- Removed and reinstalled a bat house at Jaycee Park.
- Finished painting the Guard House porch.
- Assisted in setting up voting area.
- Mowed and trimmed Jaycee Park and Memorial Park.
- Cut and cleaned sidewalks.
- Cleaned and maintained all public facilities.
- Cleaned and maintained all public restrooms.
- Blew debris on Tybrisa and all parks.
- Collected litter from parking lots, sidewalks and surrounding areas.
- Watered new landscaping in Highway 80 Median.
- Trimmed and removed debris from the four lanes.
- Added new mulch to both dog parks.
- Five tree permits issued, two tree assessments performed.

Fleet

- Replaced the ignition switch in vehicle # 412 for Water and Sewer.
- Replaced rotors, pads and sensors in vehicle # 238 for Building Maintenance.
- Replaced all tires on vehicle # 238.
- Evaluated vehicle # 412 and determined a fuel pump needed replacing.
- Removed the fuel tank and replaced the fuel pump on vehicle # 412.
- Replaced the left tail light of vehicle # 403 for Water and Sewer.
- Checked the level of and topped off the hydraulic fluid on vehicle # 265 for trash runs.
- Installed a new battery for vehicle # 412 for Water and Sewer.
- Evaluated the needs and completed repairs on the mules for the Fire Department.

Recycling/Dump

- Picked up and emptied both cardboard trailers and both green recycle trailers.
- Completed two bales of cardboard.
- Sorted cardboard coming into the yard from local businesses.
- Called in containers with household trash, construction debris and yard waste.
- Assisted residents in unloading trash and recyclables.
- Monitored the scale.
- Cleaned up the main yard.

Water and Sewer

- Moved a water service line and changed two registers, boxes and lids
- Worked through new leak list.
- Inspected reports of leaks and sinkholes from residents.
- Repaired water lines at 14th Street Well.
- Conducted meter inventory
- Performed water cutoffs for nonpayment.
- Repaired water leaks on Second Avenue.
- Repaired foot showers
- Met with contractors about needed repairs to Fort Screven well
- Took chlorine samples and other samples from wells
- Updated chlorine injectors with Poly (CTS) lines instead of PVC.
- Maintained operations at wastewater treatment plant.
- Routine sampling was performed at the plant, and samples delivered to contract lab.
- Grounds were cut around the plant

The Week with Police

Accidents:

This Week: 1 accidents, 3 injury
 2025 YTD: 46 accidents, 3 injuries
 2024 YTD: 53 accidents, 14 injuries
 2024 TOTAL: 104 accidents, 18 injuries

Arrests:

This Week: 7 total – 6 DUIs / 0 Felony
 2025 YTD: 206 arrests
 2024 YTD: 303 arrests

2024 TOTAL: 504 arrests

Calls For Service:

This week: 226
2025 YTD: 7,347
2024 YTD: 7,798
2024 TOTAL: 14,588

Citations:

This week: 24
YTD: 740
2024 YTD: 1,205
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	17	0	0	20
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:

- 06/18:** The theft suspect from a local beach store was identified. Warrants were issued for his arrest.
- 06/18:** Officers visited with the campers at the Fresh Air Home. During the visit, our drone pilots demonstrated the use of the drones for law enforcement purposes.
- 06/19:** We are very happy to say that all 3 police cadets passed the state PT test with flying colors! Academy begins July 7. Congratulations Cadet Parker, Cadet Susie, and Cadet Everett!
- 06/19:** The Georgia Chapter of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy Associates (FBINAA) presented the Tybee Island Police Department with the Phyllis Goodwin Agency of the Year Award at the organization's annual summer conference this week.

The annual award recognizes agencies that excel in support of the FBINAA Georgia Chapter. Criteria for the award is measured in the categories of how the agency's efforts present themselves in a manner that lend strength, dignity, and credit to the law enforcement profession, the impact the agency's efforts have had on the Georgia chapter of the FBINAA, and the positive impacts involving agency programs and services made in the community.



Staffing: We have three vacant authorized officer positions, but three cadets will enter Academy July 7 to fill those slots. Communications is down one position due to the communications officer transitioning to a police cadet.

Upcoming Events:

07/05: Please see the flyer below for the Police Emerald Society of Southeast Georgia's annual Pancake Breakfast at the Tybee Island American Legion.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SATURDAY JULY, 5th

**Sons of the American Legion
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Join us at the American Legion, 10 Veterans Drive, Tybee Island, for an All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for the **Police Emerald Society of Southeast Georgia.**

**Saturday July 5, 2025
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Grits, Coffee, OJ and All-You-Can-Eat Pancakes

AMERICAN LEGION
10 Veterans Drive
Tybee Island, GA 31328

Police Emerald Society of Southeast Georgia
PO Box 31056
Savannah, GA 31410

Squadron 154
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
Tybee Island, Georgia

police
emerald society of southeast georgia

Suggested Donation
\$15
Kids 10 & under \$5
Kids under 3 Free

07/03, 08/28: Next dates for Golf Cart Education and Enforcement.

The Week with Fire

Lifeguard Hiring

- 25 Lifeguards and 3 Lifeguard Dispatchers have been hired to date.
- 3 applicants are scheduled for the run/swim test on 6/14/25
- 2 new applications were received this week and sent to the Beach Manager for review

Fire Incidents

The department responded to **19 total calls for service** during the reporting period. Below is a summary of each incident, including location and type:

Date	Type of Call	Address	Status
06/19/2025	Dispatched and cancelled en route	16 Tybrisa	Closed
06/19/2025	Assist invalid	1301 Lovell	Closed
06/19/2025	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	1401 Butler Avenue	Closed
06/18/2025	Alarm system malfunction	923 Hwy 80	Closed
06/18/2025	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	30 Meddin	In Progress
06/18/2025	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	40 Van Horne Avenue	Closed
06/18/2025	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	7 Rosewood	Closed
06/18/2025	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	Beach Access at Center Street	Closed
06/18/2025	Alarm system malfunction	1401 Butler Avenue	Closed
06/16/2025	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	7 Center Terrace	Closed
06/16/2025	Medical assist, assist EMS crew	Butler Ave & Tybrisa	Closed

06/16/2025	Medical assist, assist EMS crew	85 Van Horne	In Progress
06/15/2025	Search for person in water	1600 Strand Ave	Closed
06/15/2025	Smoke scare, odor of smoke	1619 Chatham Avenue Apt A	Closed
06/15/2025	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	512 Jones Avenue	Closed
06/15/2025	Medical assist, assist EMS crew	1205 Lovell Avenue	Closed
06/14/2025	Medical assist, assist EMS crew	Alley 3	Closed
06/14/2025	Authorized controlled burning	707 Hwy 80	Closed
06/14/2025	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	85 Van Horne Avenue	Closed

Ocean Rescue Update

Three new lifeguard recruits passed their swim tryouts this week. Congratulations to them and to the training staff for maintaining high standards. Our current numbers remain solid as we move into peak season. Lifeguard activity this past week included:

- 2,165 public advisements
- 2 water assists
- 1 animal assist
- 3 public transports
- 1 missing person search
- 10 medical calls
- 2 medicals requiring EMS transport

“Advisements” are anytime a guard makes contact with the public on the beach—most commonly for safety education, hazard warnings, rule enforcement (like no glass or dogs), and answering general beach-related questions. These conversations are a huge part of keeping our beach safe and accessible.

Joint Training & Junior Guards

We’re strengthening collaboration between Fire, Ocean Rescue, and the Junior Lifeguard program. Brad and Mike from Junior Guards have started assisting Ocean Rescue with tracking systems to better document training and beach incidents. Soon, all three groups will begin joint open water physical training – another positive step in aligning with best practices in rescue readiness.

Software Transition – First Due

We’re moving forward with onboarding for our new operational software, *First Due*. This week we held working meetings with our Company Officers, who are key players in ensuring this system succeeds. Their early involvement is helping build ownership and familiarity with the platform. First Due will become a central tool for reporting, training, inspections, and more once fully implemented.

Parking Revenue Year to Date Comparison

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	(thru June 19) \$684,762	\$1,165,611	-\$480,850
TOTAL	\$6,274,541	\$6,995,949	-\$721,408

Around the Campground

- 130 Arrivals, 556 Site Nights, 77% Occupancy rate, down 3% YoY
- Replaced 30 Amp outlet on site 3, the summer heat takes a toll on our electrical infrastructure this time of year with air conditioners running constantly
- Water Aerobics was cancelled Friday due to high phosphate levels. We follow County Health Department regulations for pool chemical levels. Staff worked diligently to get the pool reopened later in the day
- Live Music in the pavilion on Wednesday and Friday Nights

Have a great week everyone!





www.cityoftybee.org


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