
City Council Weekly Update - March 31, 2025

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To #Council <#Council@cityoftybee.org>

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Greetings Mayor and Council!

Hard to believe we're already in April. Last week, as Tybee went into full bloom, our DPW staff continued to fill out the Tybee Fruit Orchard with the addition of three ruby red grapefruit trees and five Satsuma tangerine trees.



April is the month of Earth Day, and on April 9 we will hold a workshop to discuss a Sustainability Plan for the City of Tybee.

April also marks the end of our 90-day Commercial Aluminum Recycling Pilot Program. In January we launched the pilot to assess the feasibility of increasing recycling participation on Tybee by offering a convenient curbside program for local businesses.

Some bars and restaurants serve a significant number of aluminum cans, so the potential exists to significantly increase aluminum recycling on the island by making it easier for these businesses to recycle.

We reached out to local bars and restaurants, and offered recycling carts and Monday morning curbside collection at no additional fee.

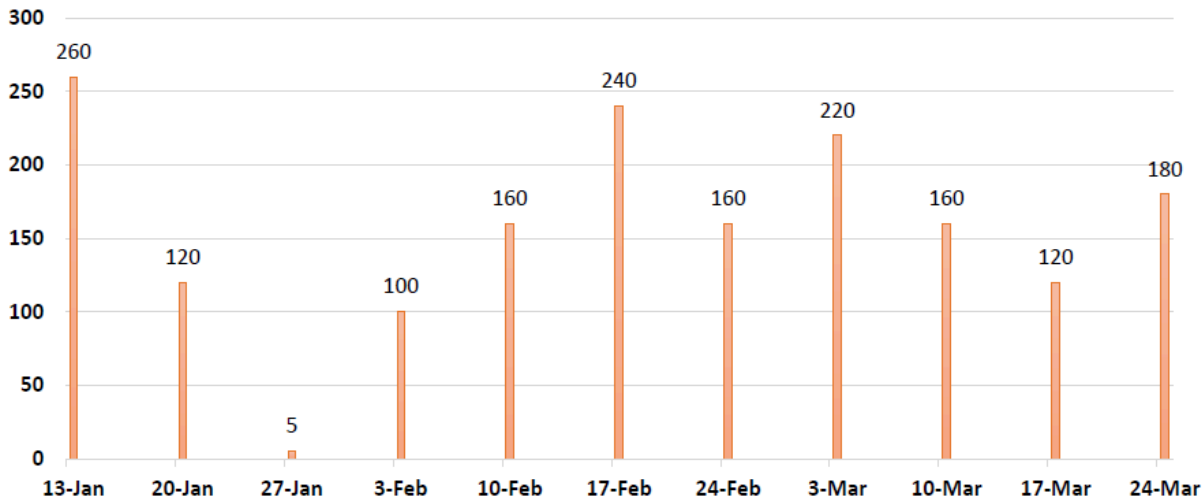


Picture 1: Recycling Container

Nineteen businesses signed up for the program and were delivered recycling carts, though just eight of those businesses participated at least once over the three months.

Approximately 1,725 pounds of aluminum were collected and diverted from the landfill over the three months, which included a cold and snowy January that limited business activity.

Weekly Aluminum Weights (lbs) Recycled



The City's cost of the program amounted primarily to staff time associated with two DPW employees who spent 1-2 hours each Monday emptying the recycling carts along the route and transporting to the City's transfer station. Atlantic Waste provided the containers at no additional cost.

As part of the pilot, we spoke with a number of restaurant and bar managers who received carts. The regularly participating businesses reported the program was easy to implement and reinforced their environmental values. The high-participating businesses had strong support from management, who directed staff to separate cans from the waste stream and added easy-to-access recycling containers inside the establishment.



Picture 2: Recycling Separation

Despite positive engagement from some businesses, the businesses who did not participate cited the following reasons:

- Time constraints with staff during busy shifts to sort cans into separate container
- Contamination of recycling cans with trash
- Seasonal closures through February for several businesses
- Generating minimal aluminum waste, making participation less relevant to their operations

While the participation rate was disappointing, the volume of aluminum diverted from the landfill was not insignificant. Collections averaged 575 pounds per month, despite the challenging January. That increased our monthly island-wide average aluminum recycling totals by more than a third.

We plan to continue the commercial curbside program, and utilize lessons learned during the pilot to improve. This includes:

- Working one-on-one with managers to develop solutions to make it easier to recycle in their businesses
- Incentivizing participation with potentially reduced fees
- Promoting participating businesses through the Turtle-Friendly Tybee business program

Tybee Receives \$100,000 GPA Grant

Great news: Tybee Island was notified this week that it is the recipient of a \$100,000 grant from the Georgia Ports Authority to complete a drainage and wetlands improvement project in Jaycee Park.

Shout out to Alan Robertson of AWR Consulting, who in one day worked with Pete Gulbranson to turn around a quick application when we heard the Ports was looking for a small shovel-ready project that could be completed this year.

The grant will be used to improve the ditch that runs through Jaycee Park by dredging approximately 1 foot of sediment that has accumulated over time, repairing the banks of the ditch, and replanting native vegetation to improve marsh growth and manage sediment erosion, as well as improve the aesthetic within the park.

The City plans to repair these wetlands in two phases. The first phase will be dredging approximately 10,000 square feet of the ditch closest to Van Horne, which is tidally influenced and under DNR jurisdiction.

We would require a DNR CMP Permit to undertake the work. The second phase would repair the rest of the area, not under DNR jurisdiction. Both phases include critical bird habitat.

The work will improve access to the marsh along the existing walking path for the thousands of people who use the park annually.

We plan to begin work this fall.

EPA Grant Finalized

We were also notified last week by Congressman Carter's Office that the paperwork has been finalized for the \$2.6 million EPA grant for the 15th Street Stormwater Improvement Project. We had previously been notified that we would receive the award, but the grant finalization is a relief, particularly amid everything going on in Washington.

DPW will begin developing an RFP to procure a contractor.

The Week in Infrastructure

Public Works

- Cleared outfalls
- Finishing installation of new fence at North Beach Parking Lot between the dunes and the parking lot
- Installed lights on American flags
- Pressure washed foot showers and compactors
- Helped MSC staff on various projects
- Picked up street trash on Monday, Wednesday , and Friday
- Cleaned City-owned facilities on Thursday
- Blew Tybrisa Street and parks on Monday and Friday
- Cut grass at Jaycee Park and Memorial Park
- Planted fruit trees in the City orchard
- Cleared out trail at Sally Pierce Trail per resident request
- Completed five tree assessments

Recycling/Dump

- Picked up and emptied recycling trailers from Memorial Park and Polk Street
- Baled cardboard
- Picked up litter on Bay Street
- Picked up recycling from South Annex Building and City Hall
- 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

- Fabricated bracket for fuel tank on water buffalo.
- Installed new carburetor.
- Replaced battery on Water Department's mobile compressor.
- Completed training.
- Cleaned and organized the shop.
- Fabricated new tie-downs on landscape trailer.

Sewer/Water

- Performed maintenance on WWTP equipment
- Performed maintenance on water wells and lift stations
- Performed weekly sampling and testing
- Cleaned both clarifiers
- Continued locates for Live Oak installation
- Cut grass at WWTP
- Checked for continuous water leaks and notified homeowners
- Distributed water cutoff notices and called homeowners if the notice could not be put on doors.
- Helped 4-H center on a valve issue.
- Fixed water break at Sally Pearce Trail

- Assisted contractor with switching out batteries at lift stations
- Continued to jet out existing sewer lines
- Worked on sewer back up at campground
- Worked with Georgia Power on unknown location of private water services on Sanctuary Place

Maintenance Building at WWTP

- Contractor has removed the old building and encountered debris in the soil underneath building.
 - City has ordered a structural soil analysis and that will be performed next week
- Contractor continued to install fence around WWTF

The Week with Police

Accidents:

This Week: 3 accidents, 0 injuries
 2025 YTD: 22 accidents, 1 injury
 2024 YTD: 9 accidents, 2 injuries
 2024 TOTAL: 104 accidents, 18 injuries

Arrests:

This Week: 9 total – 8 DUIs / 1 Felony
 2025 YTD: 88 arrests
 2024 YTD: 114 arrests
 2024 TOTAL: 504 arrests

Calls For Service:

This week: 361
 2025 YTD: 3,325
 2024 YTD: 3,586
 2024 TOTAL: 14,588

Citations:

This week: 64
 YTD: 369
 2024 YTD: 519
 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	2	5	0	1	7
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:

03/21: Assistant Chief Whitley was contacted by Savannah Police Department Crime Analyst to start sharing information about the upcoming permitted event.

03/21: The police department, E-911, and code compliance will begin mandatory annual training through HR for the following:

- Unconscious Bias
- Workplace Stress
- Anti-Harassment Training

03/24: The Flock Flex LPR trailer was placed at the foot of the Lazaretto Creek Bridge to replace the old trailer.

03/24: Lt. White and Det. Villegas taught at the local police academy. This is very helpful for the academies, keeps their training certificate up, and helps us recruit new officers.

03/24: We had our 73rd “K9 For A Day.” She was also the first animal to be featured from Renegade Paws Rescue. This post gathered significant positive social media attention and has been featured by reporters in

the Atlanta area and elsewhere. Renegade has expressed that they would like to establish a continued partnership such as the one we have with the Humane Society.

03/25: SGT Stuber, Communications Officer Kristina, and Capt. Randolph joined HR Whitney at Georgia Southern in Statesboro, a recruiting event.

Staffing:

We are down 5 officers and have 3 applications. Of the 3 applicants, 3 have completed the oral interview, and 1 has completed the psychological test. We will continue to move on with these 3 applicants.

Upcoming Events:

03/31: Meeting with GSP about the upcoming Orange Crush Event.

05/17: I'm proud to say our running group has grown! This year, we will have 13 members of our police department participating in The Savannah Mile! If you would like to participate with us, cheer us on, or donate to the cause, please see the link below. We would love to see you there!!!

https://www.our200club.com/savannah-mile-2025/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0BMABhZGikAAAGG86I-QQBHdAC-QMMYG8siypVR9M6FrC3M6_THrQYIMpRoTZz8HDnkSGDRPfsJ-rrg_aem-zXsaSZ0LUvGwwPcJwVdIA&utm_medium=paid&utm_source=fb&utm_id=6716498362188&utm_content=6716498392188&utm_term=6716498386188&utm_campaign=6716498362188

The Savannah Mile returns for 2025! This highly anticipated race is scheduled for 8 a.m. Saturday, May 17, as part of National Law Enforcement Week. The one-mile course, beginning at the south end of Forsyth Park, will take participants down Drayton Street and finish up on Broughton Street.

Featuring six unique heats for all ages and abilities, including the "Memory Walk" and "Heroes Heat", you won't want to miss this event! All proceeds benefit the families of our Fallen First Responders that the 200 Club proudly serves.

This Week at the Fire Department

18 calls for service

0-Fire calls

6-Medical Calls

12-Manpower calls/Lift Assists

Training Program Development

The department's training program is progressing, with a structured career development plan drafted by the Fire Chief. This plan is now in the hands of the Training Officer and company officers for further refinement to ensure it aligns with the specific needs of the Tybee Island Fire Department. Once finalized, this program will provide a clear path for professional growth and skill development within the department.

Chatham County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Approval

This week, the City Council voted to approve the updated Chatham County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), a critical document that must be reviewed and adopted every five years as required by Georgia state law. This ensures that Tybee Island remains in compliance with emergency preparedness standards and maintains a coordinated response framework with Chatham County and state agencies.

Lifeguard Shack Repairs & Ocean Rescue Preparations

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has been assisting with much-needed repairs at the Lifeguard Shack. Additionally, Fire is beginning the process of cleaning out and preparing the lifeguard stands in anticipation of standing up our Ocean Rescue operations for the upcoming season. This effort is essential to ensuring the safety of our beachgoers as we move into the busier months.

Around the Campground

- 68 Arrivals, 303 Site Nights, 85% Occupancy
- Laundry room currently closed due to sewer issue.
- Hosting two different Scout groups this weekend.
- Approached by the Carolina's State Campground Association to participate in their Fall Tour, showcasing River's End to 50 Campground Owners/Managers in September.

Municipal Court This Week

Court was held 3/25/2025

Spanish Interpreter was used for 8 cases.

Dispositions:	
Bond Forfeiture	9
Bound over to State Court	18
Guilty as Charged	19
Merged	1
Nolo Contendre	1
Nolle Prosequi	11
Pre-Trial Diversion	3



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