
City Council Weekly Update - September 15, 2025

From Bret Bell <bret.bell@cityoftybee.gov>
Date Mon 9/15/2025 1:23 PM
To #Council <#Council@cityoftybee.org>
Cc #Dept Heads <#DeptHeads@cityoftybee.org>

Greetings Mayor and Council,

All of this recent dry weather has been a welcomed relief from one of the rainiest Augusts on record. It's also allowed us to take a step back, evaluate operations, and make progress on our investigation into the sources of the infiltration and inflow that led to inundation of our sanitary sewer system on the south end of Tybee during the heaviest rain events, resulting in three sewage spills.

Our contractor, PKX, last week finished jetting and televising all City sewer lines and lift stations in the vicinity of Jones and Miller, where the problems occurred. Staff is now reviewing the video, which will lead to development of a corrective action plan.

Last week a contractor rehabbed several of our raised sanitary sewer manholes, which were experiencing concrete deterioration. This week those manholes will be lined to further help prevent spills.

Water and Sewer staff have devised new protocols for pumping lift stations and dispersing flow. They have been told that they are henceforth deputized as meteorologists: If they notice potential rainfall on the horizon, they are authorized to take pro-active steps to pump our lift stations down to free up capacity.

We've learned a lot about our infrastructure over the past month, and the need for a regular and ongoing capital improvement campaign is clearly evident.

City Engineer to Lead Infrastructure Charge

Leading much of this effort will be Pete Gulbranson, the City Engineer.

Pete has worked for the City since 2019 as City Engineer and Director of Infrastructure, where he is responsible for the departments of Public Works and Water and Sewer. This is a huge responsibility, comprising more than a third of our workforce.

Beginning today, we have done some restructuring so the City Engineer will no longer be over day-to-day DPW and Water and Sewer Operations. Those Division Directors – Brent Levy and Daryl McCorkle – will now report directly to me.

The City Engineer will now be entirely focused on planning, procurement, and execution of capital projects across the organization. While this will include most vertical and horizontal capital projects, the move is being driven primarily by critical infrastructure improvements on the near horizon.

Too often the City Engineer has been pulled into the field to manage operational issues, when I need him primarily in the office working on our capital program, and working with the Finance Director on a finance plan and rate structure to fund those improvements. We need to move more quickly than we have in the past, with the City Engineer collaborating with all Department Heads on their building projects.

Pete, a certified engineer in the State of Georgia, has more than 30 years of experience working in the public and private sectors overseeing Water, Sewer and Stormwater infrastructure improvement projects. He's extremely qualified to lead the charge on this important infrastructure campaign.

He will relocate from DPW to City Hall once ordered office furniture arrives next month.

Polk and Solomon Property

Another project City Engineer Gulbranson will take the lead on executing is the planned improvements to our property at Polk and Solomon.

During Workshop three weeks ago, we received mixed feedback on a planned expansion of the River's End Campground. The team re-grouped, and decided a better path would be moving forward first with the necessary environmental remediation work. That would be followed by planning and execution of a landscape plan that will activate the abutting section of Solomon Avenue, which we plan to make pedestrian-only, as well as walking trails and boardwalks through our wooded property, whose undergrowth needs some cleaning.

I have communicated with Ted Dennard, CEO of the Savannah Bee Company, who is interested in developing a pollinator habitat demonstration project for us on the property. We are meeting on the property later this week to discuss.

Ted is a Tybee resident and will serve on the newly appointed Sustainability Committee, which is a real win.

I believe shifting our initial focus to public access and benefit is the right move for Tybee. After we become more familiar with the property, we may decide to embark on a Phase 2 Campground expansion. In the meantime, Campground guests will be able to enjoy nearby park-like improvements, which will be a benefit to the Campground.

Tybrisa Gets a Wash

Around 5 a.m. this morning, DPW pressure washed the sidewalks down Tybrisa. It's part of a larger collaboration between DPW and Communications and Outreach's Main Street program to beautify our downtown.

Main Street did a great job working with businesses to ensure they kept their sidewalk displays inside for the cleaning.



The Week with Police

Accidents:

This Week: 4 accidents, 2 injuries
2025 YTD: 89 accidents, 14 injuries
2024 YTD: 86 accidents, 18 injuries
2024 TOTAL: 104 accidents, 18 injuries

Arrests

This Week: 9 total – 1 Felony
2025 YTD: 337 arrests
2024 YTD: 415 arrests
2024 TOTAL: 504 arrests

DUIs

This Week: 3
2025 YTD: 215
2024 YTD: 184
2024 TOTAL: 241

Calls For Service

This Week: 359

2025 YTD: 11,326
 2024 YTD: 11,106
 2024 TOTAL: 14,588

Citations

This Week: 16
 YTD: 1,194
 2024 YTD: 1,499
 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	28	0	0	32
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

09/05: The power of social media identified a “porch pirate,” – a burglar who steals packages delivered to a home’s front porch – and an arrest was made in the same day of a local individual. Thank you to our detectives and Capt. Randolph for getting the information and photos pushed out so fast.

09/09: Command Staff met with the Pirate Fest committee.

09/10-11: TIPD, TIFD, and Code Compliance met with Civic Plus and Motorola Rave about potentially developing a “reverse 911” system on Tybee.

09/11-12: Capt. Randolph and other officers attended the Job-palooza with HR and other City employees at the Enmarket Area.

Staffing: The police department is currently fully staffed.

Upcoming Events

09/16: Representatives from Safe Shelter will speak to TIPD officers before court about their services for domestic violence victims. Friendly reminder, October is Domestic Violence Awareness month.

10/02: Meeting at the Port Wentworth Police Department for a BRINC drone demonstration.

10/05: Capt. Randolph and SPO. Bensman, along with K9 Rocky and K9 Tosca, have been invited to attend the Blessing of the Animals at All Saints Episcopal Church. This will also be a benefit for the Humane Society. If you would like to attend, lunch will be served at 11 am, and the blessing will begin at noon.

10/13: American Legion Officer of the Year Award Ceremony.

10/18: Road Safety Checkpoint (tentative)

11/22-30: During the Thanksgiving break for TIMA, TIPD officers and potentially outside agencies will conduct training on the campus.

The Week with Fire

A total of 19 calls for service were received last week. Below is a summary:

Incident Number	Date	Status	Description	Address
F25090808	09/12/2025	In Progress	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	7 Rosewood
F25090805	09/11/2025	Closed	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	1404 Miller
F25090806	09/11/2025	Closed	Dispatched and cancelled en route (EMS)	114 Catalina Drive
F25090802	09/11/2025	Closed	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	404 Butler Ave
F25090803	09/11/2025	Closed	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	1201 Butler
F25090801	09/09/2025	Closed	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	7 Rosewood Avenue
F25090796	09/08/2025	Closed	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	7 ROSEWOOD Avenue
F25090797	09/08/2025	Closed	Medical assist, assist EMS crew	14 Logan Street
F25090799	09/08/2025	Closed	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	711 Jones Avenue
F25090795	09/08/2025	Closed	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	807 JONES Avenue
F25090794	09/07/2025	Closed	Medical assist, assist EMS crew	404 Butler Avenue
F25090793	09/07/2025	Closed	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	1614 2nd Ave
F25090791	09/07/2025	Closed	Medical assist, assist EMS crew	1011 Miller Avenue
F25090790	09/07/2025	Closed	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	78 Van Horne

F25090789	09/06/2025	Closed	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	1010 Jones Avenue
F25090788	09/06/2025	Closed	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	1613 STRAND Avenue
F25090787	09/06/2025	Closed	Animal rescue	501 Jones
F25090786	09/06/2025	Closed	No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	404 Butler Avenue
F25090785	09/06/2025	Closed	Emergency medical service, other	301 1st

Notes of Interest

1. Promotional Process Completion

Tybee Fire wrapped up our promotional process this week with an interview panel consisting of Company Officers from within Chatham County. Thanks to Chatham Fire and Savannah Fire, as well as former interim Chief Jason Waterfield, for their assistance. Franklin Cooper has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, and Tyler Hall has been promoted to Sergeant. Both ranked No. 1 on their respective eligibility lists after written exams and interview scores were tabulated. Congratulations on a job well done!

2. Ringing of the Four Fives

Tybee Fire participated in the ringing of the Four Fives at the American Legion on September 11 in memory of the 343 firefighters who lost their lives 24 years ago. History of the Four Fives: The sound of a bell holds special significance for firefighters. Historically, bells summoned members to the station, signaled shift changes, notified departments of calls for help, or indicated a call's completion. When a firefighter died in the line of duty, a series of bells alerted members of the loss. The "Four Fives" tradition, rooted in the New York City Fire Department, involved transmitting five bell strikes in four series, with pauses between, to announce a firefighter's death or that of a significant figure, such as President Abraham Lincoln in 1865. This custom continues to honor fallen firefighters today.

3. **Ladder Repair:** We had an expensive repair bill from Palmetto Fire Apparatus to make necessary repairs on our Ladder truck. The cost was nearly \$6,000.

4. Ocean Rescue Report:

TYBEE ISLAND OCEAN RESCUE WEEKLY REPORT

Advisements: 1,677

Jellyfish Stings: 20

Water Assists: 3

Water Rescues: 1

Animal Assists: 1


Public Transports: 2

Missing Persons: 1

Medicals: 2

Medicals Requiring EMS: 0

Jet Ski Assists: 0



September 1-7, 2025

The Week with Code Compliance

Between Sept 5 and Sept 12, the Tybee Island Code Compliance Department responded to 15 calls for service. Below is a breakdown of the most pertinent ones by Type and Location:

Type of Call	Location
2 Deceased shore birds disposed of by officer	North End
Distributed letters for Dune Renourishment Project	North End
Dog locked himself in car with owner outside (dog not cited)	South End
Civil issue between 2 owners over one owner using bleach to wash driveway. Neighbor says bleach killed his shrub. One shrub amongst others appears dead, no damage to others. No evidence to proceed.	616 Miller Ave.
Noise Complaint from previous day. Asked for contact by officer	509 Miller Lane
Complaint of shedding water to another property	1514 Lovell

Follow up 1603 Chatham Avenue Eviction in Process	1603 Chatham
Follow up demo permit	6 Lovell Ave
Met Tennant at 803 1 st street to discuss state of property. In progress	803 1 st Street
Served notice on unpermitted STR and Camper being used without permit for dwelling purposes.	28 Solomon Ave
Stop Work 607 Jones Ave. No Permit	607 Jones Ave.

Code Compliance Statistics

Code compliance staff works M-W 8a to 8p and T-S 8a to 10p during this time they handled:

5 Citations

- Glass on beach
- Smoking on beach

10 Warnings

- Smoking on beach
- Dog at large
- Dog at large

Cart Inspections: 14

Wheelchair Checkouts: 3

Citizen Encounters: 396

Parking Statistics

- 172 parking citations
- 722 parking citations YTD for FY26.
- This week's parking revenue: \$127,443

Parking Revenue Comparison

MONTH	FY2026	FY2025	GAIN/(LOSS)
JULY	\$1,135,293	\$1,070,704	\$64,589
AUG	\$578,597	\$679,586	(\$100,989)
SEPT (to date)	\$210,941	\$447,400	
OCT	\$0	\$376,017	
NOV	\$0	\$200,387	
DEC	\$0	\$22,345	
JAN	\$0	\$152,287	
FEB	\$0	\$258,783	
MARCH	\$0	\$542,159	
APRIL	\$0	\$863,706	
MAY	\$0	\$976,406	
JUNE	\$0	\$1,182,473	
TOTALS	\$1,924,831	\$6,772,253	(\$36,400)

CITATIONS:

EXPIRED TIME: 12
 NO PAYMENTS: 145
 NO READABLE RECIEPT: 4
 HANDICAP: 2
 FIRE HYDRAINT: 0
 PROHIBITED ZONE: 9
 BOOTS: 0

Updates

- **Other news:** Took possession of deceased dog from FD and coordinated with Communications to release statement on Facebook. Owner found and reunited with animal.
- **Training:** City Marshal and Code Supervisor will attend the Georgia Association of Code Enforcement Annual Conference at and of the month.
- **Ordinance review and rewrite:** Ordinance reviews sent to Council for review. Successfully passed First Reading.
- **New Parking Software - Passport:** Kick off was a success. We have had two meetings and everything is moving quickly.

- **Parking Scam:** Had some reports of problems with the Parking App, though the app appeared to be working fine. The nature of these questions indicate that someone has set up an imposter app called Park Tybee, which is a scam site. Our Passport parking vendor has been notified, and will work with the app store to remove the site.

Communications and Outreach Update

Communications

Designated Driver Outreach Campaign Recap- At the recent City Council meeting, staff presented an overview of the City of Tybee Island's Designated Driver Outreach Campaign, highlighting its purpose, strategies, and early outcomes. The campaign was developed in response to concerns about visitor and resident safety, particularly related to impaired driving during peak tourism seasons.

The initiative encourages the use of designated drivers and local transportation options, including Breezy Riders and Tybee Turtle Taxi, while promoting a culture of responsibility and community care. Outreach efforts included a mix of social media messaging, signage, public service announcements, and business engagement, targeting the island's highest-risk demographic of male visitors ages 25–50 from Savannah.

The Council was updated on campaign highlights, such as:

- Digital engagement through social media campaigns and video messaging.
- On-island visibility via designated driver signage, and off island billboard.
- Public feedback and positive recognition of Tybee's proactive approach to safety.
- Local taxi companies were recognized for their commitment to providing safe and reliable transportation for our residents and visitors

Overall, the campaign has strengthened community awareness and provided visitors with practical, safe alternatives for transportation, supporting Tybee's reputation as both a welcoming and responsible destination. The campaign is ongoing and will continue through the upcoming holiday season.

Wayfinding Signage Project: The deadline for proposal submissions was extended to Wednesday, September 17. Staff will review the responses and provide City Council with a recommendation at an upcoming City Council meeting, targeting early October.

Tyb.TV: The *Talkin' Tybee* episode covering our Ocean Rescue Team, MRS and Junior Guards program is now available! This will be shared on Tyb.TV this week. We also created a shorter version to be used as a recruitment tool for the hiring of seasonal lifeguards. ,

Promo Video: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/14U60uYHpm7cp5xaepnu4J5iM32PBKJH6/view?usp=sharin>

Talkin' Tybee: https://drive.google.com/file/d/18L_NXQWwC0bVxGmV6UvILyHuJ9F34u2d/view?usp=sharing

Public Information & Media

Savannah Morning News:

- <https://www.savannahnow.com/story/lifestyle/travel/2025/09/12/a-staycation-at-tybee-island-is-affordable-and-enjoyable/86053815007/>
- <https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/local/2025/09/13/tybee-island-pays-2-4-million-on-land-purchase-for-new-fire-station/86096941007/>
- <https://www.savannahnow.com/videos/news/2025/09/12/tybee-island-city-council-purchased-land-for-new-fire-department/86111748007/>
- <https://www.savannahnow.com/story/entertainment/theater/2025/09/09/savannah-stage-co-opens-the-giver-at-tybee-post-theater/86050051007/>

WTOC:

- <https://www.wtoc.com/2025/09/08/heres-how-skidaway-institute-oceanography-has-been-monitoring-erosion-tybee-island/>

WSAV:

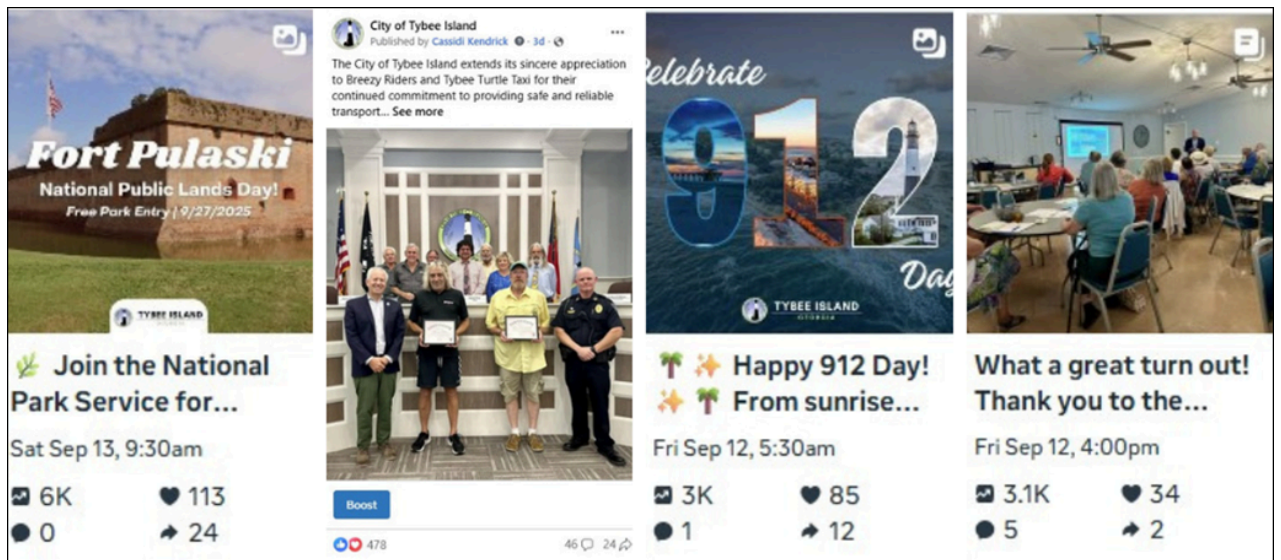
- <https://www.wsav.com/community/erosion-threatens-tybees-north-beach-city-plans-restoration/>
<https://www.wsav.com/community/westie-the-sea-turtle-returns-to-the-sea/>

Social Media & Digital Engagement

Page Insights

- Views: 191,075
- Total followers: 30,403

Top Facebook Posts This Week



Website Updates

- Homepage
- Tyb.TV
- City Manager
- Calendar
- Newsflashes

Facilities & Special Events

Special Events

Number of events this week September 7 – September 13:

Beach: 2
 Guard House: 2
 Memorial Park Open Air Pavilion: 1
 Community Cafeteria: 4
 Community Classroom: 5
 Event Banner Permits: 2

Number of events YTD as of September 12:

Special Events: 16
 Special Events Vendor Permits: 77
 Beach: 135
 Film: 20
 Guard House: 69
 Memorial Park Screened Pavilion: 53
 Memorial Park Open Air Pavilion: 61
 Jaycee Park Gazebo: 2
 Community Cafeteria: 164
 Community Classroom: 148
 Event Banner Permits: 55

New Special Event Application Submission on Website: 30 submissions

Reservation Website: 577 transactions with a transaction total of \$19,250.40

Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)

Monthly Meeting: The HPC held its regular meeting on Monday, September 8. Discussion items included an update on the Central Tybee Island National Historic District application and the ongoing CLG Grant project.

CLG Grant-Local Historic District Project: The CLG grant project continues to make steady progress, with the team maintaining consistent communication to ensure all deadlines are met. Staff and the HPC Chair, Holly Grell-Lawe, met with SHPO representatives on Monday to discuss the project. The team also met this week to review the draft design guidelines and designation ordinance.

Main Street Program

- **Beachcomber Article:** Maggie wrote the Main Street article for the October edition of the *Tybee Beachcomber*. The piece highlights upcoming community events, provides updates on current Main Street projects, and shares other news of interest for residents and visitors alike.

- **Pressure Washing:** Main Street has been making a continued effort to schedule regular pressure washing on the south end of the island to keep the area welcoming for residents and visitors. On Monday, September 15, DPW crews will begin pressure washing the sidewalks on the south end. Maggie has also sent out messages and posted on social media to help ensure all business owners are aware of the work. These efforts go a long way in maintaining Tybee Island's cleanliness and beauty, ensuring our community spaces remain inviting for all.
- **Committees:** This week, Main Street committees, including Economic Vitality, Promotion, Design, and Organization, came together to continue their important work. Each committee is dedicated to bringing new initiatives to the island while also strengthening existing ones. Highlights from the meetings included planning for holiday events, preparing for Small Business Saturday, discussing beautification projects, exploring sustainability efforts, and more.

Professional Development

- **GDA Regional Meetup:** Maggie and Cassidi attended the Georgia Downtown Regional Meetup on Tuesday in Statesboro. This gathering provided an opportunity to connect with fellow downtown professionals, discuss challenges, share ideas, and explore new approaches. As part of the event, they toured downtown Statesboro to see firsthand some of the projects their local staff has been working on. The experience offered valuable insights and inspiration to bring back to Tybee.
- **Q&A at Georgia Southern:** Also on Tuesday, Maggie and Cassidi spoke with the Georgia Southern Student Media group in Statesboro. During a Q&A session, they discussed internships, shared what a day in the life of their work looks like, and answered students' questions. The visit was a great opportunity to network while also supporting students as they navigate their next steps after college.
- **Job Palooza:** Maggie also represented the City of Tybee at Job Palooza, held at Enmarket Arena, where she helped recruit on behalf of the City of Tybee Island. This event provided a valuable opportunity to connect with potential candidates and highlight career opportunities within the City.

The Week in Infrastructure

DPW

- Motor graded Solomon Avenue and North Beach Parking lot.
- Poured and set concrete on a section of the sidewalk along U.S. 80.
- Bush hogged and cleaned up City-owned properties between Telephone, Estill and Solomon.
- Completed maintenance on the outfalls.
- Completed maintenance on the ditches behind Huc-a-poops.
- Cleaned up and organized all heavy construction materials and equipment on the yard.
- Made repairs to various potholes around the island.
- Investigated A/C issues at the Police Department.
- Picked up litter and emptied barrels along the beach Monday through Friday.
- Picked up loose litter from parking lots, sidewalks and surrounding areas.
- Repaired various street signs around the island.
- Pressure washed the foot showers and changing rooms on the North and South End parking lots.
- Removed flags from around the island.
- Organized and cleaned facilities at the DPW yard.
- Completed repairs to various public restrooms around the island.
- Worked on getting the new pressure washer trailer assembled.
- Cleaned and maintained all public facilities.
- Cleaned and maintained all public restrooms.
- Mowed and trimmed Jaycee and Memorial parks.
- Blew off debris on Tybrisa, south end parking lots for the sweeper, Jaycee Park and Memorial Park.
- Mowed and trimmed along U.S. 80.
- Trimmed brush from around the beach crossovers.
- Complete five tree assessments and issued four tree removal permits.

Recycling/Dump

- Picked up and emptied both cardboard trailers and both green recycle trailers.
- Picked up aluminum and oyster shell recyclables from local businesses.
- Completed three bales of cardboard.
- Supervised one community service worker.

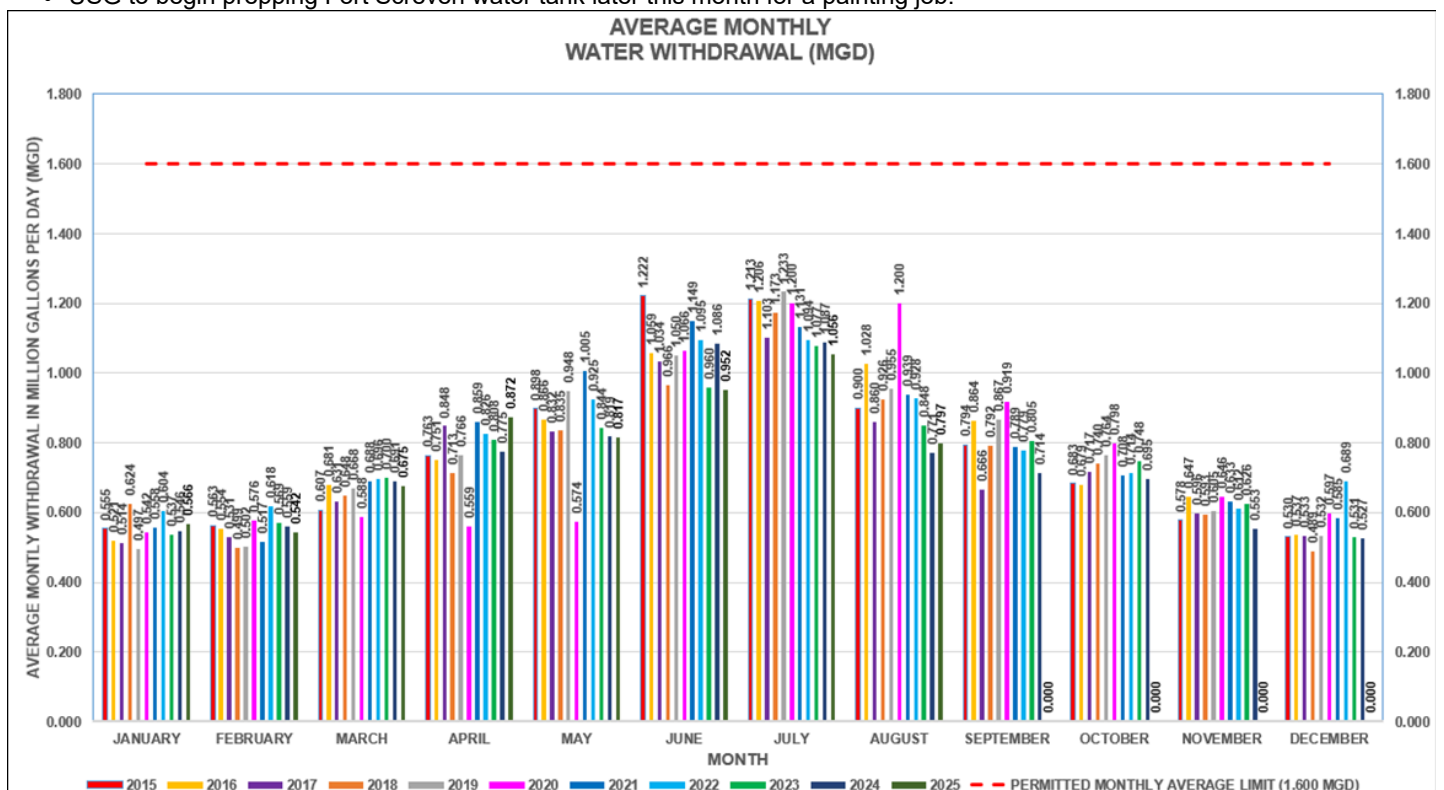
- Picked up street recycling from Tybrisa and the beach crossovers.
- Sorted incoming cardboard from local businesses.
- Called in containers with household trash, construction debris, yard waste and recycling.
- Assisted residents in unloading trash and recyclables.
- Monitored the scale and charged nonresidential customers and contractors.
- Cleaned up litter and loose recycling from the main yard.
- Used the blower to blow leaves and debris for collection by the street sweeper.

Fleet

- Replaced the right rear tire on vehicle # 217.
- Completed fuel station inventory report.
- Reassembled mule and ordered a TPS.
- Plugged three tires on different vehicles for the Police Department.
- Changed the oil on vehicle #196 for the Police Department.
- Adjusted the tracks on the skid steer for recycling.
- Adjusted bush hog assembly.
- Ran diagnostics on the skid steer for persistent issues.
- Installed new TPS Sensor on vehicle #501.
- Fixed the light bar and removed the rust damaged side steps on vehicle #266.
- Ordered coolant pipes for vehicle #501.

Water and Sewer

- Collected daily samples and completed operator checklist log
- Performed routine maintenance on treatment plant systems.
- Plant staff were in the process of draining clarifier No. 1 when the weld on the drain valve malfunctioned. We are obtaining quotes on a valve replacement.
- We are in the process of shifting the testing of wastewater samples from outside lab to in-house. Certain samples will still need to be sent to spectrum labs for specialized testing.
- Met with Thomas and Hutton Engineering for a pre-bid meeting for the North End Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project.
- PKX continues to clean and camera Lift station 3 sanitary sewer piping system. The videos will be reviewed next week to determine problem areas.
- Repaired several water leaks around the island.
- Contractor repaired several damaged manholes. Lining will occur this week.
- Responded to several water meter issues.
- New water sampling stations were delivered; we will begin the process of installing them.
- Maintained operations at our lift stations.
- Preparing to begin lead and copper sampling at certain residences.
- USG to begin prepping Fort Screven water tank later this month for a painting job.



Around the Campground

- 75 Arrivals, 376 Site Nights, 52% Occupancy, Up 2% YoY.
- Held Paint and Sip event for guests.
- Replaced flooring in Cabin 106.
- Started making preparations for the Carolinas Campground Association Fall Crawl tour where approximately 40 Campground Owners/Managers will visit us, as a networking and showcase event.
- 21 phone calls between Monday and Thursday with guests turned away because we could not accommodate their RV on the requested date. We are still discussing a rubric for the best way to quantify this data, as it may be skewed if a lot of the calls are for the same date.

Have a great week everyone!



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