

City Council Weekly Update - October 20, 2025

From Bret Bell <bret.bell@cityoftybee.gov>
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3 attachments (2 MB)
LDC Update CC WS 10222025.pdf; FY25 Financial Summary.pptx; Political Sign Letter.docx;

Greetings Mayor and Council,

Hope y'all had a fantastic week. For a small community, Tybee sure does get a lot of attention. Last week we hosted two visiting delegations, who were in town to better understand our resiliency programs and the challenges we face as an island community.

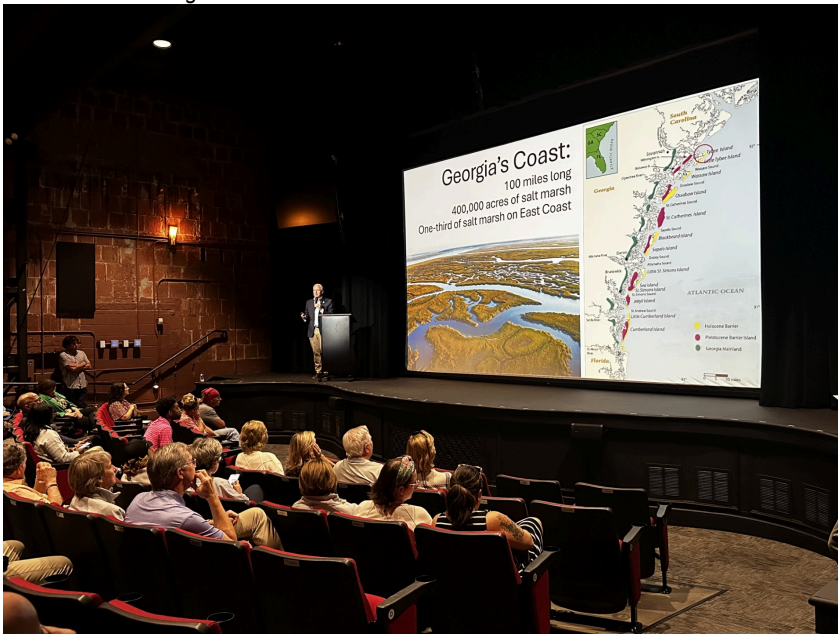
On Thursday about 80 civic and business leaders from the Baltimore area visited Tybee. The group included the Mayor of Baltimore, who was in the national spotlight last year when a major bridge collapsed after being struck by a ship.

We kicked off the session with a Tybee overview at the Post Theater. The group was interested in affordable housing, so we arranged for Eric Thomas, owner of Huc-a-Poos, and Carrie Efird, former owner of Tybee Vacation Rentals, to discuss the struggles they have faced in providing housing for their employees, and some of the solutions they developed.

We then took them on a tour of some of Tybee's resiliency projects, including the living shoreline at the 4-H Camp, as well as dune construction and beach nourishment programs on the ocean side. The visit ended with a lunch for 80 at North Beach Grill.

The next day we took six visiting engineers and government leaders from the Netherlands, as well as two program leaders from the University of Georgia, on a tour of some of our projects intended to address sea level rise. The Dutch have been engineering these kinds of solutions for hundreds of years, so it was extremely informative to hear their perspectives.

The Baltimore Delegation



Some of our Dutch visitors



Workshop Agenda This Week

We have two meaty issues on the Workshop Agenda for this Wednesday.

1. Community Development Director Patricia Sinel will provide a presentation on the process to update our Land Development Code, including survey results and public feedback. The presentation is attached.
2. Finance Director Jen Amarell will provide an update on the FY25 Financial Audit, which is currently under way, as well as offer a sneak peak of the Q1 FY26 financial results.

The good news is we ended FY25 in the black, primarily due to some consolidations and tight control of our expenditures. Revenues continue to decrease off our highs from the COVID years, however, so we must continue to practice fiscal discipline.

Some Key Hires

A couple of notable additions to Team Tybee.

Rachel Combs began work as Tybee's new Human Resources Director last week. She's been hitting the ground running, addressing some lingering policy and personnel matters within the organization.

As you will recall, Ms. Combs had served as Human Resources Director for the City of Sharonville, Ohio, since 2022. Previously she served as:

- Human Resources Manager for the City of Middletown, Ohio
- Human Resources Coordinator for the City of Westerville, Ohio
- Human Resources Analyst for Chatham County, Ga., Government
- Human Resources Specialist for the City of Middletown, Ohio

If you see Rachel, please offer her a warm welcome.



In addition, Skye Musson has agreed to take on the role of Public Defender for the City of Tybee, effective Jan. 1.

Ms. Musson had been recommended by our Solicitor, Andre Pretorius, who worked with her in the Chatham County District Attorney's Office, where she served as a Prosecutor from 2019 to 2021. She is currently in private practice, specializing in criminal defense.

City Attorney Hughes plans to bring our agreement with Ms. Musson before City Council on Nov. 13.



Taking Back Some Yellow Curb

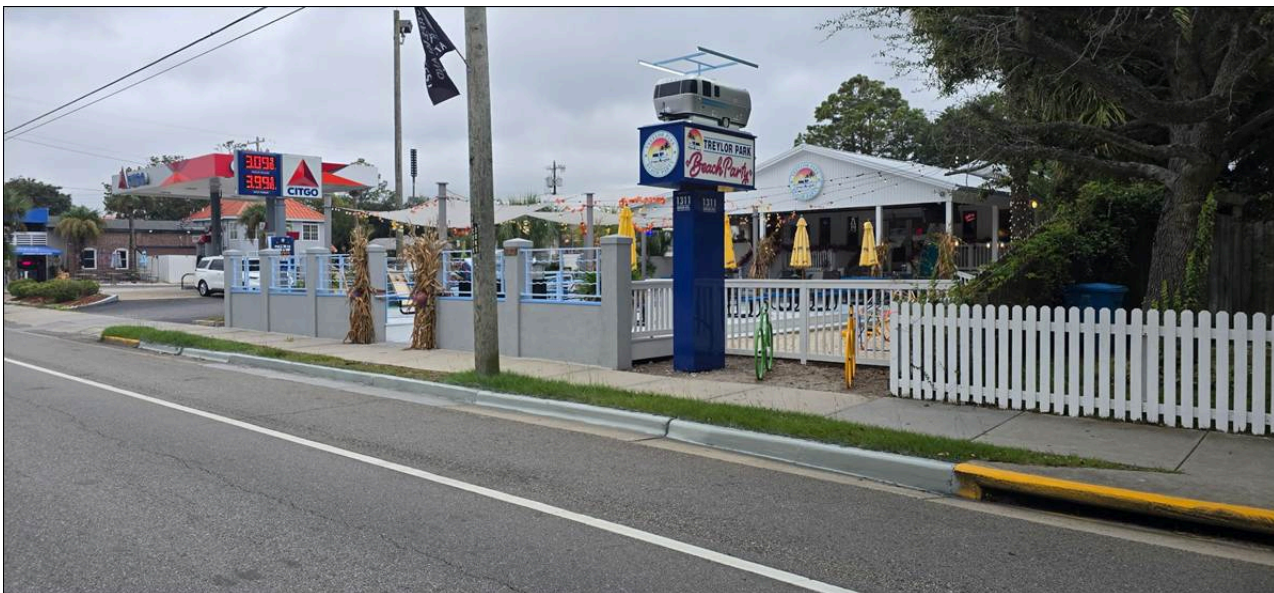
Last year I encountered a few instances where we had issued citations for parking in a yellow curb zone, which I had to dismiss because the yellow curb was so faded it was unfair for the parker. Yellow curbs generally are placed for safety reasons to mark fire zones, bridges where parking is not allowed, and areas near curb cuts to ensure proper lines of sight and turning radius.

They are challenging to keep up with due to our sometimes harsh weather, sand, and the constant brush of street sweeping. So last year we switched responsibility for their maintenance to Code Compliance, which enforces the yellow curb violations.

Early this year Code repainted all existing yellow curbs, and they look great. We have found, however, that there are some stretches of yellow curb that have been improperly added through the years, and should really be taken back to public parking. We have also found there are a few locations where private property owners have improperly painted yellow curbs in front of their homes.

We have begun the process of correcting this. A few weeks ago we began measuring out distances from curb cuts, and found that on the east side of Butler alone we could add about another 25 curbside parking spaces.

We are continuing to take measurements, and have begun repainting some yellow curbs gray, indicating they are open for parking. The first repainting was in front of the Treylor Park restaurant (below), where we reclaimed two parking spaces. More of this to come.



New Welcome Mats for City Facilities

We've spiffed up the front doors of our public facilities with the recent addition of new welcome mats. The old mats were in tough shape, and we have been challenged to keep them looking clean.

We went out to bid, and signed on with Cintas, which provides mat cleaning services for a number of governments in Chatham County. Cintas manufactured new rubber mats with Tybee logos for City Hall, the Public Safety Building, the Guard House, and the South Annex. They will switch them out with cleaned mats every two weeks to keep them looking fresh.



New Fence for the Dog Park

Our DPW crew last week replaced the fencing at the Big Dog Park. The old fence was in tough shape, and had partially collapsed.

We've also been freshening the park up with new mulch and other overdue maintenance.



Work Begins on Tybrisa Tree Lawns

Work has begun to beautify the tree lawns on Tybrisa Street.

As you know, the pocket spaces have been filled with white rocks for the past few years. The rocks are constantly spilling into the streets, creating a mess. This not only creates an unkempt look, but causes problems for our street sweeper.

Last week our DPW crew removed most of the white rocks from the major tree lawns to make way for a natural-looking turf that will fill the space, combined with a rubberized materials around the base of the palm trees.

This landscaping improvement – combined with the recent addition of tree lights, whimsical bicycle racks and new electrical outlets – will really make our South End Business District shine.



Political Sign Enforcement

A head's up that last week Code Compliance began taking action on the improper placement of campaign signs around the island. Attached is a letter I sent in September on the matter to all local candidates for City Council candidates. Enforcement officers have been physically moving signs to make them legal, which is 5 feet off the right of way. Signs on public property that aren't adjacent to private property have been confiscated and stored at the South Annex Building, where they can be retrieved by candidates. While campaign signs aren't our biggest priority, they are part of a larger campaign launched earlier this year to step up illegal sign enforcement, including confiscation of solicitation signs and real estate signs placed on public ROW.



The Week with Police

Accidents Last Week

This Week: 1 accident, 0 injuries
2025 YTD: 94 accidents, 16 injuries
2024 YTD: 95 accidents, 18 injuries
2024 TOTAL: 104 accidents, 18 injuries

Arrests

This Week: 4 total – 0 Felonies
2025 YTD: 367 arrests
2024 YTD: 443 arrests
2024 TOTAL: 504 arrests

DUIs

This Week: 3
2025 YTD: 233
2024 YTD: 201
2024 TOTAL: 241

Calls For Service

This Week: 254
2025 YTD: 19,433
2024 YTD: 19,453
2024 TOTAL: 23,258

Citations

This Week: 18
YTD: 1,305
2024 YTD: 1,585
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

Staffing

The Police Department is currently down one officer position.

Daily Information

10/13: American Legion Officer of the Year banquet. Congratulations Ofc. Lawlor! Thank you to those who attended the event for your continued support!

Upcoming Events:

10/18: The Tentative Road Safety Checkpoint has been CANCELED

10/24: Chief Hayes and Assistant Chief Whitley were invited to attend the FBI Atlanta Steak Out luncheon at the Atlanta field office. This lunch is to strengthen relationships and fellowship with the area law enforcement community and partners in the State of Georgia.

10/25: Team TIPD will be represented at the YMCA Trunk or Treat. Our theme this year is "black cats." Come visit our setup for some swag and our new Halloween sticker.

10/31: Halloween Trick or Treat on Lewis Ave. Officers will close Lewis Ave. beginning at 5:30 p.m. and reopen the road at 9 p.m.

11/21: Police Academy graduation for our three cadets. To be held at 10 a.m. on the Savannah Georgia Southern University Campus in the Armstrong Student Building. After graduation, we will take the officers and their families to lunch at Carey Hilliard's on Skidaway.

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

Communications and Outreach

Videography RFP: Staff hosted a pre-proposal meeting for this RFP to provide an overview of the project scope and address vendor questions. More than six interested vendors participated in the session. A site visit and walkthrough of the current AV system will be offered to prospective respondents on October 20. A link to the RFP can be found here: <https://www.cityoftybee.org/bids.aspx?bidID=119>

Tybrisa Street Landscaping Project: City staff met this week with the Department of Public Works and landscaping contractors to finalize plans and begin site preparation for the upcoming beautification project along Tybrisa Street. The team reviewed installation logistics and confirmed final design details to ensure a smooth rollout. Installation is anticipated to begin within the next few weeks, pending the arrival of materials. The project aims to enhance the visual appeal of one of Tybee's most active pedestrian corridors and create a more welcoming experience for residents and visitors alike.

Water and Sewer Infrastructure Engagement HQ Page: City staff have developed a new page on [TalkTybee.org](https://talktybee.org) dedicated to highlighting ongoing and upcoming water and sewer infrastructure improvements across the island. The page provides residents with project updates, and details about major capital improvements designed to strengthen Tybee's infrastructure and enhance system resilience. This effort supports the City's commitment to transparency and public engagement by keeping the community informed about critical investments in essential utilities.

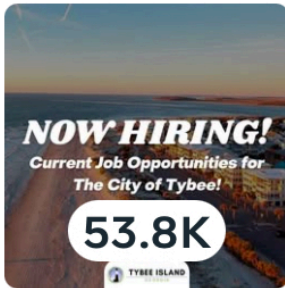
Social Media & Digital Engagement

Page Insights

- Views: 155,400
- Total followers: 31,542

Top Facebook Posts This Week:

Top content by views



WSAV

<https://www.wsav.com/news/local-news/tybees-pirate-fest-parade-to-continue-as-scheduled/>

WJCL

<https://www.wjcl.com/article/tybee-pirate-fest-weather/69002282>

Savannah Morning News

<https://www.savannahnow.com/picture-gallery/entertainment/2025/10/12/annual-pirate-parade-celebrates-tybee-island-pirate-festival/86654977007/>

<https://www.savannahnow.com/picture-gallery/lifestyle/real-estate/2025/10/17/inside-savannah-homes-5-ocean-drive-tybee-island/86669237007/>

Historic Preservation Commission (HPC):

- The HPC hosted a public Q&A session on October 13 to answer questions and clarify details about the proposed Fort Screven and North Campbell Local Historic District. The session went well and is available online for viewing: [Watch Here](#)
- **Outreach:** Staff is building an email list of property owners within the proposed district and sharing social media posts featuring frequently asked questions from the project's FAQ document to help inform the community.

Main Street Program

- **Tybee for the Holidays:**
 - **Tree Lighting Ceremony:** The stage has been reserved, an MC has been booked, and the special event application has been submitted. Two performances have been confirmed.
 - **Christmas Parade:** Advertising efforts are underway, the special event application has been submitted, and the [entry application](#) has been posted.
 - **Holiday Market:** The special event application has been submitted, the stage has been booked, and the vendor application form has received a strong response with 80 submissions. Applications closed this week, and review will begin soon. Quotes are being gathered for a kids' train, and entertainment is being finalized, with four performers already confirmed. Coordination is also in progress for the Pet Parade component of the event.
- **South End Electrical and Lighting Project:** The South End Lighting and Electrical Project is officially complete. The lights were adjusted for Pirate Fest and later changed to pink in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This project has been a major success, and the new lighting will serve as a beautiful enhancement for holidays and special events.

Professional Development

- **Coffee and Conversations:** Georgia Main Street hosted its monthly Third Thursday Coffee and Conversations session, providing an excellent opportunity for Main Street managers across the state to network, share ideas, and receive updates on statewide programming and initiatives.
- **Communication Arts, Inc.:** Maggie was invited to serve as a panelist for a discussion on the hiring process hosted by Georgia Southern's Communication Arts, Inc. She joined three other public relations professionals to share insights and experiences with

students preparing to enter the field. As a graduate of Georgia Southern's PR program, this event was both rewarding and enjoyable, offering the chance to reconnect with faculty, network with fellow professionals, and engage with the next generation of communications leaders.

Looking Ahead

- Small Business Saturday: November 28, 2025
- Christmas Tree Lighting: December 1, 2025, 6 p.m.
- Christmas Parade of Lights: December 12, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

- Holiday Market: Saturday, December 13, 2025, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Special Events

Number of events October 12 – 18:

Special Events:		2
Special Event Vendor Permits:	41	
Beach:		5
Guard House:		3
Memorial Park Screened Pavilion:	3	
Memorial Park Open Air Pavilion:	1	
Jaycee Park Gazebo:		1
Community Cafeteria:		6
Community Classroom:		7
Event Banner Permits:		4

Number of events YTD as of October 17:

Special Events:		19
Special Event Vendor Permits:	118	
Beach:		166
Film:		22
Guard House:		78
Memorial Park Screened Pavilion:	66	
Memorial Park Open Air Pavilion:	72	
Jaycee Park Gazebo:		3
Community Cafeteria:		193
Community Classroom:		180
Event Banner Permits:		6

New Special Event Application Submission on Website YTD: 36 submissions

Reservation Website: 655 transactions with a transaction total of \$25,127.15

Orange Crush

Robyn developed comprehensive guidelines and submission requirements for Orange Crush special event permit applicants this week. The update also includes presentation criteria and a detailed scoring matrix to assist the selection committee in evaluating applicant presentations consistently and transparently.

The Week with Fire

There were 13 calls for service last week. Below is a summary:

- **2025-10-11 04:25:53** - Medical assist, assist EMS crew | 1401 Butler Ave
- **2025-10-11 18:15:38** - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional | 3 Moore Ave
- **2025-10-11 20:07:02** - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | 1601 Inlet Ave
- **2025-10-11 23:35:36** - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | 212 Butler Ave
- **2025-10-13 11:13:10** - Emergency medical service incident, other | 701 1st St
- **2025-10-13 19:59:04** - Assist invalid | 77 Van Horne Ave
- **2025-10-14 03:52:24** - Medical assist, assist EMS crew | 1511 Butler Ave
- **2025-10-14 07:45:57** - Public service assistance, other | 109 Pelican Ct
- **2025-10-14 12:50:43** - Public service | 512 Jones Ave
- **2025-10-15 01:30:00** - Medical assist, assist EMS crew | 7 17th Place
- **2025-10-15 17:03:45** - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | 1710 Butler Ave
- **2025-10-16 10:32:13** - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional | 714 Lovell Ave
- **2025-10-16 12:48:21** - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | 26 Van Horne Ave

Points of Interest

1. Community Service at Rising Tides Food Pantry

C Shift, along with Chief McMillian, dedicated approximately two hours this week to assisting the Rising Tides Food Pantry. This local charity provides essential monthly groceries to residents in need, and we are proud to support their mission.

2. Operations Captain Candidate Site Visit

A highly qualified candidate for the Operations Captain position, bringing 20 years of experience in fire and ocean rescue from Myrtle Beach, visited Tybee Island this week. The candidate met with two of our shifts, the Beach Manager, and several lifeguards. Feedback from these interactions has been overwhelmingly positive, indicating that the candidate is an excellent fit for the Tybee Island Fire Department. A job offer is being extended today, and pending acceptance, we will provide the City Council with additional details about the candidate soon.

3. Lifeguard Season Update and Future Planning

With only two weeks remaining in the lifeguard season, our Beach Manager will soon transition to off-season mode, focusing on planning, attending job fairs, and working on recruitment strategies. We are exploring the possibility of maintaining a year-round presence of a few lifeguards in addition to the Beach Manager to enhance our operations. Discussions with the City Manager will occur in coming months.

The Week with Code Compliance

Between Oct. 11 and Oct. 17, the Tybee Island Code Compliance Department responded to **34 calls for service**. Below is a breakdown of the most pertinent ones by Type and Location:

TYPE OF CALL	LOCATION
Cat Hit by car. No chip or identification. Disposed of at DPW	Hwy 80 & Mckenzie
Dog Bite follow up	Fort Street
Stop Work Order issued	12 Horse Pen Point
Dog At Large -- Unfounded	32 Captains View
Assist with body recovery	Hwy 80
Follow Up	811 2 nd Ave
Follow Up	1216 Venetian
Follow Up	1514 Miller
Follow Up	1404 5 th Ave

Code Compliance Action

2 Citations:

- Pet on Beach
- Dog at Large

2 Warnings:

- Glass on Beach
- Smoking on Beach

Motorized Cart Inspections: 12

Wheelchair Checkouts: 5

Citizen Encounters: 567

Sandbar: 3

Beach Patrol: 20

Parking Services

Parking Revenue Year to Date			
MONTH	FY2026	FY2025	GAIN/(LOSS)
JULY	\$1,135,293	\$1,070,704	\$64,589
AUG	\$578,597	\$679,586	(\$100,989)
SEPT	\$518,649	\$447,400	\$71,249
OCT (To Date)	\$192,570	\$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	\$2,425,109	\$6,772,253	\$34,849 (thru Sept)

245 Parking Citations This Week

Expired time	13
No payment	204
No readable receipt	0
Handicap	1
Fire hydrant	1
Prohibited zone	26
Boots	0

The Week at Public Works

- Picked up barricades and removed flags from Pirate's Fest Weekend.
- Worked on the white rock removal project from 16th through Tybrisa.
- Picked up litter along the beach Monday through Friday.
- Operated the street sweeper Monday and Friday islandwide.
- Began installation of new fence at the Large Dog Park.
- Completed maintenance work orders around the island.
- Performed trash runs on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- Picked up loose litter from parking lots, sidewalks, and surrounding areas.
- Cleaned and maintained all public facilities.
- Cleaned and maintained all public restrooms.
- Blew debris and leaves off Memorial Park, Jaycee Park, and down Tybrisa for the sweeper to collect.

- Mowed and trimmed Memorial Park.
- Trimmed palm trees around the island.
- Completed two tree assessments and issued one tree-removal permit.

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 two bales of cardboard.
- Supervised two community service workers.
- 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.
- Installed new recycle area signs to replace damaged ones.
- Monitored the scale and charged nonresidential customers and contractors.
- Cleaned up litter and loose recycling from the main yard.

Fleet

- Replaced battery and heater control valve on vehicle #238.
- Checked the fluids in vehicles #241, #217, and #238.
- Ran diagnostics on the cooling system for CM Mule # 501.
- Changed the oil on Code Enforcement's vehicle # 241.
- Changed the oil on vehicle #238.
- Topped off the coolant on vehicle # 270 to get the heater working.
- Changed the blades on the Toro mower.
- Replaced the water pump on CM Mule.

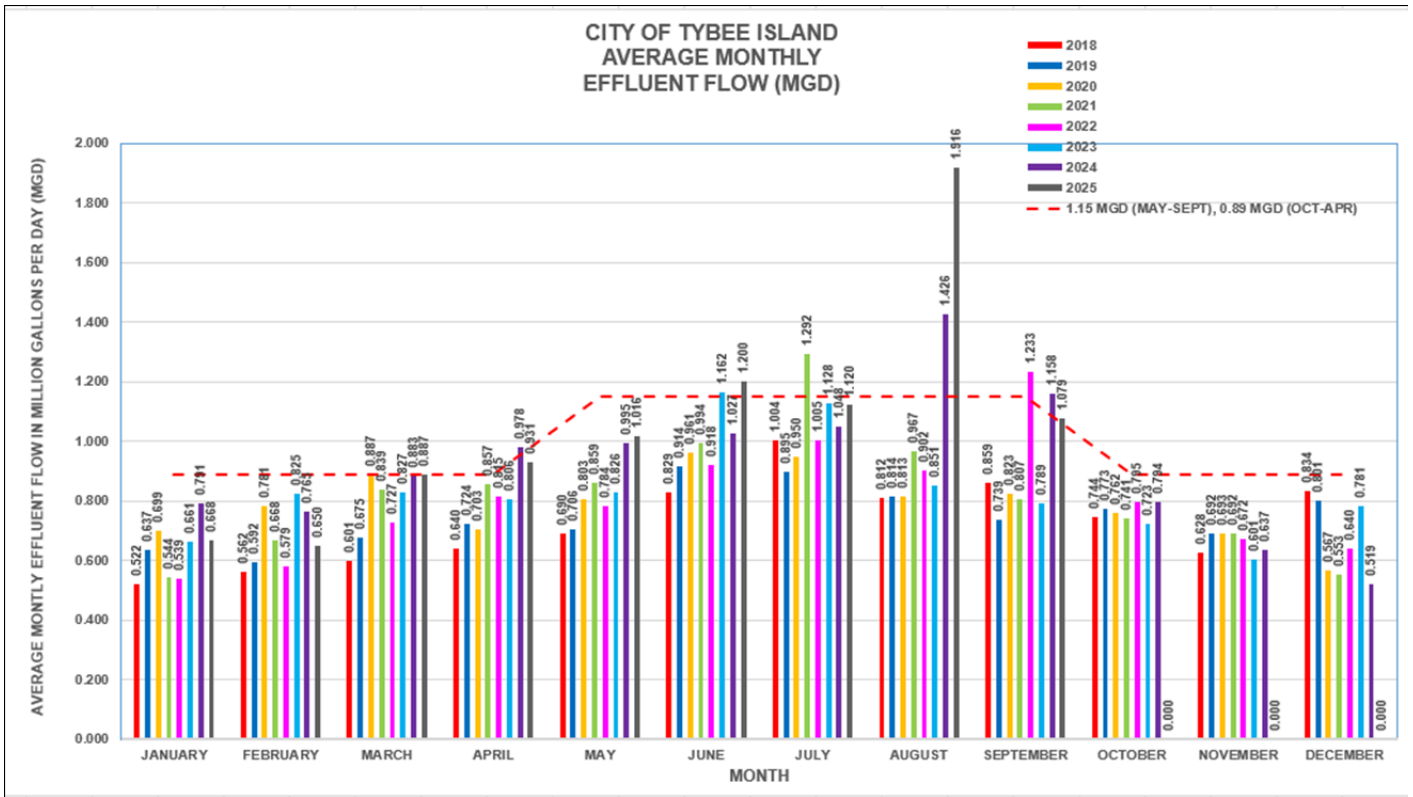
Staffing

DPW currently has three vacancies. A new Laborer 1 employees begins Oct. 20. We are recruiting for another Laborer 1 position, and a Small Engine Mechanic position.

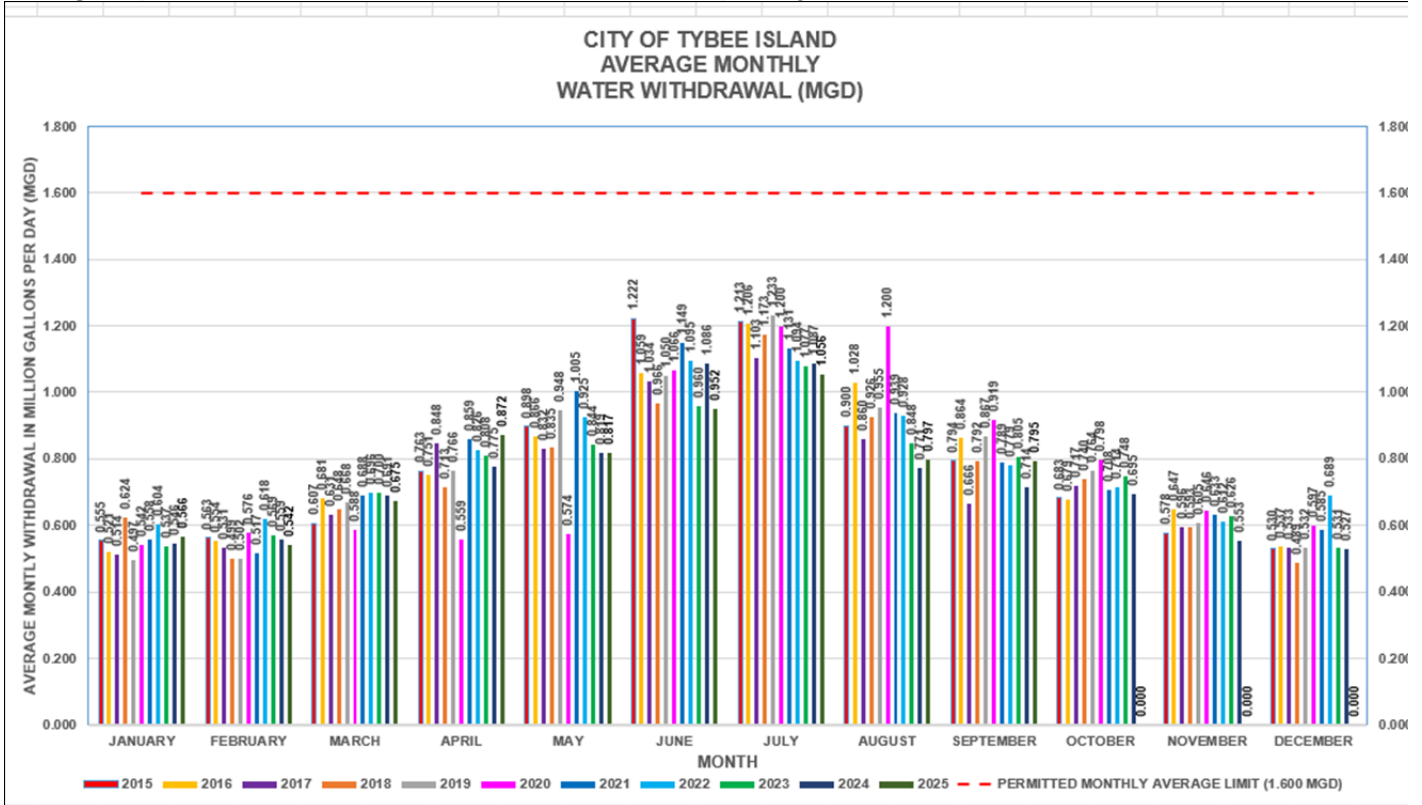
Water and Sewer Weekly

- Cleaned and televised sewer lines at the Lift Station 3 collection system area.
- Replaced manhole housing on 15th and Miller Avenue.
- Cleaned sewer lines on 15th Street from Jones to Miller. Removed five loads of waste.
- Performed 811 locates.
- Cleaned storm drain at 11th and Jones.
- Repaired water leak on 14th and Miller, and patched the hole from that leak.
- Investigated a sewer lateral break on 15th and 5th Avenue.
- Investigated manhole on Logan Street, and manhole in driveway at 1201 2nd Avenue.
- Inspected sink holes on Logan Street, and inspected fire hydrant on 13th Street.
- Placed GRR (Galvanized Requiring Replacement) door hangers on homes.
- Inspected beach front foot showers.
- Inspected possible leaks at several homes.
- Collected daily samples and completed operator logs at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Cleaned UV disinfection system.
- EMC SCADA was at the plant installing a new system that is replacing a very outdated one.
- 5-star electric working at plant on several electrical issues.

Average September Effluent Flow: 1.079 Million Gallons Per Day



Average September Water Withdrawal: 0.795 Million Gallons per Day



Around the Campground

- 112 Arrivals, 472 Site Nights, 66% Occupancy, Up 6% YoY.
- 6 guests turned away due to lack of availability for requested dates.
- Replaced bill acceptor and rotation gear, so all vending machines are back to fully functioning.
- Diagnosed and replaced malfunctioning accelerator assembly on Club Car Precedent.
- Hosted Paint and Sip event with five guests in attendance.

Have a great week everyone!



www.cityoftybee.org

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