
City Council Weekly Update - November 25, 2025

From Bret Bell <bret.bell@cityoftybee.gov>
Date Tue 11/25/2025 5:15 PM
To #Council <#Council@cityoftybee.org>
Cc #Dept Heads <#DeptHeads@cityoftybee.org>

Greetings Mayor and Council,

Hoping everyone is transitioning into family and friends mode: Thanksgiving is upon us!

Here at the City, non-essential services will be shut down Wednesday through Friday. But for many employees – Police, Fire, Water and Sewer, DPW, Campground – their work will continue through the holiday.

A big shout-out to City Marshal Wally Hatrich, Code Compliance Supervisor Mac McLain, Mayor and Becky West, who will feed City employees working on Thanksgiving Day in the screened pavilion at Memorial Park. Wally and Mac will spend the next 24 hours smoking eight Boston butts and a whole bunch of chickens for our workers. Extremely thankful for Team Tybee's huge heart.

I'm traveling out of state starting Wednesday afternoon to visit family, returning on Saturday. Just in time for Monday evening's Christmas Tree lighting ceremony.

Loving this year's tree with the Tybee-decorated sea creature ornaments! It's been fun watching kids swing by this week to take selfies with their ornaments on the tree.



While you're down on the south end, please pay attention to the tree wells lining Tybrisa. We removed the old white rocks, which were a weedy mess, and replaced them with a combination of high-end turf and porous pavement. The work is expected to wrap up Friday, which will be followed by a deep Tybrisa pressure washing Monday morning in time for the holiday event.

We've been getting great feedback on the new low-maintenance look, and at least one private business owner on Tybrisa got inspiration from our work and has decided to overhaul his front landscaping.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



Also on Tuesday, the synthetic skating rink went in on the Pavilion. We put up a ton of fun decorations on the County landmark – please swing by one of these nights to see it lit up! – and our partners at the Pier constructed a shack where you can check out skates free of charge. Free skating will be offered every day from noon to 8 p.m. from Wednesday through December 14. There will be refreshments, music and more!



News of Skating by the Sea has been getting a ton of attention on traditional and social media over the past week. That publicity campaign – a great combo of information and fun – was developed by Cassidi Kendricks and her team at Communications and Outreach (Maggie Wright and Robyn Rosner) who have had a heck of a week. They've been project managing the Tybrisa streetscape project, overseeing holiday decorations with DPW, coordinating holiday events with Main Street, and running a pretty intensive Orange Crush special event permit application process. Really professional work all around.

Meeting with Jekyll Island

We had a fantastic meeting last week with conservation and wildfire management specialists with the Jekyll Island Authority.

Jekyll has become an authority in utilizing controlled burns to reduce the threat of intense and destructive wildfires, reduce invasive species, and re-establish native plants, such as muhly grass. Some of the work they have done in their dune system is breathtaking.

The Jekyll experts believe there are several locations on Tybee that would be ideal for this kind of work, and they have offered to help with planning and training. Once we figure out a proposed gameplan, I will organize a presentation to City Council, followed by public meetings.

Here's one meadow that Jekyll re-established with muhly grass following a prescribed burn recently.



Communications and Outreach

Ice Skating and Holiday Happenings!

Staff coordinated the launch of Tybee's first-ever oceanfront ice skating rink at the Tybee Pier Pavilion, which opens **November 26–December 14 from 12 PM–8 PM daily (closed Thanksgiving Day)**. This free, open-air attraction overlooks the Atlantic Ocean and anchors this year's expanded holiday offerings, which also include beloved seasonal traditions and island-wide free parking from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. Staff finalized operational logistics, prepared on-site donation

collection bins, and initiated outreach encouraging skaters to bring canned goods and pet supplies to support local community partners.

South End Business District Landscaping

Porous Pave installation is now finished on both Tybrisa Street and Butler Avenue, marking a big step forward for this project. The landscaping crew is moving quickly on the new turf and expects to have everything wrapped up next week. Staff has been checking in regularly to make sure the work is running smoothly and that the area stays safe and accessible. Early feedback from residents and business owners has been very positive, with many saying the improvements already make the corridor look cleaner and more inviting.

Press Releases

Fire Department- <https://mailchi.mp/cityoftybee/city-of-tybee-island-secures-5-million-in-federal-funding-for-new-fire-station>
Holiday Events- <https://mailchi.mp/cityoftybee/tybeefortheholidays>

Upcoming Holiday Events

Saturday, November 29 - Small Business Saturday
Monday, December 1 at 6:00pm - Christmas Tree Lighting
Friday, December 13 at 6:30pm - Christmas Parade of Lights
Saturday, December 14 at 11:00am - Tybee Island Holiday Market
Wednesday, December 31 at Midnight - New Years Eve Fireworks
Thursday, January 1, 2026 - Tybee Island Polar Plunge

Website Updates

- News Flash
- Calendar
- Finance
- Police Department

Social Media & Digital Engagement

Page Insights

- Views: 867,347
- Total followers: 32,518

Top Facebook Posts This Week

SKATE BY THE SEA Know Before You Go!
Tybee Island Holiday Ice Rink FAQ...
Fri Nov 21, 7:20pm
271.6K views, 1.8K likes, 449 comments, 649 shares

SKATE BY THE SEA Know Before You Go!
Your story
Fri Nov 21, 7:20pm
0 views, 4 likes, 0 comments, 0 shares

SKATE BY THE SEA Know Before You Go!
Your story
Fri Nov 21, 8:19am
0 views, 3 likes, 0 comments, 0 shares

SKATE BY THE SEA Know Before You Go!
Ice Skating on the Tybee Pier — It's...
Fri Nov 21, 6:53am
554.1K views, 4.4K likes, 1.2K comments, 1.3K shares

SKATE BY THE SEA Know Before You Go!
Your story
Fri Nov 21, 6:53am
0 views, 5 likes, 0 comments, 0 shares

WSAV

<https://www.wsav.com/crime-safety/man-rescued-after-spending-3-hours-in-62-degree-waters/>
<https://www.wsav.com/news/local-news/tybee-island-pd-holds-critical-incident-training-monday/>
<https://www.wsav.com/news/local-news/tybee-pier-pavilion-to-turn-into-holiday-ice-skating-rink/>
<https://www.wsav.com/news/local-news/tax-could-support-tybee-island-stormwater-improvements-if-approved/>

WTOC

<https://www.wtoc.com/2025/11/24/one-hospitalized-after-falling-tybee-pier-trapped-water-over-three-hours/>
<https://www.wtoc.com/2025/11/21/first-time-ever-ice-skating-will-be-offered-tybee-pier-pavilion/>
<https://www.wtoc.com/2025/11/17/tybee-pd-utilizes-tool-help-officers-better-respond-residents-with-special-needs/>

WJCL

Special Events

Number of events this week

Beach: 1
Guard House: 2
Memorial Park Screened Pavilion: 1
Memorial Park Open Air Pavilion: 3
Community Cafeteria: 9
Community Classroom: 7
Event Banner Permits: 2

Number of events YTD

Special Events: 22
Special Event Vendor Permits: 158
Beach: 184
Film: 26
Guard House: 93
Memorial Park Screened Pavilion: 77
Memorial Park Open Air Pavilion: 86
Jaycee Park Gazebo: 5
Community Cafeteria: 217
Community Classroom: 213
Event Banner Permits: 72

New Special Event Application Submission on Website: 39 submissions

Reservation Website: 727 transactions with a transaction total of \$27,141.00

Orange Crush/April 2026 Beach Event:

In compliance with the special event ordinance amendment that City Council approved this past summer regarding a six-month time restriction for application submissions, the City started accepting applications last month for an April 2026 Orange Crush event. On October 19 and 20, the two applicants each submitted separate applications for very similar proposed events on April 18, 2026. In response, the City requested each event organizer to provide formal presentations of event proposals in conjunction with the required special event application to determine the most qualified applicant. Proposals were presented before a selection committee on November 3. Attached is the information that was provided to the applicants about the process as well as the final scoring sheets after the process was completed. Letters to each of the applicants communicating the outcome of the process were sent on November 18. The applicant denied a permit has requested an appeal to the Mayor and Council. Records of communications, applications, scoring reviews, etc. are being prepared for Council to use at the appeal hearing.

Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)

CLG Grant Project: The project continues to make steady progress with consistent communication to ensure deadlines are met.

Planning is under way for the 2026 Tour of Homes and a Preservation in the Park event in Jaycee Park.

Main Street Program

Board Updates

This week, Main Street welcomed three new board members: Anna Burgard, Chrissy Campbell, and Laura Hughes. Each brings valuable experience, fresh ideas, and a strong passion for supporting Tybee's business community and historic

character. We are excited to have them join the team and look forward to the energy and insight they will bring to the program as we continue growing and strengthening Main Street initiatives.

Tybee for the Holidays

- Preparations continue for the upcoming holiday season, and several key components are moving forward smoothly.
- **Ornament Program:** The ornament decorating program has been a major success. Sand Cat sold out of ornaments at both locations, and participants returned beautifully decorated ornaments. DPW has already added them to the city tree, and it looks amazing. The ornaments bring so much color and creativity to the holiday display and will add greatly to the community spirit this season.
- **Tree Lighting Ceremony:** The stage has been reserved, an MC has been booked, and two performances have been confirmed. Maggie has also secured Tybean to serve hot chocolate, cider, and coffee for attendees. The DNR letter of permission has been approved, and the event billboard is now live.
- **Christmas Parade of Lights:** The parade application has been posted and is actively receiving submissions. Advertising is underway, the billboard is up, and two parade judges have been confirmed so far.
- **Holiday Market:** The Holiday Market continues to come together well. Vendors have been reviewed and approved, and this year's market is expected to feature 60+ vendors, making it the largest Holiday Market to date. The kids' train has been booked, and seven entertainment slots are confirmed. Maggie is coordinating the Pet Parade and Costume Contest benefiting OneLove Animal Rescue, with judges already secured.
- Additionally, ornaments featuring artwork from the Tybrisa Street mural have been ordered as a Main Street fundraiser.
- **Pier Decorating:** The Main Street Design Committee has been busy spreading holiday cheer across the island. Maggie, Robyn, and Cassidi decorated the pier to welcome residents and visitors for the holiday season and to help set the festive scene for ice skating on the pier. The decorations add a warm, inviting touch to this year's celebrations and create a memorable entrance to one of our most popular holiday attractions.
- **Polar Plunge:** Planning for the Polar Plunge is progressing. The t-shirt design has been finalized. Maggie is working with the t-shirt company, and shirts will be posted for presale as soon as they are ready.

The Week with Police

Accidents Last Week

This Week: 1 accident, 0 injuries

2025 YTD: 98 accidents, 16 injuries

2024 YTD: 99 accidents, 18 injuries

2024 TOTAL: 104 accidents, 18 injuries

Arrests

This Week: 1 total

2025 YTD: 391 arrests

2024 YTD: 475 arrests

2024 TOTAL: 504 arrests

DUIs

This Week: 0

2025 YTD: 245

2024 YTD: 223

2024 TOTAL: 241

Calls For Service

This Week: 227

2025 YTD: 20,806
 2024 YTD: 21,162
 2024 TOTAL: 23,258

Citations

This Week: 10
 YTD: 1,408
 2024 YTD: 1,706
 2024 TOTAL: 1,792

| Part 1 Crimes | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------|------|---------|---------|----------|---------|-------|---------------------|--------------|
| | Homicide | Rape | Robbery | Assault | Burglary | Larceny | Arson | Motor Vehicle Theft | Total Part 1 |
| 2025 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 37 |
| 2024 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 51 | 0 | 0 | 66 |
| 2023 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 52 |
| 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 24 | 1 | 1 | 29 |

Staffing

The Police Department is currently down one officer position.

Daily Information

11/21: Police Academy graduation held for our 3 cadets. Held at **11 am** at the **Otis S. Johnson Cultural Arts Center**.

11/18: Logan's List was launched on the Police Department's social media and the City of Tybee Island website. Special needs alerts for first responders. Named after a teenager with autism, Logan's Law ([O.C.G.A. § 38-3-182\(f\)\(9\)](#)) allows Georgia counties to create a database, often called "Logan's List," of vital information about residents with physical, mental, or neurological conditions. These registries empower first responders to better understand potential triggers, identify individuals in need, and provide more informed and compassionate care during emergencies.

All details submitted through the registry are used only to support emergency planning and response efforts and must be submitted annually. The City of Tybee Island is committed to maintaining privacy and confidentiality while ensuring the necessary assistance is provided.

Upcoming Events:

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

12/11: Lt. Chris White graduates from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA.

12/18: Assistant Chief Whitley will attend a 3-hour session at the Georgia Ports Authority with the GBI on Officer-Involved Shootings. This course is designed for law enforcement leaders and command staff.

The Week with Fire

Tybee Island Fire Department responded to 21 incidents from November 14–20, 2025:

- 11/14/2025 15:53 – 311 Medical assist, assist EMS crew – 1213 US Hwy 80
- 11/14/2025 07:29 – 321 EMS call (excluding vehicle accident with injury) – 118 Eagles Nest Dr
 - 11/15/2025 07:52 – 311 Medical assist, assist EMS crew – 1105 2nd Ave
 - 11/15/2025 14:29 – Motor vehicle accident (location incomplete) – US Hwy 80

- 11/15/2025 14:33 – 311 Medical assist, assist EMS crew – 37 Meddin Dr
- 11/16/2025 17:09 – 322 Motor vehicle accident with injuries – US Hwy 80 / Battery Row
- 11/17/2025 11:55 – 321 EMS call (excluding vehicle accident with injury) – 706 Lovell Ave
- 11/17/2025 13:45 – 735 Alarm system sounded due to malfunction – 1508 Butler Ave
- 11/18/2025 11:52 – 700 False alarm or false call, other – 212 Butler Ave
- 11/18/2025 22:15 – 311 Medical assist, assist EMS crew – 8 Miller Ave
- 11/19/2025 11:54 – 311 Medical assist, assist EMS crew – 1402 Butler Ave
- 11/19/2025 15:31 – 735 Alarm system sounded due to malfunction – 1508 Butler Ave, Bldg 1
- 11/20/2025 02:03 – 735 Alarm system sounded due to malfunction – 1508 Butler Ave
- 11/20/2025 06:13 – 554 Assist invalid – 7 Rosewood Ave
- 11/20/2025 08:03 – 321 EMS call (excluding vehicle accident with injury) – 7 Horsepen Point Dr
- 11/20/2025 10:05 – 554 Assist invalid – 1002 Bay St
- 11/20/2025 10:18 – 311 Medical assist, assist EMS crew – 204 5th St
- 11/20/2025 12:15 – 553 Public service assistance – 12th St
- 11/20/2025 16:04 – 554 Assist invalid – 1 15th St
- 11/20/2025 17:13 – 554 Assist invalid – 118 Eagles Nest Dr
- 11/20/2025 20:27 – Location only (type not specified) – 118 Eagles Nest Dr

Operations & Maintenance Highlights

Our crews made significant progress on the **island-wide hydrant project** this week. Nearly all remaining hydrants have now been flowed, tested, and repainted — most transitioning from orange to green, greatly improving visibility and aesthetics. The final set of blue reflectors was installed, and data entry into FirstDue continues steadily.

Apparatus maintenance included Goodyear replacing all four rear tires on Truck 1 on Monday, November 17. Hose testing for Truck 1 is scheduled. Additionally, a stainless-steel flag pole and mount have been ordered for the fire boat—a substantial upgrade from the previous makeshift solution.

Shifts continued driver training (special thanks to FF Downs), station cleaning, apparatus washing, and normal administrative duties including schedule board updates, monitoring FirstDue scheduling, and keeping our department Facebook page current.

Training & Medical Quality Updates

Firefighter Austin Michel led additional medical continuing education with his shift, focusing on obstetrics, and reinforced the importance of completing patient care reports within 24 hours of dispatch (rather than by shift end) to maintain compliance following recent software transition challenges. All shifts are now current on QA/QI reporting requirements.

Ocean Rescue Division Manager Jen Bishop conducted CPR/First Aid training with Code Enforcement and Parking staff this week, with a make-up session scheduled next week for those unable to attend. The division is officially registered for the Tybee Island Christmas Parade (no entry fee required). With pleasant weather drawing people out, Jen conducted beach patrols throughout the week.

Fire Prevention & Inspection Division Chief McMillian personally completed approximately 75 occupancy inspections over the past seven days. These new Occupancy Load Certificates are now required for all new and renewing business licenses on Tybee Island and represent an important step in enhancing life-safety compliance across our commercial properties. There is no charge for these inspections.

Public Works Weekly

DPW

- Cleaned and dug out the outfalls at Inlet and Alley 3.
- Assisted with installing the Christmas lights islandwide.
- Moved a large filing cabinet to City Hall.
- Picked up cones from a completed project on Tybrisa.
- Picked up litter along the beach Monday through Friday.
- Operated the street sweeper Monday and Friday Island wide.
- Completed various small work orders around the island.
- Oversaw the maintenance of the A/C at the Marine Science Center.
- 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.
- Trimmed palms trees islandwide.
- Trimmed the beach crossovers on the north and south ends of the island.

- Assisted with installing the Christmas lights around the island.

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.
- Sorted Food Pantry's Cardboard trailer.
- 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 the damaged ones.
- Monitored the scale and charged nonresidential customers and contractors.
- Cleaned up litter and loose recycling from off the main yard.

Fleet

- Repaired the malfunctioning anti-theft system on bucket truck #242.
- Replaced the thermostat and cooling hose on vehicle # 217.
- Manually shifted vehicle #265 in diesel exhaust regeneration to prevent the filter from clogging.
- Performed an oil change and preventative maintenance on vehicles #201, # 194, #186, and #199 for the Police Department.
- Replaced the belts, T-Stat, and the idler pulleys on vehicle # 217.
- Bled the cooling system and refilled the coolant on vehicle # 217.
- Ordered and installed a new water pump and reservoir cap for vehicle # 217.
- Disposed of any litter and trash left over from various projects.
- Cleaned and organized the storage areas of the Fleet shop.
- Installed new batteries on vehicle # 214 the flatbed.

Water and Sewer Weekly

- Final Inspection on new maintenance building performed
- Water leak repair at 1209 6th Avenue.
- Maintained operations throughout the Island's distribution system and collection system's lift station.
- Passed out doorhangers to citizens affected for the division 2 North End Sewer Project.
- Helped coordinate public meeting discussing the North End Sewer Project.
- Colby Elkins passed the collections system operator exam!
- Maintained operations at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- 5 star electric on site to prep for an electrical issue on clarifier number 1.
- Weekly wastewater samples analyzed.
- Department attended open enrollment sessions.
- Worked with contractors on several issues that need to be addressed.
- Repaired several water leaks around the Island.
- Continuing to video lift station 3 collection system area in coordination with City Engineer.

The Week with Code Compliance

Between Nov. 14 and Nov. 21, the Tybee Island Code Compliance Department issued:

Citations: 3

- Dog on Beach: 2
- Dog at Large: 1

Warnings: 5

- Pet on Beach (Verbal): 2
- Smoking on Beach: 1
- Dog on Beach (Verbal): 1
- RV Dwelling Without Permit (NOV): 1

Activity Summary

- Calls for Service: 29
- Beach Patrols: 17
- Sandbar Patrols: 2
- Citizen Encounters: 343
- Wheelchair Checkouts: 2
- Golf Cart Inspections: 6

Activity Details

- Dispatched to TIPD for a dog that had been brought in by a resident. The dog was processed in and placed in the kennel. Later the owner came to retrieve the dog. The owner was issued a GPC Smart tag in lieu of a citation.
- Animal Welfare duties – managed and monitored a humane trap at 10 Driftwood Court in an effort to capture a dog.
- Dispatched to 141 Lewis Avenue concerning a Nuisance (Barking Dog), where the complainant stated the dog was left alone in the residence, and was "constantly barking, all day long, without stopping." Upon further investigation, the dog was only barking a few seconds whenever a car would pass by the residence and was not in violation of any ordinances (Unfounded / Report Taken). Case #: 25-11-1449.
- While on neighborhood patrol, observed an RV being occupied without a permit at 142 Lewis Avenue. The Owner was issued a Notice of Violation and advised to contact City Hall to obtain a permit. Case #: 25-11-1453.
- While on beach patrol, observed a dog running at large on the Beach at the sandbar. Owner was issued a written citation, and the dog was removed from the beach (Written Citation Issued). Case #: 25-11-1454.
- Made a follow-up visit to 1601/03 Chatham Avenue.
- Responded to the area of 15 Shirley Rd. regarding a complaint of possible unpermitted work being done with debris being pushed into the dunes. The initial inspection could not confirm the complaint. Further investigation pending.
- Notified of a small rattlesnake in the parking lot at the south annex. An officer responded and found a small rattlesnake that appeared to be dead. The snake was removed to better location for safety purposes.
- Code & Parking Compliance Officers attended CPR, AED, & First Aid Training.

Parking Compliance

EXPIRED TIME: 2

NO PAYMENTS: 125

NO READABLE RECIEPT: 1

PROHIBITED ZONE: 16

CITIZEN CONTACTS: 413

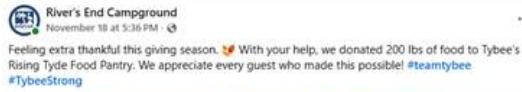
Note that half-price off-season parking rates were implemented Nov. 1.

| 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 | \$332,050 | \$376,017 | (\$43,967) |
| NOV | \$95,040 (to date) | \$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 | \$2,659,630 | \$6,772,253 | (\$9,118) (thru Oct.) |

Around the Campground

- 86 Arrivals, 368 Site Nights, 50% Occupancy, Up 3% YoY.
- Relocated irrigation line to prevent damage to sprinkler heads.
- Replaced rotten deck on Cabin 105.
- Started Christmas decorations.
- Donated 200 pounds of food to Rising Tyde collected from our guests.

 River's End Campground
November 18 at 5:36 PM · 🌐
Feeling extra thankful this giving season. 🙏 With your help, we donated 200 lbs of food to Tybee's Rising Tyde Food Pantry. We appreciate every guest who made this possible! #teamytybee #TybeeStrong



Have a great Thanksgiving everyone!



www.cityoftybee.org

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