

From the Mayor's Desk

From the September, 2008 Tybee Breeze:

It's that time of the year when I find myself checking out the Tropical Update at 10 'til the hour on channel 25 (The Weather Channel). Hurricane season is in full swing. There are three important phone numbers you may want to jot down or put in your cell phone's memory:

- 912-201-4590-This is the Chatham Emergency Management Hurricane Information Line. It is updated regularly with information about evacuations, and tropical system advisories.
- 877-615-3277-This number was established by Tybee's Emergency Management department so that you can learn about developments related to evacuations and re-entry. This is especially important for you to keep handy so that if we are hit by a strong storm, you are able to learn exactly what is happening on Tybee Island as national news coverage would in all likelihood focus on Savannah and other larger surrounding communities.
- 866-522-3292-This is the number to call if you or a loved one would be considered "Special Needs" so that we can be certain that provisions are made for transportation out of harm's way.

St. Michael's School will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary in the beginning of October. They are very excited about this event and I hope Tybee folks will come out to honor this very important occasion. For those of you who frequent our local businesses in the 16th and Strand areas (or "Beach Business District" or what many of the locals refer to as "Down Front"), we have changed a few things to accommodate short term parking. These changes will allow parking spaces to free up more readily. Thanks to everybody who worked together to make this happen.

The renourishment will be starting in early October. I will focus much of my article in October on what to expect, where to get updated information on the location of the pipes, etc. We are extremely pleased with how things are going. The contract was awarded to Great Lakes dredge company. They also did our renourishment in 2000 and are a very experienced, reputable company.

Several officials from Tybee traveled to Fernandina Beach, Florida, in mid-August. Mayor Pro Tem Wanda Doyle, Councilman Paul Wolff, City Manager Diane Schleicher, and members of the Tybee Beach Task Force attended. We received a warm welcome from their Mayor, Bruce Malcolm, and learned, among other things, about their efforts at securing funds for beach renourishment. I thought we had a tough time getting federal funds for our project. Get this: From the time they began working on their shore protection program to the time they actually had a renourishment on their beach was a period of THIRTY YEARS. It should be noted that in the interim they have received sand via a cooperative relationship with the US Navy (thanks to the St. Mary's sub base's needs for a very deep channel). In any event, they are currently conducting their first full-fledged renourishment and we took a tour of their beach to see what Tybee's beach will look like in early October. We also gathered some info about their parking situation, lifeguards and a variety of other beach-town related issues. It was a very fruitful visit much like our trip to Hilton

Head a few months back. Please note that these two visits were one-day trips and as such the travel costs were minimal.

Several months back, the City Council asked for public comments on the Memorial Park Master Plan. You only have a few more days to submit your comments on the Plan. To put in your two cent's visit the City's website (www.cityoftybee.org) and click on "Memorial Park Plan." If you aren't an internet user, you can review a copy of the plan at City Hall and submit your comments the old-fashioned way. Once comments have been received and evaluated, the City Council will be having a public meeting about the Plan and how we will move forward.

One more thing: as you drive around town, please be extra cognizant of walkers and bikers on our city streets. We have had a few near misses and at least one serious incident involving a vehicle and bicyclist so far this summer. More and more residents and visitors are choosing to walk or bike instead of using their cars. We established a designated bike path along relatively safe streets a few years back. We are also finalizing plans for crosswalks on Butler. We will continue to do what we can to try to make Tybee a safe place, but need the cooperation of our residents, vacationers and day-trippers. And if you are a biker, walker, or jogger, please exercise caution.

Mayor's Night In will be on Tuesday, September 9 from 6 until 8 PM. Please contact Vivian Woods at 786-4573, ext. 103 for an appointment.

Have a wonderful September!

As always, feel free to contact me at 786-4573, ext. 108 or via e-mail at buelterman@hotmail.com. See you around town.