

From the Mayor's Desk

From the December, 2008 Tybee Breeze:

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! Now it's time to start gearing up for the holiday season.

First off, Tybee will once again be participating in the Georgia Municipal Association's annual Mayor's Christmas Motorcade. The event was started 50 years ago and is designed to help ensure that patients at seven of Georgia's mental health hospitals have gifts for the holidays. We will be collecting gifts until December 9 at City Hall. This is a wonderful event and I encourage you to donate if you can.

Also, the annual Lights On for Tybee celebration will be taking place on December 12 at the end of 16th street. This year we will put the tree on the city seal at the circle so we can be in the heart of our business district. There will be contests again for our kids and I hear Santa may even make an appearance. Thanks to Chantel Morten and Wanda Doyle for their work in making sure we have another successful event.

In City-related business, we will have a meeting at 7 PM on December 4 to discuss the new proposed water rate structure. The meeting will be dealing solely with this issue and will give the public the opportunity to provide their input. City Council must approve a new tiered rate structure by the end of the year. I expect a vote will be taken at our regular meeting on December 11 on the rates. We did want to make sure we gave the public a chance to comment on the rates and also give staff time to make any adjustments based on public input.

Waste Pro trash services have now been with us for over a month and so far things seem to be running smoothly. I have received some very positive feedback thus far about the changeover from Waste Management to Waste Pro. The one piece of negative feedback has been that they are not rolling the carts far enough back from the street. One person said he even lost a mirror on his car. We let our new partners know about this and I am sure they will address the issue.

One thing I have been noticing of late is the addition of businesses on our Island that cater to Tybee residents as opposed to tourists. The First National Bank branch is a perfect example. We also have a dentist—Island Dentistry—located where the old Chinese restaurant (No. 1 China) used to sit. Dr. Owens is a Tybee guy and a fellow surfer who gave me a tour of his office recently. How convenient to not have to drive off the island to go to the dentist! Hopefully this trend will continue and maybe we'll never have to cross that bridge...

The 14th Street area drainage bids will be coming in soon. I will keep you all updated. This work, like the work on the water lines in the Fort Screven area, will certainly be an inconvenience. This drainage work is long, long overdue.

I do want to take a moment this holiday season to thank my family for all of their support. Throughout the last several years, my wife, Jody, has been extremely understanding of the time her husband spends at

Council meetings and other city-related events. She is the best, most supportive wife a guy could ever ask for and I count my blessings every single day that she was willing to marry a bum like me. I want to sincerely thank her and all of the spouses of elected officials on Tybee for the kindness, understanding, and sacrifice.

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

Have a happy holiday!

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