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CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND

PRESS RELEASE:
For immediate release

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Tybee Celebrates Independence Day on July 3rd

Tybee Island, Ga. – (June 30, 2009) Tybee Island will host a fireworks display at the Walter J. Parker Pier and Pavilion to begin after dark, between about 9:00 to 9:30 PM, the evening of Friday, July 3rd. Visible from nearly any of Tybee's eastern beaches, the ocean provides a clear view to the pier where the fireworks are set up.

Visitors should be aware that the Independence Day Celebrations generate some of the largest crowds of the year on Tybee Island. Traffic in both directions on US Highway 80 – Victory Drive will be heavy, and parking spaces will be in high demand. It would be best to arrive early to make sure you have a place to park, but remember that parking fees are enforced from 8am to 8pm every day.

Tybee Island authorities would like to remind visitors of several important points. First, personal fireworks use is forbidden both by State law and by local ordinance – last year's event saw a fire emergency when a rocket from the beach took off and set a home on fire. Second, visitors are welcome; that's the sole purpose of the event. However, trash left on the sands hurts the wildlife and damages the environment, even if DPW crews and hundreds of Tybee Beautification Association volunteers spend as much as six hours the morning after the event picking up trash off the beach. Please be considerate of others and of the environment – keep your trash contained and put it in the trash barrels when you leave! Third, bear in mind that State law also requires vehicles to stop for pedestrians in any marked crosswalk and forbids other cars from even passing cars that are stopped at any crosswalk. There will be many people of all ages walking to and from the beaches for this event. Please drive cautiously and give pedestrians the right of way as required.

While on the beach, please do not disturb any marked nests of endangered sea turtle species! They hold precious cargo, and your extra care would be appreciated by all the volunteers who find and protect them!

Please exercise patience, drive safely and courteously, and leave plenty of time both to arrive on the Island and to return home. Departures off the Island after the fireworks can take a long time, sometimes as much as three hours, so visitors are encouraged to think about staying at one of the hotels or overnight rentals on the Island, staying the night with friends, or, at the very least, car-pooling with a designated driver who gets plenty of rest to stay alert on the roads for the drive home! Local merchants are offering special deals for weekend visitors.

Have a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July Holiday, wherever you choose to celebrate!

Useful Tybee Island links can be found on-line at
<http://www.cityoftybee.org/Links.aspx>

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