

Mayor Jason Buelterman

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**CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND**

PRESS RELEASE:  
For immediate release

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**Experience Tybee for the Holidays**

Tybee Island, Ga. – (November 23, 2009) Celebrate your holidays the Island way! Tybee Island has many holiday activities planned with specials available Thanksgiving Day through New Year's Day. [www.tybeefortheholidays.com](http://www.tybeefortheholidays.com) is the website with Thanksgiving and Christmas restaurant openings and information about the variety of festive events and activities.

The annual tree lighting ceremony, "Lights on for Tybee" celebration is December 4 at 6:30pm. Mayor Jason Buelterman officially kicks off "Lights on for Tybee" with the lighting of the Christmas tree at the Tybrisa / Strand roundabout. One of the announcements this evening will be by Tybee Beautification Association (TBA). TBA will announce the winners of its judging for best decorated Island business. Winners will receive a poinsettia to display in their shops. The evening will include extended store hours, a variety of special offerings, and complimentary refreshments at many locations in the historic downtown area. There will be entertainment featuring St. Michael's choir, performers, elves and more! It is even likely that there will be a surprise guest, all dressed in red and white, along with a coterie of helpers, showing up at this event.

Specialty shops, art galleries and restaurants will be open with special delights throughout the season. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Shop and Stroll is Saturday, December 5 with retailers showcasing their specials and items consumers need. A Holiday Realtor Tour of Homes is Sunday, December 6. Available properties will be showcased in their best holiday attire for viewing 3pm – 6pm.

The week after on Saturday, December 12 at 3:00pm is the annual Tybee Christmas Parade, hosted by that same surprise guest! A variety of festive participants will travel down Tybrisa Street to Butler Avenue and end at the Tybee Gymnasium. There Santa will join volunteers from the Tybee Island YMCA for all of their children's activities, including time with Santa to let him know what they'd like to see under the tree in a few weeks.

Many more festive family activities such as Deck the Paws, a tea with Santa and New Year's celebrations are planned. The public is encouraged to find the details at [www.tybeefortheholidays.com](http://www.tybeefortheholidays.com).

*About Tybee Island, Ga.: The City of Tybee Island, Georgia is on the outermost barrier island off the Savannah area coast. With a wild bird sanctuary, over three miles of ocean beaches and salt marshes on the back river, outdoor recreation activities abound for visitors to the island. As a key defense point to the important Savannah port, Tybee's Fort Screven, Tybee Fort Theater, Fort Pulaski, and the Tybee Island and Cockspur Lighthouses combine with the unique architectures of the island's raised cottages to form a rich backdrop for history buffs. Attracting a strong artistic community, there are several local supporting art galleries. Keeping the island interesting year round are several arts festivals, the Annual Pirate Fest, the Beach Bum Parade, St Patrick's Day celebrations, the Hot Rod Run, the Beach Bash, and the Christmas Parade, as well as fireworks displays Independence Day Eve and New Year's Days off the Parker Pier and Pavilion. The Marine Science Center cooperates with Georgia's DNR to protect threatened sea turtle species by searching for nests, protecting their eggs, and making sure hatchlings make it to sea. For visitor information, stop by <http://www.tybeevisit.com/>, and to find more about the City of Tybee Island, visit our web site at <http://www.cityoftybee.org/>.*

*About Tybee Island's Better Hometown Initiative: Tybee's Better Hometown initiative follows a comprehensive revitalization process that improves all aspects of a commercial district. Better Hometown is a self help approach to economic development for downtown areas designed to grow business and improve a community's quality of life. With broad based community support, it integrates a practical management strategy with the physical improvements of buildings and public spaces, promotion and image building, and economic development in the area.*

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Copies of this release can also be found at <http://www.cityoftybee.org/PressReleases.aspx>

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**[www.cityoftybee.org](http://www.cityoftybee.org)**