



TYBEE ISLAND **RESIDENT GUIDE**



TYBEE ISLAND...PRESERVING COMMUNITY, COMMERCE AND CULTURE ON THE COAST

Welcome to Tybee Island! We are happy that you have chosen Tybee as your new hometown – your piece of paradise where you can enjoy a fabulous quality of life.

Tybee Island is located within Chatham County and was incorporated in 1887. Tybee, which meant “salt” to the Native Americans, is the northernmost barrier island along the Georgia Colonial Coast and the easternmost point in the state of Georgia. A brief history of Tybee Island can be viewed [here](#)¹. Here, you can enjoy nearly three (3) miles of sandy beaches with public access points throughout the island. While Tybee is a popular vacation spot for travelers, it is also home to approximately 3,000 year-round residents. The entire island is part of the Savannah Metropolitan Statistical Area. With a low crime rate, this hometown’s population continues to grow. Tybee residents enjoy an exceptional quality of life, with the abundance of natural surroundings, necessary services just steps away from your front door and nostalgia of days past.

A variety of stores and restaurants, and necessary service oriented businesses offer conveniences that allow residents to stay close to home for shopping, automotive needs, insurance, health needs, and more. Click [here](#)² for a complete list by categories under “*BUSINESS LISTINGS*”. In addition, the Development Authority / Main Street Business Assistance Committee offers the *Locals Appreciation Card* to those with 31328 on their driver’s license. Various merchants honor the card by offering discounts and / or specials to card holders.

Tybee is proud to be a thriving small town like the one you remember from your childhood. Your hometown is the place you can escape the hustle and become part of a friendly community.

A FEW LOCAL TIPS FOR YOU AS A(N)...

...ART CONNOISSEUR:

If you are an art lover, you will be fulfilled by the local art galleries, Tybee Arts Association classes & Performing Society plays, and world class shows at the Tybee Post Theater.

...BICYCLE ENTHUSIAST:

In 2011, Tybee became designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. There is an eight mile scenic bike path from the southend of the island to the northend. Please click [here](#)³ for the map and guidelines for safe biking.

...BIRD WATCHER:

Tybee is a premier bird destination. The Bird Sanctuary on the beach at the northern end of the island is an ideal location to spot Black Skimmers, Red-Throated Loons and the Painted Bunting – Tybee’s official bird. There is also a natural birding trail fondly named Sally Pearce Nature Trail located on the west side of 1st Street between Lewis and Lovell Avenue.

¹ <http://www.cityoftybee.org/DocumentCenter/View/127>

² <http://www.cityoftybee.org/323/Directory-of-Businesses-bricks-and-mortar>

³ <http://www.cityoftybee.org/263/Bicycling>

...DOG LOVER:

There are two dog parks on Tybee Island for your furry, four legged barker to run off leash. One is specifically for large dogs and the other is for smaller dogs. The dog parks are located on the northern portion of the island between the River's End Campground and the Tybee Island Police Department.

...HISTORY BUFF:

With a rich and notable past spanning over a hundred years, Tybee is unique because of its preserved historical fabric. There are four National Historic Districts on the Island and many individual homes that are listed on the National Register as well. The Tybee Light Station museum offers a fascinating glimpse into the past. The Tybee Light Station is located at 30 Meddin Drive.

In addition, Fort Pulaski is just north of the Island along Highway 80.

...RELAXER:

If you prefer to just relax and watch the world go by, home on Tybee is a perfect choice. As you stroll through Tybee Island's quaint historic downtown you will experience the area's character and feel the nostalgia of days past. When you visit the Tybee Island Light Station and Museum you will find why Tybee is a treasure in and of itself. The Walter W. Parker Pier and Pavilion is a key location for families, beachgoers and observers of the island's popular beach on the southend.

...FITNESS FANATIC:

Tybee Island YMCA is located at 204 5th Street (912-786-9622) and offers extensive programs designed for active adults, retirees, families, and children.

Tybee also has two beautifully maintained parks. Memorial Park, between Butler and Jones Avenue, has a basketball court, volleyball courts and tennis courts for those feeling a little competitive. Jaycee Park on Van Horn has a basketball court, a ball field and a full walking trail that outlines the park for those that want to keep the pace going. Both parks have full playground equipment for the young ones.

...VOLUNTEER THAT HAS A DESIRE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

Like to stay busy helping others and / or doing various projects? A fabulous way to become involved and meet people quickly is through one or more of Tybee's community oriented organizations. Click [here](#)⁴ for more information about the following civic / non-profit organizations on the island:

- American Legion Post
- Burton's 4-H Center of Tybee Island
- Forever Tybee
- Friends of Tybee Theater
- Tybee Island Garden Club
- Tybee Arts Association
- Tybee Beautification Association
- Tybee Fire Department Volunteer Firefighters
- Tybee Island Historical Society
- Tybee Island Marine Science Center
- Tybee Island Veterans Committee
- Tybee Island YMCA
- Tybee Lite Shrine Club
- Tybee Optimist Club
- YEEPIES (Youthful Energetic Enthusiastic People Involved in Everything!)
- Council-appointed volunteer opportunities are listed on page 7

Whatever your lifestyle commands, you'll find Tybee Island accommodates it. Welcome home!

⁴ <http://www.cityoftybee.org/256/Community-Partners>

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR YOU – THE LOCAL...

Tybee Island City Hall is located at 403 Butler Avenue. Hours of operation are Monday – Friday 8am – 5:00pm year-round. The main number is 912-786-4573.

The City of Tybee Island website (www.cityoftybee.org) is regularly updated with helpful information. Following are a few key items, most of which you will also find on the website...

KEEP TYBEE TIDY:

Everybody helps when they pitch in! There are trash and recycling containers throughout the island for proper disposal. All litter on the beach must be in a container at all times. The Island's Department of Public Works cleans up approximately 4 tons of litter from the beach areas each morning during the off-season. During the height of the summer season, the amount of trash removed can range from 6 to 15 tons daily. After special events, the total can rise to 35 tons the next day. While we are thankful that much of this material is left in the cross-over trash bins, environmental damage, harm to endangered wildlife, and the physical safety of residents and visitors are all directly impacted by litter carelessly left behind in the sand – such as cigarette butts, glass bottles, and plastic bags. Litter left on blankets or towels can still blow away. Glass containers are never allowed on the beach! Please keep litter properly contained.



RESIDENTIAL TRASH / RECYCLING INFORMATION:

Tybee City government, residents, and business people are cooperative partners in a mutual goal - to provide complete and efficient sanitation services to the community so that the Island's native beauty is preserved, the natural environment is protected, and the Island's ecological heritage is perpetuated for future generations, while providing for the needs of our citizens and of the visiting public who come to enjoy our Island beaches.

Tybee's barrier island environment prevents use of a landfill. However, there is a collection dumpster at Public Works. Recycling and trash pickup is provided for residents according to the established schedules with the city's contracted waste collection company.

Please review the information you receive when you sign up for trash collection. Additional information is available on the city's website under the [public works link](#).⁵

Please make sure to not use bungee cords or stretch materials that may break / snap when securing garbage lids and / or bundling yard waste. This is for the safety of the collection staff. Container lids are designed to be difficult for raccoons to open, which is helpful if your neighborhood has trouble with raccoons. If dogs are an issue in your neighborhood, splashing a bit of bleach on the sides and top to ward off the "sniffers" is helpful. Using string or rope, when necessary, to secure or bundle materials is recommended.

As of April of 2016, [Atlantic Waste Services](#)⁶ began servicing the island for residential recycling and trash collection. You can call Atlantic Waste directly or city staff with inquiries by calling one of the telephone numbers below:

- Atlantic Waste: 912.964.2000
- Utility Clerk @ City Hall: 912.472-5025
- Public Works: 912.472-5043
- City Marshal: 912.472-5098
- Tybee Island Police Department: 912.786.5600

⁵ <http://www.cityoftybee.org/184/Public-Works>

⁶ <http://www.atlantic-waste.com/services/municipal/tybee-island>

HURRICANE SEASON: HURRICANE SEASON IS JUNE 1 – NOVEMBER 30

Hurricane preparedness is key to survival and orderly management under emergency conditions. Your advanced preparation can help you and your neighbors through a hurricane. Before any storm arrives, be sure to check out [Tybee's Emergency Management Information](#)⁷, and keep contact information readily available for the CEMA Hurricane Information Line, (912)201-4590. Note that the City's web-site is hosted elsewhere in the country so that, even if a potential disaster strikes here, the web will remain available for communications, and the web site will provide information updates whenever they become available. Emergency and evacuation instructions will be given as needed here, on the toll-free number and on the local Comcast Cable access Channel 7.

The City has voice warning sirens that announce emergencies when they arise. Therefore, there will be no confusion as to what a siren signal actually means. Instead of one centrally located siren, there are four announcement systems distributed on the Island. This system is tested near noon on the first Wednesday each month. The test will be foregone if severe weather conditions occur at the time of the test. If you are warned to seek shelter in an emergency, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CURRENT SHELTER**, such as your home or room - the safe site locations are Battery Brumby, the Tybee Gym, and Hotel Tybee meeting rooms. These locations are safe sites intended for beach goers and visitors without any other place of refuge. In the event of an evacuation order, you would only then be expected to leave your home and depart the island.

Please remember to register for the City's Citizen Alert notifications. When you sign up, you will be notified of emergencies, as well as less urgent events if you so request. Click the icon on the right to go to the registration page.



LIGHTS OUT FOR TURTLES: TURTLE NESTING SEASON IS MAY 1 – OCT 31

Tybee is a nesting area for two endangered turtle species and one "unusual" species. Loggerhead and leatherback turtles are endangered and like to nest in the sand found along the beaches of Tybee and Little Tybee Islands. Diamondback terrapins are on the protected species list; their nesting areas are on the north end and cause them to try to cross Route 80. While Tybee formerly saw hundreds of sea turtle nests each year, an excellent year now may see no more than a dozen. Disturbing the nests or harassing any of these species is against the law. Their nests are marked when found to stop people from accidentally trampling eggs or hatchlings. Please keep clear!

Hatchlings will head to bright light when they dig out from the sand, which should be toward the sun or moon rising over the ocean. However, street, deck, and home lights may be bright enough to attract them in the wrong direction. During nesting season nights, please turn off or shield lights that might be seen from the beach, and avoid flashlights or flash photography on the beach. Your discarded plastic bags, soda can rings, and cigarette butts, as well as other trash not properly disposed of, can harm turtles and other wildlife - please clean up all your items and trash from the beach. Trash containers are located at every dune crossover for your use. Please drive carefully to avoid harming any turtles that may be crossing the road.

Every year turtle nests are counted and reported. Observers report hundreds of the hatchlings successfully reach the water's edge on our darkened beach each season. Thanks to residents and renters who do such a wonderful job at keeping unwanted beachfront lighting from distracting the turtles on the beach. Our Sea Turtle Project volunteers are also appreciated for patrolling the beaches at dawn looking for turtle crawls

⁷ <http://www.cityoftybee.org/207/Emergency-Management>

and for standing overnight watching nests that are ready to hatch. We all look forward to hatchlings returning every year.

You can find a map showing the location of current nests at seaturtle.org's [Sea Turtle Nest Monitoring System](#)⁸, and you can track some of the turtles found injured, nursed to health and released by Georgia's Sea Turtle Center on their [satellite tracking page](#)⁹. Visit the [Sea Turtle Project Facebook page](#)¹⁰ for most recent updates.

PARKING INFORMATION

The City of Tybee Island utilizes traditional parking meters and Pay-and-Display stations. The hourly rate is \$2.00 from 8:00AM to 8:00PM year-round, including weekends and holidays. Visitors may purchase up to 3 days with a credit card at the Pay-and-Display machines. In 2018, the City introduced a parking app that can be downloaded on mobile phones. A map of the island that shows main areas for public parking is available on the city's parking service webpage.

Decals are available at Tybee Island City Hall for \$150.00 (\$125.00 for those 62 or older) and are valid for one year from month of purchase. The decals must be placed on the driver's exterior windshield in order to be valid.

In accordance with the Code of Ordinances for the City of Tybee Island Sec. 66-181, annual courtesy parking decals will be issued upon the presentation of a current, valid state registration, indicating registration and address from the city and also indicating that the ad valorem tax has been paid to the city. Decals are issued for use on automobiles; other motor vehicles such as motorcycles, trucks, golf carts, recreational vehicles, and buses; trailers and other things with state tags and paid ad valorem taxes to the city. Persons whose automobiles, etc., are not registered to a city address may purchase a decal. Decals are only valid when adhered to the outside of the driver's side windshield or on the front forks of a motorcycle.

CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION

The City of Tybee Island operates under a city manager form of government. The mayor and six (6) city council members hold regular meetings the 2nd and 4th Thursday each month at 7:00pm at the Public Safety Building at 78 Van Horne Street following their 6:30pm consent agenda meeting. All meetings are open to the public and broadcast live on Cable Channel 7. They are also replayed throughout the weeks prior to the next meeting. The meeting announcements are posted at City Hall and on the City's calendar. Meeting agendas and packets are available from the City's website two to three days prior to the meetings. Individuals are welcome to address council at the meetings by completing and submitting an agenda request form to the clerk of council by noon the Thursday prior to council meeting dates.

Elections take place every two years. The mayor serves a four year term. City council members serve staggered terms for four years. Bio and contact information for the mayor and city council can be found on the City's website by clicking the [City Officials link](#)¹¹. To register to vote please contact Chatham County Voter Registration Office at 912-790-152 or <http://voter.chathamcounty.org/>.

A Classic Main Street Community

⁸ http://www.seaturtle.org/nestdb/index.shtml?view_beach=75

⁹ http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/?project_id=262

¹⁰ <http://www.facebook.com/CityofTybeeIsland?ref=sgm#!/pages/Tybee-Island-GA/Tybee-Sea-Turtle-Project/403507261578?ref=ts&a=17&ajaxpipe=1>

¹¹ <http://www.cityoftybee.org/246/City-Council>

CITY APPOINTED BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

City of Tybee officials appreciate assistance and guidance from Island residents. Following is list of Council appointed boards / committees / commissions that meet on a regular basis:

- Beach Task Force Committee
- Development Authority/Main Street Board of Directors
- Ethics Committee
- Finance Committee
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Infrastructure Committee
- Master Plan Implementation Committee
- Planning Commission
- Public Safety Committee

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CABLE:

- Comcast (1-866-922-0069)

CHURCHES:

- All Saints Episcopal Church – 804 Jones Avenue (786-5845)
- Chapel By the Sea Baptist Church – 811 Butler Avenue (786-4647)
- St. Michaels Catholic Church – 802 Lovell Avenue (786-4505)
- Trinity Church United Methodist Church – 911 Butler Avenue (786-4491)

EDUCATION:

- Tybee Island Maritime Academy – 714 Lovell Avenue (912- 395-4060)
- Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (912-395-5600)
 - Currently buses come to and from the Island to transport students to / from May Howard Elementary, Coastal Middle School and Islands High School.
- There are many private schools (Parochial / Magnet) on Wilmington Island and in Savannah
- There are seven (7) colleges/universities near Tybee Island

HOSPITALS:

- Candler Hospital (912-819-6000)
- Memorial Health University Medical Center (912-350-8000)
- St. Joseph's Hospital (912-819-4100)

LIBRARY:

- Tybee Library (a branch of the Live Oak Public Libraries) – 405 Butler Avenue (912-786-7733)
Hours (subject to change): Mon., Fri. 1:00pm – 6pm; Tues., Wed. 10am – 6pm,
Thurs. 2:00pm – 6:00pm; Sat. 10am – 2pm; Sun. closed

A Classic Main Street Community

PERMITTING:

- Community Development Department – 403 Butler Avenue (912-472-5031)
- More information about permitting and FEMA regulations can be found by clicking [here](#)¹².

POSTAL SERVICE:

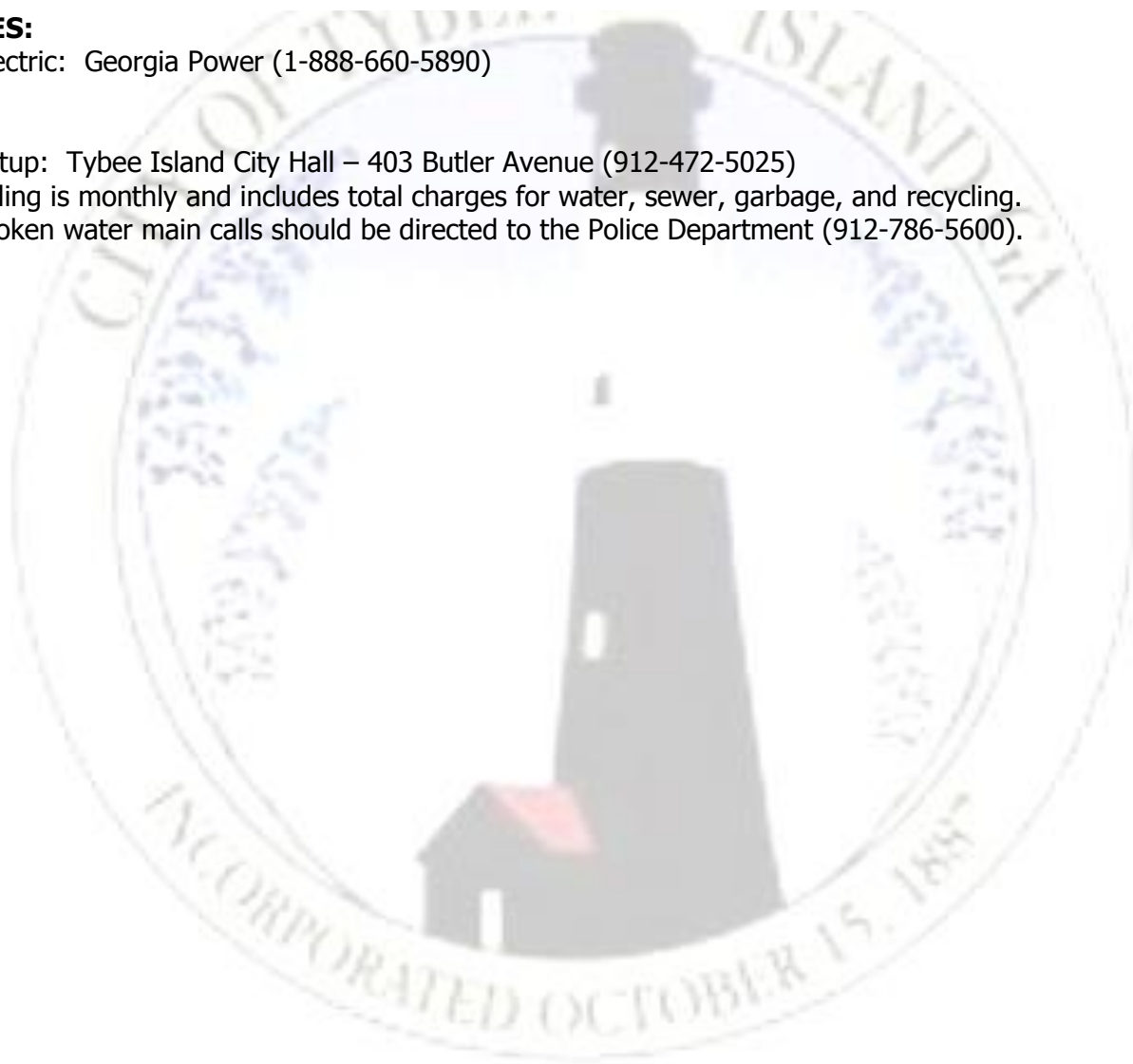
- Tybee Island Post Office – 102 S. Campbell Avenue (1-800-275-8777; 912-786-9632)
Hours (subject to change): Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 9am – 4pm; Wed., Sat. 10am – 1pm;
Sun. closed

UTILITIES:

- Electric: Georgia Power (1-888-660-5890)

WATER:

- Setup: Tybee Island City Hall – 403 Butler Avenue (912-472-5025)
- Billing is monthly and includes total charges for water, sewer, garbage, and recycling.
- Broken water main calls should be directed to the Police Department (912-786-5600).



A Classic Main Street Community

¹² <http://www.cityoftybee.org/158/Planning-Zoning>