

Friendly City Newsletter

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<https://www.facebook.com/TiftonGA>



Are you interested in serving on a City Board?

The City of Tifton is looking for individuals whom are interested in offering time to serve on its various boards. City boards offer citizens an extraordinary opportunity to participate in a city's governmental affairs. Their activities have helped to shape or influence public policy in many areas. Although many boards are advisory, their processes and value are significant to our community. Many of our boards have available positions which are waiting to be filled. Below is a list of our various boards, if you wish to serve on any of our boards please contact Rona Martin at 229-391-3970.

List of Boards: Tourism Board, Library Board, Chamber of Commerce, Animal Control, Airport Authority, Tifton Tree Board, Zoning Appeals, Tree Board, Tifton Housing Authority, Tift Theatre Board, DDA, Historical Preservation, GICH, Planning & Zoning Board, Keep Tift Beautiful

What's all this talk about signs?

Well it is spring, and with the arrival of spring comes a new political season. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all the citizens of Tifton that according to Section 7.19.00(I) of the current City of Tifton Land Development Code, no signage is allowed to be posted on the right of way and any signage located on the right of way can and will be removed and impounded without notice.

With all the talk about sign ordinance out of the way, I would like to share the guideline that our department follows relating to right of ways. With consideration that rights of ways throughout Tifton vary in distance, it has been our policy to allow any sign that is located behind what would be considered the service area of the right of way to remain in place. Translated, all signs should be placed behind a line created by utility poles along a road or behind the location of water meters. Remember that all ditches and sidewalks are always located in the right of way, so all signage should be behind sidewalks and ditches.

I want to thank all the citizens of Tifton for your assistance in this matter and for helping our department promote and maintain a safe and desirable living and working environment for all of us.

Bert Crowe, Director of Environmental Management



Upcoming City Meetings

- 3/31 – Joint City/County Meeting
5:00 pm
Welcome Station
- 4/1 – Historic Preservation Meeting
6:00 pm
Municipal Courtroom
- 4/3 – Planning & Zoning Board
6:00 pm
Municipal Courtroom
- 4/7 – City Council Meeting
5:00 pm
Municipal Courtroom
- 4/15 – DDA Board Meeting
12:00 pm
Welcome Station
- 4/17 – City Council Workshop
5:00 pm
Municipal Courtroom



TIFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

If you ever wanted to learn what police work really involves or how you can help fight crime in your neighborhood and learn more about Tifton Police Dept., we have the program for you.

CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY

This **Free** six week academy starts May 06, 2014. Classes will meet at the Tifton Police Department once a week on Tuesday's from 7:00pm to 9:00pm and two Saturday mornings. Topics covered will include Introduction to Criminal Justice, Crime Scene Processing, Internal Affairs Investigations, Patrol Procedures, Georgia Criminal Law, Drug Investigation and The Role of the Judge and Prosecutor in the criminal justice system.

The classes are designed to give participants a better understanding of the types of crimes in our community, the methods used by the Tifton Police Department to prevent crimes, the methods used by investigators to solve crimes, and a better understanding of the judicial system.

The previous classes have been so successful that an alumni association has been formed to partner and support the Tifton Police Department in its ongoing effort to educate, protect and serve the citizenry of this community.

Those interested in attending the Citizen's Police Academy should pick up an application at Tifton Police Department 527 Commerce Way, Tifton Ga. or call Major Raymond Drennon for more information at 229-382-3132. We appreciate your interest in supporting our partnership in the fight against crime.



Participants of the Citizen's Police Academy will undergo a modified Background Check similar to those given to employees of the Department. This course is offered free.

APRIL 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Tifton Truck & Tractor Pull



Friday & Saturday - April 25 & 26
7:00 PM
American Legion Fairgrounds

\$15 Adults
\$5 Children (10 & Under)





A Message From The Mayor

All Tifton City Employees; sometimes we don't thank you enough. Each of you are doing more with less in the economy we were dealt starting September of 2008. You all take your jobs very seriously and you do them very well. I was at a local restaurant recently when I was approached by several citizens who were very complimentary on various jobs and attitudes of City Employees.

You make the city what it is, your professionalism good work and good manners is what our citizens remember. If you read the Rant & Rave in our local newspaper you will find many positive comments; of course there is the same small number of ranters that always want to be negative and tear down please don't pay attention to those comments. Anyone can spew bad vibes when they hide behind those ridiculous rants and don't have to sign their names. Enough of that, the point is that as Mayor, I hear a lot of positives on all your good work.

You have stayed the course, when this economy relinquishes its stronghold on our cities finances, you will be rewarded. There have been no cost of living raises for you in four years; I despise that, you know groceries, gas and nearly everything has increased except your take home pay.

Thank you for your personal efforts to forge forward in spite of a raise and to share a larger work load doing more with less that has ever been done in the history if this community.

Thank you for handling the needs of our citizens with such great care and hard work; you have made it more than a job, your enthusiasm and vigor especially in these times have distinguished you a cut above normal employees. We commend you!

Sincere thanks,

Jamie Cater
Mayor of Tifton



A big thank you goes to everyone who came out and supported the Rhythm & Ribs Festival. We had a great turnout with an estimated 3,000 attendants. We hope you enjoyed the event and look forward to seeing you all again next year.

A New Opportunity for "FUN"

Thanks to Tift County High School's Construction and Metal Students, Fulwood Park received an awesome addition to its playground. A BIG THANK YOU goes to Roy Willis' Construction students and John Tucker's Metals students for working hard and assembling the new play equipment. The new equipment was constructed just in time for the Rhythm & Ribs Festival, and it was a huge hit that day for the children.



3rd Annual
...Run to the Market
5K ROAD RACE
Saturday, May 17th, 2014
Tifton, Georgia

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. on the corner of 3rd Street & Tift Avenue at the Atlantic Coastline Train Station.

Registration and Entry Fee:
5K Run – Pre-registration is \$20.00 if received on or before May 9th. Late registration and day-of registration will be \$25.00.

Awards:
5K – Overall Male & Female Winner, Top Male & Female Masters, Top 3 Males & Females in following age groups: 12 & Under, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, and 70 & Over

Information Contacts:
Lequrica Gaskins, 229.391.3966
Martha Black, 229.556.7439
Rick Register, 229.382.3266

FARMER'S MARKET
DOWNTOWN TIFTON

Car Cruise-In
Farmers Market
Children's Activities

Schedule of Run Events:
8:30 a.m. – 5K Run Starts
9:30 a.m. – Awards Ceremony

T-Shirts:
All 5K participants will receive a race T-Shirt. Sizes are not guaranteed after pre-registration.

Run To The Market Event

Spring is here and the Re-Opening of the Downtown Farmer's Market is coming soon! Booths at the market are FREE but you must get your application in to participate. The 3rd Annual Run to the Market will kick off the Opening of the 2014 Farmer's Market. Registration for the event has begun and we are looking forward to seeing you soon in downtown! For more info contact Lequrica Gaskins at 229-391-3966

I See New Trees In The City...

The City of Tifton Traffic Department along with assistance from the Tift Tree Board planted nearly **40 trees** in the Historic District recently. It is important that we replace trees throughout the city which have been removed because of damage or age. Trees are very important to our quality of life, ecosystem, and also helps beautify the area.





It's Spring, help us "Spruce up Tifton"

They say April showers bring May flowers...but it really means it's Spring and what a great time to think about Spring Cleaning!! Last fall, we held our first annual Hands on Tifton Day and cleaned up loads of garbage, tires, and junk from around town. County Commissioner Melissa Chevers has a monthly One Street at a Time Clean Up and is doing wonders in neighborhoods all around Tifton.

My challenge to us as citizens is to do *our* part to make sure our community is litter free and that we take pride in who we are and how our town looks. I've always said it costs nothing to be clean, but it makes a huge difference in community pride. Please look around your neighborhood, place of work, school, church, and areas in which you shop to see what you can do to make a difference. Rather than stepping over that curbside trash, pick it up and throw it away. Do what you can to clean up the street you live on by encouraging neighbors to get involved. Lending a helping hand to an elderly or disabled neighbor who may not be able to take care of their property not only makes a difference in their life, but your fellow neighbors just might get involved. Mowing, edging, trimming, planting flowers, and just getting your hands dirty by helping out is a rewarding way to spend a Saturday morning.

If you are in Fulwood Park, Downtown Tifton, at the Mall, or just taking a walk, look out for debris that you can discard. Our City workers do a great job in maintaining our community. They sweep the streets, maintain roads and rights of way, and pick up trash, too, but they need our help.

People feel comfortable and will flock to communities that are well maintained. Safe, clean, attractive, pedestrian friendly areas make a huge difference for all. I challenge us all to do our part.

When I was in grade school, there was a commercial that came on TV that had a cartoon owl saying "give a hoot, don't pollute". Being a child of the 70s, I guess that stuck because clean community is something that is very important to me. I hope to see you out and about enjoying our town, the beautiful spring weather, the dogwoods, the azaleas, and all this place we call home has to offer. Let's all do our part. And while you are out, be sure to thank those businesses, property owners, and residents who do keep a clean, attractive, neat storefront or home. It makes us all a better place to have them in our midst.

In closing, I want you to know what an honor it is to serve this town and the constituents of District 4. I take this job very seriously. Having grown up in Tifton, raised my family here, and operated a business here for many years, this is truly home. If you ever have any questions, concerns, or ideas, know that you can call me anytime at 229.339.1776 or email me at JulieSmith@Tifton.net. Transparent fair government is necessary to the success of our town. I stand ready to serve and willing to help. Have a great week and thank you for taking a few minutes to view our newsletter.

Julie Smith, District 4

Employee of the Month



February 2014
Jason Waite

Upcoming at the Tift Theatre: Steel Magnolias and Open Mic Night

Steel Magnolias, a Community Theatre Performance, features Tifton's local talent! Staring: Elizabeth Powell, Julie Smith, Lisa Purser, Dottie Freeman, Carlie Johnson, & Bonnie Young.

This is a performance you don't want to miss. Tickets go on sale April 18th, and the Tift Theatre box office is open Fridays from 3 pm to 6 pm. Performances start Friday May 2nd.

Open Mic Night – April 11 @ 7pm
Celebrate an evening of spoken word & slam poetry. This event is open to anyone who wants to perform. Just show up and speak your peace. Admission is \$5.00 for this event.



Steel Magnolias
Robert Harling



Tift Theatre for Performing Arts

Performance Dates

Friday May 2 @ 7 PM

Saturday May 3 @ 7 PM

Sunday May 4 @ 3 PM

Thursday May 8 @ 7 PM

Friday May 9 @ 7 PM

Saturday May 10 @ 7 PM

Admission \$10



Call 229-386-5150 for more info

Tickets go on sale April 18



Public Works Department Awarded \$5,000 GMA Safety & Liability Grant



The City of Tifton was awarded nearly \$5,000 in grant funds to purchase reflective jackets, rain gear, safety vests, boots, hard hats, traffic cones, road signs, and barricades