

Friendly City Newsletter

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



Fire Prevention Week (October 6th – October 12th)

Fire Prevention Week is fast approaching and this year the Tifton/Tift County Fire Department has partnered with the United States Fire Administration to bring you **Fire is Everyone's Fight™**. You will see the fire department out and about trying to reach as many people as possible in the community in the coming weeks. Station tours are already taking place with school children and there will be public service announcements in the media. Fire fighters battle the blaze when it happens... but really, fire is everyone's fight.



Trick or Treat in Downtown



Load up the kids and head to Downtown Tifton for some spooky & safe fun! Enjoy trick or treating with your favorite businesses on Thursday, October 31st from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Vendors will be distributing candy to all costumed children age 12 and under. Stop by Tifton Garden, located beside La Cabana Restaurant to pick up your maps. For more info please contact Lequrica Gaskins at 229-391-3966.

Veterans Day Parade

The City of Tifton and Tifton-Tift County Tourism Association is hosting the 1st Annual Veterans Day Parade on November 9, 2013. This parade is a celebration of our greatest thanks to those who have served our country and continue to serve to protect our country, safety, and freedom. All businesses, civic clubs, and schools are urged to participate. The parade will begin at 11:00 am on 3rd Street and follow Love Ave to 8th Street, come back up Central Ave, and end at Veteran's Memorial Park. A brief memorial service will follow at Veteran's Park. To register for the parade please contact the Tifton-Tift County Tourism Association at 229-382-8700.



Upcoming City Meetings

10/7 – City Council Meeting,
5:00 pm
Municipal Courtroom

10/15 – DDA Board Meeting,
12:00 pm
Welcome Station

10/17 – City Council Workshop,
5:00 pm
Municipal Courtroom

Tift Theatre Events

10/3 – Grandma’s Blessings,
8:00 pm
Locally Produced Movie

Community Events

10/1 thru 10/31 – Paint The Town
Pink Activities

10/18 – Community Health Fair
9:00 am – Noon
Leroy Rogers Senior Center

Fridays in Oct. - Concerts In The Park
12:00 Noon
Veteran’s Park

10/23 thru 10/31– Red Ribbon Week

11/9 – Veterans Day Parade
11:00 am
Downtown Tifton

11/16 – Hands On Tifton Day

OCTOBER 2013

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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	31		

The Tift Theatre has a “Fresh Look”



The City of Tifton needs your continued support of the Tift Theatre. This is your community theatre! You rallied together in 1987 to bring it back to life and we are asking you to once again rally around this crowned jewel. A face lift has been done and we are now working on entertainment for the coming winter and spring of 2014.

City staff is working tirelessly to bring quality shows and performances to the Tift, but we need your help. We would love to know what type of performances you want brought to Tifton. What would you be willing to pay for a quality performance? How about a great county singer, a live theatrical play, or maybe a show for the kids. Are you interested in volunteering at the Tift? If so, please call 229-391-9299 and we’ll put you to work! We want to know your ideas and truly appreciate your input. Check us out on Facebook.

In the meantime, please know that the only funds being used on the Tift come from tourism tax dollars as well as revenues generated from performances at the theatre.

Slideshow of the Myon Renovations

Are you interested in the progress of the Myon renovations? Well the city has a link on their website to watch snapshots of the renovation as it unfolds. Check out the slideshow now and check back often to see updates on the project. Slideshow can be viewed at:

<http://www.tifton.net/about-tifton/myon-hotel/>

Natural Gas Public Awareness Winners



Mr. Harris Rowe is the winner of the \$100.00 Cash Drawing for the Natural Gas Public Awareness Campaign. The City of Tifton mailed letters to all gas customers and asked them to mail back in a survey stating they had read the information. Each person whom responded was included in the drawing.

A big *Thank You* goes out to everyone who submitted a response. We appreciate your support of our Natural Gas Department. Jerry Huggins of Plant Telephone was also a winner from the excavators whom returned the surveys





A Message From The Mayor

Change is synonymous with the future, things have already started to be done differently, bought property lately, it is different and things are getting more different as change occurs. We, the above 50 crowd are learning to be flexible from where we have been over the past, but change is here! Our youth is the answer.

Nine months after I came on as Mayor in January 2008, the Economy went downhill nationwide, it has affected everyone, every public and private entity. For a moment let's review what has happened during my second term as Mayor; Publix, TJ Max, Olive Garden and many others coming to our town. We have been recognized by Associated Press as one of the fastest growing towns in the nation. And all this during the Economic tailspin we see around us. I want to say we are just as proud of all the businesses that have been here as well. I don't take that credit alone, we have all shared in it. We have a strong Chamber and Development Authority which I am a member; watching Brian Marlowe and Mike Garvey work to serve existing Industry and bring in new has been phenomenal. Big plans for employing many people are on the horizon! Our Agribusinesses are strong and will be even stronger. Look at our hospital which we all should be proud of, talk about positive growth, thank you Bill Richardson, John Prince and others. Look at our Technical College and ABAC, with four year programs now; David Bridges, President with his "hands on" are the reasons for the growth under his guidance. These things don't just happen, our community is blessed to have good folks in the right places.

So where will we be in 5 to 10 years, or 2018 to 2023; with growth and change comes some growing pains. I see younger leadership throughout all elected boards and in our community, our youth are bright, well educated in modern technology that will carry us into the next ten years, I love speaking at schools, have always said our youth are our future and our future looks good!

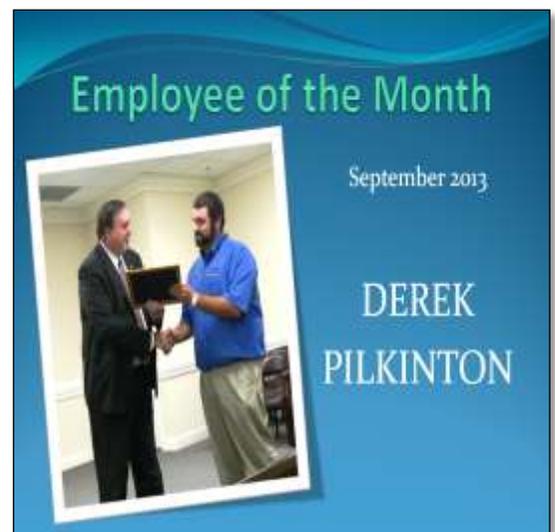
Our community will be the Industrial hub it once was and even stronger. The inland port in Cordele will be a success for this entire area of Georgia as the super ships start coming through the Panama Canal in late 2015 and the dredging of the Savannah River is complete to accept them at the Ga. Ports Authority in Savannah. Rail lines, short and long distance, will be instrumental and are already poised to move forward with making this venture a success for all of us close by. We are more Regional than we used to be, CHANGE, there was a time when Economic Development was city specific, but the Inland Port is testament that the region will be stronger.

Remember we are the hub of South Georgia with five highways, two that are major arteries, intersecting right here in Tifton. We will grow, possibly double by 2023 and we will be led by younger people with fresh ideas and different approaches as we continue to enter into a different world and a changing one at that.

The FUTURE looks good! God Bless our Nation, our State and our Community.

Incidentally; presently, the City continues to have painful financial challenges due to past Council misfortunes that we continue paying over \$500,000.00 a year principal and interest City Net debt reduction. These problems take time to cure, especially in the slow economic recovery our City is experiencing.

Jamie Cater, Mayor of Tifton





District 4 Update w/ Julie Smith

If you are a regular reader of the Tifton Gazette, then hopefully you've read about our **Hands On Tifton Day** scheduled for **Saturday, November 16th**. What started as an idea for a trash pick-up day and sprucing up our Downtown area has quickly grown above and beyond just a clean-up day. As the committee of volunteers and City staff members have worked to identify the needs of our community, we have identified neighborhoods, organizations, and citizens who could use a hand – maybe it's an elderly citizen on limited income who needs her front steps repaired; maybe it's a school-age child who needs the resources to do better in school; maybe it's feeding citizens less fortunate than we are. The list has grown – and what we are discovering is that in cleaning up our town, we are helping others. And in helping others, we restore community pride. When community pride is restored, we all reap the benefits. It shows in a freshly painted store front on Main Street. It shows when you see kids at Fulwood Park enjoying a Saturday afternoon knowing they are safe and carefree. It shows in clean streets and sidewalks. It shows in the faces of those who have worked to make a difference.

Making a difference isn't easy. The volunteers who are working to make this day a success have set aside their time, their talents, their creativity, and their energy to serve Tifton. The easy thing to do is sit back and point fingers at someone else. But then again, that's not really who Tifton is. Tifton is comprised of people who come from all walks of life. People who have wealth, people who do not. People who have never traveled much farther than the county limits, and people from across the globe. People who look different from me, people who worship differently than me, people who work in various careers or maybe haven't worked in months. But regardless of who we seem to be, we are all really the same. We care about Tifton. We care about our fellow citizens. We want to make a difference.

My hope for November 16th is that it is a beginning, not an ending. If you'd like to come out and lend a hand, we can use your help. If you need help, let us know and we'll do our best to provide assistance.

Community pride. Making a difference. Rolling up your sleeves, restoring faith in what is good, and making this town shine. That's our goal. Come join us. For more information, please contact either Julie Smith (229.339.1776, JulieSmith@Tifton.net) or Paula Lewis (229.886.3072, AssociatePastor@TiftonFUMC.org). Our next meeting is October 8th at 6:00 PM at the Downtown Welcome Center.



Red Ribbon Week (Oct. 23 – Oct. 31)

The City of Tifton, Tift County, Tift County Board of Education and Local Law Enforcement Agencies will rally together during the week of Oct. 23rd thru Oct. 31st to promote a drug free community. Drugs, Crime, and Violence impact our community as a whole and we are all working together for a safe and healthy community. The Tifton Police Department and Tift County Sheriff's Office will be out in the community talking with children about staying drug free. Be on the lookout for City and County Officials during this week encouraging children to say **NO to DRUGS**. We are also encouraging businesses and parents to place a Red Ribbon on your door or mailbox to promote this great cause. For more information contact Jessica Jones at 229-391-3937 or jjones@tifton.net

Winner of the Senior Center Quilt Raffle

Ms. Mary Chambers



A big **Thank You** to everyone who purchased tickets to support our seniors and the Leroy Rogers' Senior Center