

# Our Town

*A Newsletter of the Town of Hilton Head Island*  
 Brought to you by the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina  
[www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov](http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov) (843)341-4600

## Mayor's Note



*Mayor Peeples*

Here is an update on projects that will provide our residents and visitors with improved infrastructure and a replaced fire station.

This year, two more William Hilton Parkway resurfacing phases will be paved, from Shelter Cove Lane to the Sea Pines Circle, from Whooping Crane Way to Gumtree Road, and the short segment between the two bridges leading to the Island. The resurfacing work is funded by Beaufort County's 1% Sales Tax for Road Improvement Projects. Additionally, the Town has installed concrete curbing in the

medians and shoulders of William Hilton Parkway where rutting or drop-offs had become a problem.

The Town is making improvements to intersections along William Hilton Parkway at Beach City Road, Coggins Point Road, Burkes Beach Road and Jarvis Park Road. These projects will provide improved turn lanes, some of which will serve as acceleration or deceleration lanes, and will greatly enhance the safety and functionality of these intersections. See page 4 for more details.

The Town is nearly finished with construction of three new pathways on the south end of the Island. These pathways run along New Orleans, Lagoon, and Avocet Roads. They will provide pedestrians and bicyclists with safe access to and from these busy commercial areas. The pathways will also enhance the Island's existing transportation system and add to its connectivity. These new additions will add just over a mile to our existing 55 miles of public pathways. The projects will be completed by the end of May.

Construction is complete for the replacement of Fire Station 5. This facility, located just

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outside the main gate of Hilton Head Plantation, is a 12,172 square foot structure and will be used to house emergency responders for small storms and hurricanes.

Census tally for the Island has improved and as of mid-May, 69% of Hilton Head Island residents have participated in the census. I urge all who have not filled out your census report to do so.

Thanks to private donations and the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry and its Public Art Fund, a statute dedicated to Charles Fraser was unveiled at Compass Rose Park last month during the Verizon Heritage Golf Tournament. Family and friends gathered to honor Charles, a man I knew well and who was responsible for setting the tone of environmentally sensitive development for our Island. While Charles is well known for his approach to development, it should also be noted that in 1969 he brought a PGA tournament to our Island. The tournament generates millions of dollars for local organizations and our economy. Charles' legacy is rich and deserves our acclaim.

**WI-FI Hotspots have been established at Coligny Beach and Compass Rose Parks for public use.**

## Town Manager's Note



*Steve Riley*

Town Council recently waived various inspection fees for events put on by non-profits as a way of showing support for the benefit the community derives from these events. Every little bit helps, particularly in tough economic times, and the dollars saved by our non-profits can be used for better things than inspection fees.

On the recycling front, the Island could see the start of recycling by this fall. A Request for Proposals (RFP) has

been published and the results will show us how much a recycling program could cost. At this point, our recycling focus has been on residential households and we'll see how this works before we begin to address the commercial side. Stay tuned for the results of our RFP.

A Land's End groin project located in Sea Pines has been successfully completed. The rock groin is one of 26 on the Island. What's a groin? You've seen them before from the beach or water perspective. They are rock boulders that start from the beach and extend out into the water. The groin will protect the shore from erosion. The old groin at Land's End was built over 30 years ago from wood and concrete. See page 4 for photo.

The "Go Green" initiative continues in Town operations with electronic application submittals and development review. The Town is in the process of drafting a voluntary policy that will allow applicants to submit their application along with the required plans and documents from the comfort of their home or office by simply logging on to the Town's website, completing an online

application, and attaching required plans and files. The goal is to provide flexibility. Eliminating trips to Town Hall and reducing printing costs are some of the benefits.

As I write this column, we are about to present Council with a balanced budget for their consideration. We continue to see revenues fall but the erosion seems to be slowing. Accordingly, we continue to reduce our Operating budget, however, improvements to drainage, roads, pathways, and intersections will continue.

There will no longer be an office at Town Hall to handle walk-in absentee voters due to the fact that physical limitations do not accommodate the sheer number of voters expected for future elections. Please contact the Beaufort County Voter Registration Office at 255-6901 or the Hilton Head Island Voter Registration Office at 341-4604 and 341-4625 for absentee ballot information. See Page 4 for more information.

**Background Image is the new Charles Fraser statute at Compass Rose Park**

# Prepare for Hurricane Season

The six month Atlantic Hurricane Season officially begins June 1st, and we should all be prepared to take actions to lessen a storm's impact. The Town has worked with county and state officials to develop comprehensive plans to respond effectively and to ease the evacuation and re-entry processes. In addition, we have also developed strategies to expedite and ease our recovery efforts by establishing an emergency reserve account to fund these activities and by amending our Land Management Ordinance to facilitate a rapid reestablishment of our community following a hurricane or other disaster. In the event of a potential or actual storm strike, you play a key role in a successful pre- and post-disaster scenario. Your Town wants you to be prepared for whatever comes our way this year.

## Familiarize yourself with the terms that are used to identify a hurricane

- A **hurricane watch** or **tropical storm watch** means a hurricane or a tropical storm threat to the area is possible within the next 48 hours. Be prepared to evacuate, as even a tropical storm can gain strength quickly and many homes, including mobile homes, reside in high risk areas. Monitor local radio and television news outlets or listen to NOAA Weather Radio for the latest developments.
- A **hurricane warning** or **tropical storm warning** is issued when a hurricane or tropical storm is expected in the area within the next 36 hours. If local authorities advise you to evacuate, leave immediately.
- Hurricanes are classified according to the **Saffir-Simpson Wind Scale** into five categories based on their wind speed, central pressure, and damage potential. Category three or higher hurricanes are considered major hurricanes, though categories one and two tropical storms are still extremely dangerous and warrant your full attention.
- **Storm Surge** is an abnormal rise in sea level accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm. Storm Surge forecasts are included in hurricane and tropical storm advisories and statements issued by the National Weather Service, but arbitrary levels are no longer assigned to each category. Storm Surge is instead now calculated for each storm, taking into account variables such as tide, storm size and rain amounts, and should be much more accurate and reliable.

Category	Sustained Wind Speeds(mph)	Pressure (MB)	Typical Damage
Tropical Depression	< 39	--	
Tropical Storm	39 - 73	--	
Category One Hurricane	74 - 95	> 980	Minimal - Damage is done primarily to shrubbery and trees, unanchored manufactured homes are damaged, some signs are damaged, no real damage is done to structures on permanent foundations.
Category Two Hurricane	96 - 110	965 - 980	Moderate - Some trees are toppled, some roof coverings are damaged, major damage is done to manufactured homes.
Category Three Hurricane	111 - 130	945 - 965	Extensive Damage - Large trees are toppled, some structural damage is done to roofs, manufactured homes are destroyed, structural damage is done to small homes and utility buildings.
Category Four Hurricane	131 -155	920 - 945	Extreme Damage - Extensive damage is done to roofs, windows, doors; roof systems on small buildings completely fail, some curtain walls fail.
Category Five Hurricane	More than 155	< 920	Catastrophic Damage - Roof damage is considerable and widespread, window and door damage is severe, there are extensive glass failures, some buildings fail completely

A tropical storm has all the characteristics of a hurricane, including storm surge, with winds of 39 to 73 mph.

Hurricanes frequently produce widespread torrential rains with floods. Deadly and destructive flooding and flash flooding can result from these rains. Slow moving storms tend to produce especially heavy rain. Flooding in creeks, drainage channels, rivers and streams may persist for several days or more after the storm.

## Prepare Your Home

- Cover all of your home's windows with pre-cut ply wood or hurricane shutters to protect your windows from high winds.
- Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down.
- Keep all trees and shrubs well-trimmed so they are more wind resistant.
- Turn off utilities and propane tank.
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.
- Document, photograph or videotape possessions for insurance purposes.
- Close interior doors.

## Prepare Your Business

- Carefully assess how your company functions, both internally and externally, to determine which staff, materials, procedures and equipment are absolutely necessary to keep the business operating.
- Identify operations critical to survival and recovery.
- Plan what you will do if your building or store is not accessible.
- Consider if you can run the business from a different location or from your home.
- Develop relationships with other companies to use their facilities in case a disaster makes your location unusable.
- Document, photograph or videotape possessions for insurance purposes.

## Listen to Local Officials

Learn about the emergency plans that have been established. Listen to the instructions given by local emergency management officials.

Know your local radio stations and other media outlets.



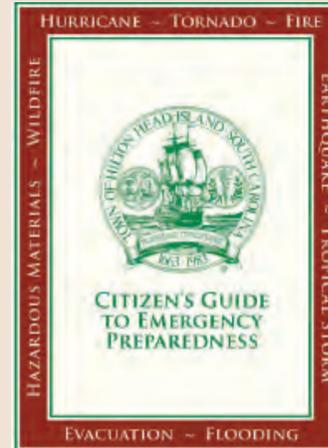
**Sign-up for the Town's free e-subscription service which enables residents to subscribe to emergency alerts via email or text.**

This e-subscription service will be used in conjunction with our existing website and Citizen Hotline (1-800-963-5023) to provide emergency information. The Town of Hilton Head Island will only utilize the "Emergency Alerts" Topic of our e-subscription service during an emergency or disaster, particularly in an evacuation or during the recovery from an event which has caused significant damage.

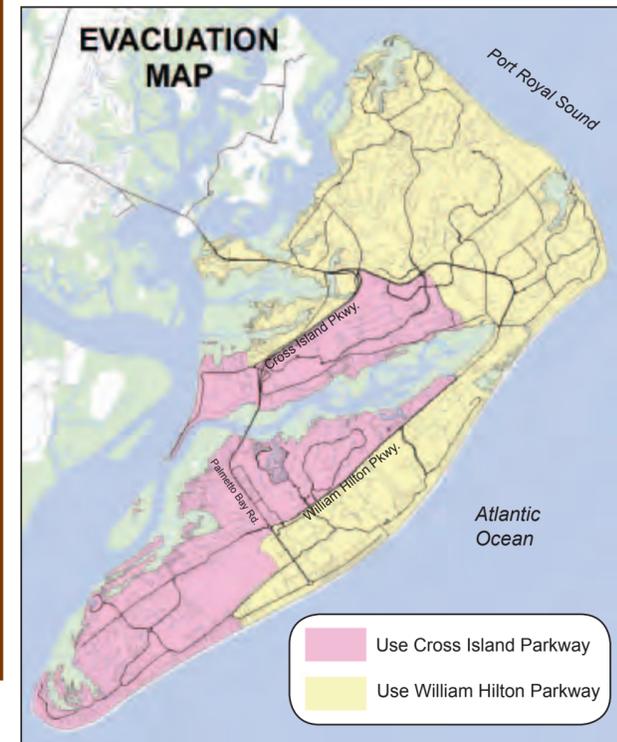
The Town encourages residents to sign-up for the e-subscription service and link it to their cell phone so that the messages will be received in a timely manner (standard text messaging rates will apply).

Visit our Website to sign-up today!  
[www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov](http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov)

**Prepare for Hurricane Season...** by bringing your building plans, 'as-built' surveys, or site plans (commercial or residential) to the Town of Hilton Head Island Community Development Department to be stamped for Emergency Permitting. In the event of a declared disaster, the Town would like to encourage all property owners to rebuild as quickly as possible. If you would like to build back your building as it is today, you can expedite the planning approval by having your plans stamped free of charge. We hope you don't need them, but better to be prepared!



For more emergency preparedness information, pick-up a printed Citizen's Guide to Emergency Preparedness in the Main Lobby of Town Hall, at Fire and Rescue Headquarters, or any Fire Station. The Guide is also available on the Town's website at [www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov](http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov)



## Evacuation

The Governor of South Carolina may encourage a voluntary evacuation or require a mandatory evacuation. You are encouraged to evacuate when instructed. Evacuations of specific areas occur because authorities determine that there is an immediate threat to your life and safety. PREPARE NOW. Know where you will go if evacuated. Anticipate that roads on and off the Island will be congested and difficult to maneuver. Leave early if possible.

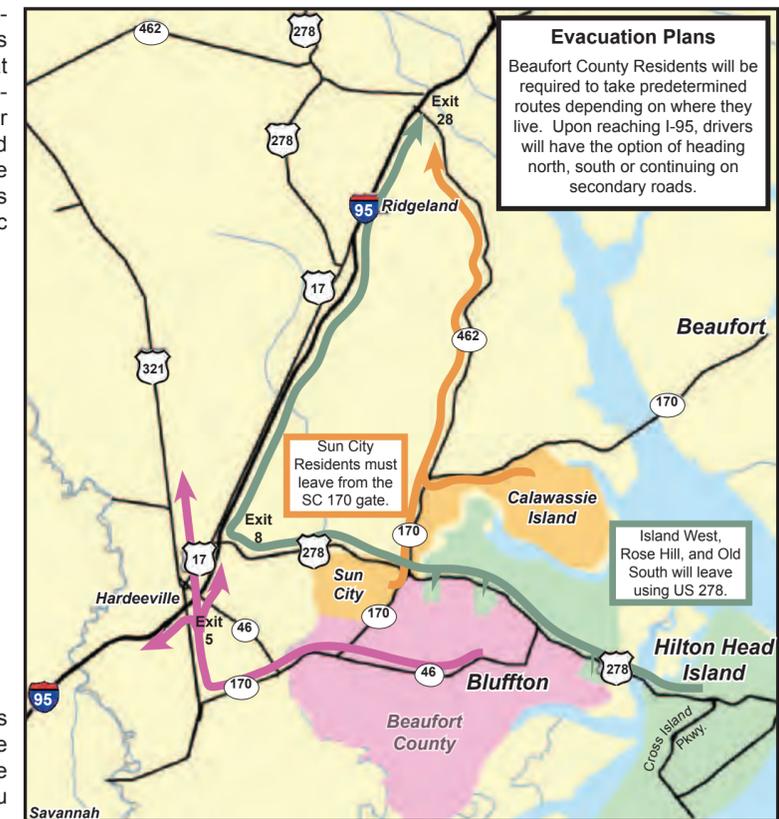
If you don't have reliable transportation of your own, you need to determine in advance what other options are available

from your family, neighbors or local government. Please contact Hilton Head Island's Emergency Management Office in advance at (843) 341-4600 if you do not have transportation off the Island so we can assist you. For major evacuations a shuttle will be provided from various locations on the Island to the Hilton Head Island Airport where residents and visitors will be transported to a public shelter.

The following are pick-up points to be transported to the Hilton Head Island Airport:

- 151 Gumtree Road (in front of the Boys and Girls Club)
- 173 Marshland Road (in front of the Elks Club)
- 430 William Hilton Parkway (in front of Pineland Station)
- 450 Spanish Wells Road (in front of Grace Community Church)
- 24 Pope Avenue (in front of Holy Family Catholic Church)
- 663 William Hilton Parkway (in front of Hilton Head Resort)

If you have a medical condition that requires special attention or care, please contact the Hilton Head Emergency Management Office at (843) 341-4600 in order to provide you assistance, preferably before an event.



## After-the-Storm Contact Information

While out of town, you can obtain updated information regarding Hilton Head Island by calling this toll-free number: **1-800-963-5023**. Recorded messages will advise of road conditions, damage estimates, utility restoration, shelter information, re-entry times, and other pertinent information. You may also access this information on the following websites:

[www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov](http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov) and [www.bcgov.net](http://www.bcgov.net)

# Around Town

## Hazmat Round-up

The annual Household Hazardous Materials Roundup event was held on April 3, giving Town residents an opportunity to drop off unused paint, pesticides, and other household chemicals that might otherwise be poured into the water system, or put in the trash and ultimately end up in our local landfills. This event also included the collection of "E" waste items such as old computers, television, and other electronics.

This year's event drew a record number of participants: 1,575 cars dropped off an estimated 73,000 lbs. of hazardous materials and 12,000 lbs. of electronic waste. Included in these total are over 2,000 lbs. of batteries of all sizes, 700 lbs. of florescent bulbs, an estimated 30,000 lbs. of household paint and 2,000 lbs. of pesticides. Other items collected include, gasoline, compressed gasses, motor oil, caustic cleaners, fertilizer, weed killer and mercury thermometers. "E" waste included 60 televisions and an estimated 750 computers.

Since the inception of this event, we have collected almost 500,000 lbs. of hazardous materials. An interesting fact is that over 90% of the materials collected are recycled and used again or reclaimed in some manner, such as blending with fuels to be used in manufacturing operations.



## Lands End Groin Rehabilitation Project Completed

The Lands End Groin Rehabilitation Project consisted of the rehabilitation of the existing Lands End groin at the Braddock Cove Creek entrance to Calibogue Sound. The previously existing concrete and timber groin was constructed between 1975 and 1979. In the roughly 30 years since the groin was



*Photo By Jay Karr, reprinted with permission of The Island Packet*

constructed, the structure had deteriorated to the point that it no longer functioned as originally intended.

Specifically, the project involved the placement of approximately 2,500 tons of 1 to 2 foot diameter granite boulders along the length of the 300 foot structure. The purpose of the project was to maximize the stability of the Town managed beach, located just to the south of the project. The project was funded by the locally assessed Beach Preservation Fee, a 2% accommodations tax. The project cost approximately \$500,000.

## Intersection Improvements

The Town is constructing intersection improvements at four locations along William Hilton Parkway on the northern part of the Island.

1. A simple right-turn lane to serve off-Island William Hilton Parkway motorists is being constructed at Burkes Beach Road.
2. The third on-Island lane that previously merged into the two through William Hilton Parkway lanes between Gum Tree Road and Wilborn Road is being extended downstream to Jarvis Park Road, where it will terminate as a right-turn lane.
3. A continuous third auxiliary lane is being constructed adjacent to the off-Island William Hilton Parkway lanes between Coggins Point Road and Union Cemetery Road. This will be a weaving lane that will continue to serve right-turn movements onto Union Cemetery Road and also permit motorists bearing right off of Coggins Point Road onto William Hilton Parkway to do so without stopping.
4. A more comprehensive intersection improvement is being constructed at the William Hilton Parkway/Beach City Road/Gardner Drive intersection that will create two on-Island left-turn lanes serving Beach City Road. This improvement will also include a channelizing island and acceleration lane to serve right turns off of Beach City Road in a manner that will allow these motorists to proceed onto off-Island William Hilton Parkway without stopping. The acceleration lane will continue in the off-Island direction to meet the previously existing right-turn lane serving Automobile Place, creating a continuous weaving lane between this intersection and Beach City Road. A new traffic signal designed to accommodate the new geometric improvements and supported on decorative cantilever mast-arm supports is also being constructed at the Beach City Road/Gardner Drive intersection, and the new signal is expected to be turned on prior to Memorial Day weekend.

All of the projects are expected to be substantially completed and opened to traffic by mid-May and fully completed by mid-June. The projects are being funded with a variety of revenue sources, including hospitality taxes, tax-increment district funding and traffic impact fees. The total cost of construction for the four intersection improvements and new traffic signal is approximately \$530,000.

## Absentee Voting

"But I always vote absentee at Town Hall! If that office is no longer available for voting, how do I vote absentee?"

Don't despair if you're one of the thousands of voters who have voted absentee at Town Hall in previous elections. If you meet the criteria for absentee voting, there are several ways you can vote absentee for the upcoming June 8 statewide primary and the November 2 general election.

- If you are 65 or older, or if you are unable to go to your voting precinct on election day because of employment, vacation plans or disability, you may be eligible to vote absentee. If you are unsure of your eligibility to vote absentee, please call the Beaufort County Voter Registration office.
- If you prefer to vote absentee in person prior to the election, the Voter Registration office in Beaufort will have voting machines available at least two weeks prior to the election. The office is located at 15 John Galt Road in Beaufort.
- You can also vote absentee by mail. Call the Voter Registration office and request an Application for Absentee Ballot, which will be mailed to you. Once the completed Application is returned by mail, email or fax to the Voter Registration office, a paper ballot will be mailed prior to the election to the address indicated on the Application. The ballot must be returned to the Voter Registration office by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

The Beaufort County Voter Registration Office  
Physical address: 15 John Galt Road, Beaufort SC 29906  
Mailing address: Post Office Drawer 1228, Beaufort SC 29901  
Telephone: (843) 255-6901

Hilton Head Island Voter Registration Office  
Town of Hilton Head Island Town Hall  
One Town Center Court, Hilton Head Island SC 29928  
Telephone: 341-4604 and 341-4625