

# 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

Fall 2013



For space sake, we are suspending our normal layout, and promoting our 30th year of incorporation, and 350th year anniversary of the sighting of Hilton Head Island.

- Mayor Drew Laughlin

## 30 Year History of the Town of Hilton Head Island

- 1983** - The Town of Hilton Head Island incorporated as a municipality.
- 1985** - Hilton Head Island's Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the Town Council and Council adopted new Comprehensive Plans (1991, 1999, 2004, 2010, 2012).
- 1985** - The population was over 17,000 full-time residents.
- 1987** - The Town Council adopted the Land Management Ordinance (LMO), including the first sign ordinance and first tree protection ordinance.
- 1988** - Purchased 5 acres for Coligny Beach Park (1989) and parking lot.
- 1989** - Concept of a Cross Island Parkway is approved.
- 1989** - Adopted Road Impact Fee Program, first in the state.
- 1989** - Purchased 1 acre for the Folly Field Beach Park (1991).
- 1989** - Town received its first Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Award and has received the award every year since.
- 1989** - 1st Pathway project (William Hilton Parkway-Sea Pines Circle to Palmetto Dunes).
- 1990** - 1st Beach Renourishment project (Atlantic Shorefront Fill Project).
- 1990** - Real Estate Transfer Fee is adopted and takes effect January 1, 1991.
- 1991** - The Growth Management Task Force is created.
- 1992** - The Municipal Court is created.
- 1992** - Purchased 16 acres for the Islanders Beach Park (1998).
- 1992** - Purchased 14 acres and in 1993, purchased 1 acres for the Driessen Family Beach Park (1995).
- 1992** - The existing Town Hall opened on 13 acres along William Hilton Parkway.
- 1992** - Purchased 85 acres, the first acquisition under the Town's new Land Banking Program, for the first recreational facility, the Crossings Park (1996), and Bristol Sports Arena (1997).
- 1992** - Purchased 65 acres of the North Ridge Tract for the Beaufort County Library (1998) and Volunteers in Medicine location (1993) and placed a conservation easement on a portion of property to protect from further development.
- 1993** - The Beach Preservation Fee is adopted and is the first dedicated local funding source for beach renourishment in the state.
- 1993** - State Supreme Court upholds constitutionality of Real Estate Transfer Fee and concept of home rule.
- 1993** - The Sea Pines/ Forest Beach Public Service District, the Hilton Head Island Fire District and the non-profit Hilton Head Rescue Squad merge to form the Town of Hilton Head Island Fire & Rescue Department.
- 1993** - 1st major road improvement project (New Orleans Road Rehabilitation).
- 1994** - Traffic Light Synchronization began.
- 1994** - Pembroke Drive (partnership with Indigo Run) completed.
- 1995** - Adopted Island-wide stormwater management plan with over \$20 million in identified projects.
- 1995** - Voters approve change from 2 year terms for Mayor and Council to staggered 4 year terms.
- 1995** - The permanent year-round population exceeded 28,000 people. The Island had over 1.5 million visitors.
- 1995** - Purchased 67 acres for Chaplin Community Park (2001).
- 1996** - Purchased 53 acres for Jarvis Creek Community Park (2003).
- 1996** - Beach City Road Realignment.
- 1996** - The Master Land Use Plan for Ward One was started by the Town.
- 1997** - Atlantic Shorefront Fill Project (including Port Royal).
- 1997** - Paving of Leg O' Mutton Road and Jonesville Road.
- 1997** - Town annexed a portion of Jenkins Island.
- 1997** - Cross Island Parkway opened in January. The total cost was \$81 million for construction, land acquisition, and planning.
- 1998** - Repealed the LMO and replaced with a new streamlined LMO.
- 1998** - Purchased 17 acres for the Fish Haul Creek Park (2005).
- 1998** - Dual Route Phase I and Dual Route Phase II road projects (1999).
- 1999** - Tax Increment Financing Districts are created.
- 1999** - South Beach Fill Renourishment Project.
- 1999** - Purchased 26 acres for the Shelter Cove Community Park (2001).
- 2000** - Census population is 33,862.
- 2000** - Jarvis Creek Pump Station and South Forest Beach Phase I and Phase 2 (2001) Drainage Projects.
- 2000** - Opened new Fire Station #3 at 534 William Hilton Parkway.
- 2001** - Purchased 3 acres for the Green Shell Park (2004).
- 2001** - Purchased 3 acres for Compass Rose Park (2008).
- 2001** - Purchased 18 acres for the Mitchelville Beach Park (2007).
- 2001** - Purchased 13 acres for the Barker Field Expansion Recreational area (2006).
- 2001** - The International Building Codes (IBC) and amendments are adopted, and the Town converts from Southern Building Code to IBC.
- 2002** - The Coastal Discovery Museum relocated to Honey Horn after multi-million dollar public-private renovation/restoration effort.
- 2002** - The Town's Fire & Rescue received its 1st International Accreditation from the Commission on Fire Service Accreditation International and was the second in the state and the 53rd agency worldwide to be accredited.
- 2003** - Opened new Fire Station #7 at 1001 Marshland Road.
- 2004** - Powerline burial project began.
- 2004** - Even-year elections for the Mayor and Town Council are adopted.
- 2004** - North Forest Beach Wexford Pump Station and North Forest Beach Phase II Drainage Project completed.
- 2005** - The U.S. Census Bureau Population estimate is 34,855.
- 2005** - Opened new Fire Station #4 at 400 Squire Pope Road.
- 2006** - The Disaster Recovery Commission is created and completed its work in 2012.
- 2006** - Atlantic Shorefront Fill Project.
- 2007** - The Town's Fire & Rescue received its 2nd International Accreditation from the Commission on Fire Service Accreditation International.
- 2007** - Office Park Road Realignment.
- 2007** - Pope Avenue pathway and boardwalks built.
- 2008** - Mathews Drive Corridor Improvements (roadway, pathway, drainage).
- 2009** - Coligny Beach Park Renovation is completed.
- 2009** - Opened the new Fire & Rescue Training Center at Dillon Road.
- 2009** - Opened the new Facilities Management Building at Gateway Circle.
- 2010** - Census population is 37,099.
- 2010** - The Town supported the Heritage Golf Tournament in year 2011 with a \$1 million commitment.
- 2011** - Stormwater Utility is created countywide with significant Town leadership in the creation.
- 2011** - The Town committed funds for advertising to secure the RBC Heritage from 2012 to 2016.
- 2011** - LMO Rewrite Committee formed.
- 2011** - Opened new Fire Station #5 at 20 Whooping Crane Way.
- 2011** - Port Royal Sound Shoreline Rehabilitation completed.
- 2012** - Major changes to streamline the LMO permitting process.
- 2012** - Town/Shelter Cove Town Center, LLC Developer Agreement for the redevelopment of the Mall at Shelter Cove is approved.
- 2012** - Town purchased a 23,500 square foot building on Shelter Cove Lane for the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office Island location.
- 2012** - The Town's Fire & Rescue received its 3rd International Accreditation from the Commission on Fire Service Accreditation International.
- 2012** - The Town's Fire & Rescue received the Heart Safe Community Award from the International Fire Chief's Association.
- 2013** - The Economic Development Corporation is created.
- 2013** - The former SHARE Center, now renamed the Hilton Head Island Senior Center, opens in expanded space at Shelter Cove Lane.
- 2013** - Opened new Fire Station #1 at 70 Cordillo Parkway.
- 2013** - Construction on new Fire Station #6 at the entrance to Palmetto Dune began.
- 2013** - Town celebrates its 30th Anniversary of Incorporation.

# 350/30 Celebration Schedule of Events

Please visit the 350/30 Celebration website at [www.celebrationhhi.org](http://www.celebrationhhi.org) for more information and events.

## Town of Hilton Head Island Open House

Monday, September 30, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Event Location: Town of Hilton Head Island Town Hall  
One Town Center Court  
Contact: 843-341-4640



### Tentative Schedule

- 1:00 pm: Meet and Greet Your Town Council Member
- 1:30 pm: Gather in Main Parking Lot for Banner Presentation to Mayor Laughlin by the Kickin Asphalt Bicycle Club and the Town's Bicycling Advisory Committee
- 1:45 pm: Return to Council Chambers for Formal Presentation and Remarks by Mayor Drew Laughlin, Michael Jordan, Esq., and Steve Riley, Town Manager.

350/30 Essay and Artwork Contest Winners Presentation

Time Capsule Presentation

Tours/Exhibits Following Ceremony:

- ☆ Palmetto Quilt Guild "Flora, Fauna, Friends and Fun" Exhibit
- ☆ Hilton Head Island Entry Beautification Project Presentation
- ☆ GIS Pathway Story Book Map Interactive Exhibit
- ☆ Community Development Departmental Exhibit: Greener, More Sustainable Community
- ☆ Fire And Rescue Exhibit: Hazardous Materials Truck, Fire Engine, and Ambulance
- ☆ Xeriscape Garden Tour
- ☆ Town Hall Tour

Enjoy Anniversary Cake

All Invited to Sign Giant Anniversary Card



## Island History Day Tours – Bus Tours & Self-Guided

Tuesday, October 1: 9:30 am, Noon and 2:30 pm

The 350/30 planning committee is offering free bus and self-guided tours to all Island residents and visitors! Three different tours will be offered Tuesday, October 1st at three different times, 9:30 am, Noon and 2:30 pm, departing from three separate locations. Each tour will last approximately 75-90 minutes. Self-guided maps will be available to pick up at each tour location, or you can pick up beforehand at Coastal Discovery Museum or Heritage Library Foundation.

We are encouraging the public to use the over 60 miles of pathway that the town has built to connect our community via biking to all sights.

Choose from each tour, leaving each location at 9:30 am, Noon and 2:30 pm  
Reservations for Bus Tours Required.

1. North End Tour – Coastal Discovery Museum (parking at Honey Horn)  
Join this guided bus tour for several of the north end's historic sites. Enjoy a narrated trip through several historic neighborhoods and stop at three historic locations for a closer view. Visit Historic Fort Mitchel, the Gullah Museum and the area of Mitchelville and Fort Howell. Learn about some lesser known historic areas on this guided tour.
2. Mid-Island Tour – Port Royal Golf Course (parking at Port Royal Golf Club parking lot)  
This guided bus tour will take you through historic Port Royal Plantation to see the site of Fort Walker, Fort Sherman, Hilton's 'Headlands', and the Steam Cannon. Guides will share the stories of these various historic sites. Known as the site of the Union's Department of the South Headquarters, this area of the Island has many interesting stories to be told.
3. South End Tour – Coligny Beach (parking at the Coligny Beach Parking Lot)  
Join a guided tour of the South end of Hilton Head Island. Visit historic sites dating back to the plantation era and the birth of modern-day Hilton Head Island. You'll learn about a plantation era ruin, a Gullah cemetery and about the history of Charles Fraser and his development of Sea Pines. There is a fair amount of walking planned for this tour. Please plan accordingly.

Event Locations: Honey Horn – 70 Honey Horn Drive  
Port Royal Golf Course – 10 Clubhouse Drive  
Coligny Beach – Coligny Beach Parking Lot off Pope Avenue

Contact: Reservations for Bus Tours Required  
843-689-6767

Email: [info@coastaldiscovery.org](mailto:info@coastaldiscovery.org)

## Island History Day Keynote Speakers - Following Tours

Tuesday, October 1 at 5:00 pm

A brief history of Hilton Head Island presented by Dr. Larry Rowland, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus at the University of South Carolina and an author of *The History of Beaufort County, SC Volume 1 (1514 - 1861)*.

Event Location: First Presbyterian Church  
540 William Hilton Parkway

Contact: Pamela Martin Ovens, 843-785-2767



## 350/30 Grand Finale Celebration

October 5th, Noon - 6:00 pm

Live Music, Food, Contests, Community Participation, 30 Year Heritage Resident Photos, Sandcastle Contest, Firing of Heritage Cannon, Sail-by-Sighting by William Hilton, Family Games & More. Monty Jett, Emcee.

Event Location: Coligny Beach

### Tentative Schedule

Noon -2:00 pm: Music by the Headliners, Shag Club demonstration and Hilton Head Hospital Staff Shag Dancers. Restaurants will be serving food, drinks for sale too.

10:00 am -12:30 pm: 350/30 Sandcastle Competition

2:00 pm: **Official Ceremony**

- ✦ Shore Notes sing Patriotic Medley and National Anthem
- ✦ William Hilton Descendant fires Sea Pines Heritage Cannon
- ✦ Welcome Linda Piekut & Leslie Richardson
- ✦ 350/30 Proclamation Read by Dr. Larry Rowland
- ✦ Mayor Drew Laughlin remarks on History of Town
- ✦ Captain William Hilton Sights Hilton Head Island - Sail by with SCYC Harbour 20 Fleet
- ✦ Mayor Laughlin - Recognition of First Mayor Ben Racusin and First Town Council
- ✦ Mayor recognizes four VIP Sponsors: Palmetto Electric, Hilton Head Hospital, Sea Pines Resort and CSA, Coligny Plaza
- ✦ 30 Year Resident Heritage Photograph - everyone on the Beach
- ✦ Mayor Laughlin presents Heritage Award for longest living resident
- ✦ Commissioner Hall - brief remarks about Gullah Geechee Corridor (tentative)
- ✦ Mayor Laughlin thanks the Community for joining in the first Town-Wide Celebration
- ✦ Singing performance by Marlena Small (tentative)

3:00 pm – 6:00 pm: Cranford Hollow (formerly Cranford and Sons)

4:00 pm: Captain William Hilton Look-a-like Contest  
Announcement of Sandcastle Contest Winners



# What's Great About Hilton Head Island

## Things to Do

- ✓ 13 miles of a family-oriented pristine beach
- ✓ Over 100 miles of bike and walking pathways
- ✓ Boating, fishing, crabbing, kayaking, ziplining, ecotourism, historic sites, paddleboarding
- ✓ Internationally recognized golf courses and tennis facilities
- ✓ World class restaurants, hotels, and residential vacation rentals
- ✓ Outdoor entertainment

## Local Events

- 37 Outdoor Festivals on the Island, including:
- \* Hilton Head Island Oyster Festival
  - \* St. Patrick's Day Parade
  - \* 4th of July Fireworks (3 Island locations)
  - \* Hilton Head Island Gullah Celebration
  - \* Wine and Food Fest
  - \* WingFest

## International Events

- RBC Heritage Golf presented by Boeing PGA tournament
- Hilton Head Island Motoring Festival and Concours d' Elegance

## On the Horizon

- ⊗ Business license permits are increasing
- ⊗ Real Estate sales and sale prices are increasing
- ⊗ Visits to the Island are increasing
- ⊗ Residential and commercial building permits are increasing
- ⊗ Revenues to the Town are increasing from accommodations, hospitality and beach preservation fees
- ⊗ The Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce's web page traffic is increasing
- ⊗ More redevelopment is planned

## Location, Location, Location

- 1 hour or less from Historic Savannah, GA and Beaufort, SC
- 2 hours from Historic Charleston, SC
- 30 minutes from I-95
- 45 minutes from Savannah-Hilton Head Island International Airport
- Local County airport with commercial/commuter service

## Redevelopment

- New \$74 million Shelter Cove Towne Centre under construction. Includes an 87,000 square foot Kroger adjoined by single story retail and restaurants. A \$ 4.5 million waterfront park is planned as well.
- Numerous commercial centers recently redeveloped
- Major gated-community clubhouse renovations

## Culture

- Performing Arts Center
- Coastal Discovery Museum
- Mitchelville Freedmen's Village
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
- Native American Shell Rings
- Art galleries and League
- Symphony Orchestra
- Public Art Program
- Heritage Library

## Parks

- ❖ 8 Beach parks
- ❖ 12 Town passive and active parks for soccer, baseball, roller hockey, skate park, dog park, basketball, playgrounds, events, tennis, rugby, and more
- ❖ \$4.5 million 5 acre park planned along the Broad Creek behind Shelter Cove Towne Centre
- ❖ Rowing and sailing center under construction soon
- ❖ Security cameras at many parks

## Future Improvements

- Coligny Beach area undergoing public planning process
- Chaplin Linear Park linking new Shelter Cove Towne Centre to the beach under consideration
- Beach renourishment project in near future
- More cell phone coverage and expanded Wi-Fi
- A rowing and sailing center
- Dredging Harbortown Marina
- Powerline burial project half accomplished beautifying Island
- Pedestrian pathway expansion

## Schools

- Award-winning public and private schools at all grade levels

## Major Hotel Improvements

- ★ Omni (formerly the Hilton Head Oceanfront Resort): \$18 million renovation plan
- ★ Sonesta Resort (formerly the Crowne Plaza): \$30 million renovation plan
- ★ Westin Resort: \$30 million renovation plan
- ★ Holiday Inn/Beach House: \$5 million renovation plan
- ★ Sea Pines Plantation Club: \$12 million renovation plan
- ★ Total renovations: \$95 million

## Town Government

- 1,318 acres of land purchased by the Town mostly left undeveloped
- Highest credit rating of all municipalities in the state
- Low taxes
- Aggressive Capital Improvement Program publicly supported
- Awarded Budget and Financial Accounting awards
- Revising land management laws achieving greater flexibility
- *Recent Awards:* Heart Safe Community Award; Bicycle Friendly Community Silver Level Award; Parents Magazine Award as the #1 Beach Town in the nation; Conde Nast Magazine Award naming Hilton Head Island as the 8th on a list of the top 10 Islands in the country; Hilton Head Island received second place in the 10 Besties Readers' Choice Travel Award; Participant in Audubon International Sustainable Communities program and Tree City USA
- Award-winning park designs

## Non-Profits

- Too numerous to list but allows residents to give back to their community