

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 (843)341-4600

Town Manager's Note



Steve Riley

Once again the Island has seen its share of accolades from media outlets. Since the last edition of Our Town, we've heard from:

- Conde Nast Traveler named Hilton Head Island No. 7 on its list of top islands in the United States (October 2015);
- Coastalliving.com named the Island on a list of America's 21 Best Beaches and "Best Places to Dig your Toes into the Sand." (July 2015);
- Forbes.com featured the Island in their story, "How to Spend Two Perfect Days in Hilton Head." (July 2015);
- The Huffington Post named Hilton Head Island among its Five Great Southern Resorts for Families this Summer." (August 2015); and
- The Town received the Sustainable Planning Award from Audubon International (July 2015).

The litany of accolades is attributable to the natural resources we enjoy and a commitment of business, government and residents that work to achieve a high quality of life. Congratulations!

You may have read recently that Town Council approved a beach renourishment plan that will begin February 2016. We have not had a major renourishment project since 2006 and it is time. Please see the plans on pages 2 and 3. The engineering of this project is fascinating. More than 2 million of cubic yards of sand will be pumped from offshore onto 6 segments of our Island beach. Our contractor should be able to finish the project, weather and equipment function-permitting, by June. As you can see from the map, the largest segment will be 5.4 miles long from Marriott's Grand Ocean in South Beach to the northern part of Palmetto Dunes. Our Public Projects and Facilities Director, Scott Liggett, has been working with our Coastal Engineering firm, Olsen Associates, perfecting various state and federal permit applications for over a year in anticipation of the project. Four firms bid on the project and the cost will be about \$20.7 million. The source of project funding is a longstanding 2% fee imposed on overnight lodging. Our contractor, Weeks Marine, will be able to complete the project

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expeditiously because of the equipment it brings to bear. This means that we should be able to avoid a project when our beaches begin to fill-up. Please note that Weeks Marine will not be operating on all 4 areas at the same time. The actual project areas consume small portions of the beach. We have created a new e-subscription service category for subscribers to receive project updates via email or text notification, or both. Please visit our website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov to sign-up for this service.

The Town is starting a new public awareness program regarding flooding hazards by educating residents about flood hazards and flood insurance requirements. We already have a great Community Rating System program (we are one of the 3 highest rated communities in SC!) that provides policyholders in the Special Flood Hazard Area a 25% discount each year on their flood insurance premium, that's an estimated community savings of about \$5.6 million each year! We want to reach more residents, so our outreach program is underway with well over 30 tasks, including partnering with real estate, mortgage and insurance companies to expand awareness.

Town Council Build Day

In 2011, the Town of Hilton Head Island donated 14 acres of land to Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity. As part of the deal, Habitat for Humanity paid to build a road and install utilities. In phase one of the project, Habitat will build 16 homes on 6 acres, including a one acre retention pond, common areas and a pump station. Preliminary concept designs estimate 16-20 homes will be built on the same acreage in phase 2 of the project.

On October 14, 2015, the Town continued their strong support for this affordable housing effort with our Mayor, Town Council, Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager and Fire Chief participating in a Habitat for Humanity Town Council Build Day. The Town is currently exploring multiple days for additional Town staff to participate in Habitat for Humanity Town Hall Build Days. While participating in these build days have the obvious charitable benefit of giving to our community, it also provides an opportunity to promote team-building among staff and elected officials.



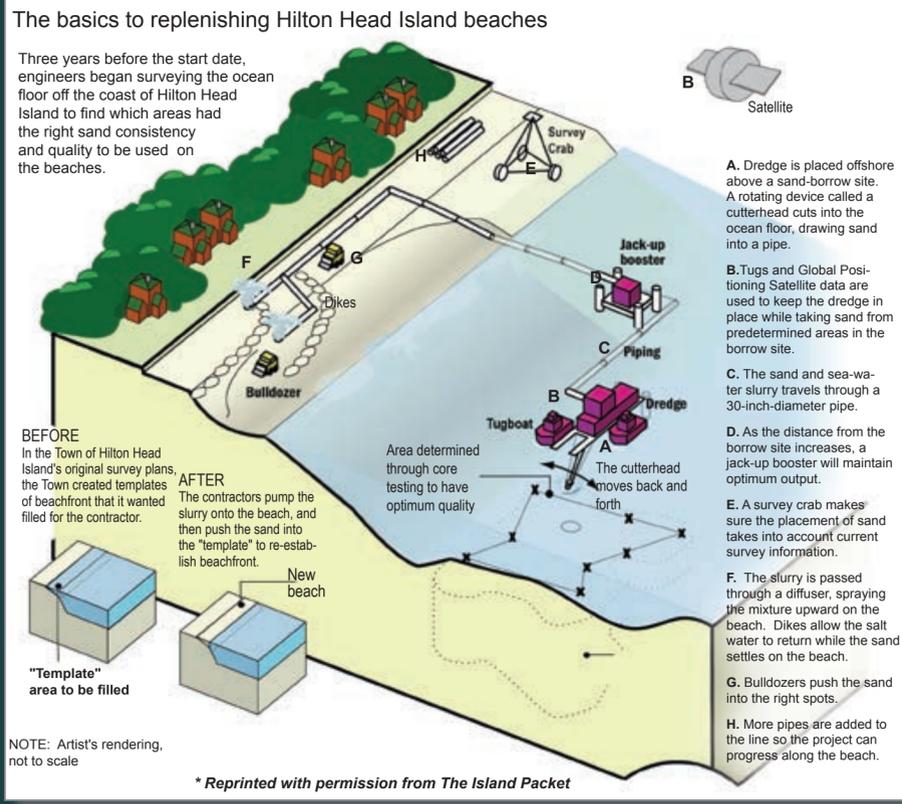
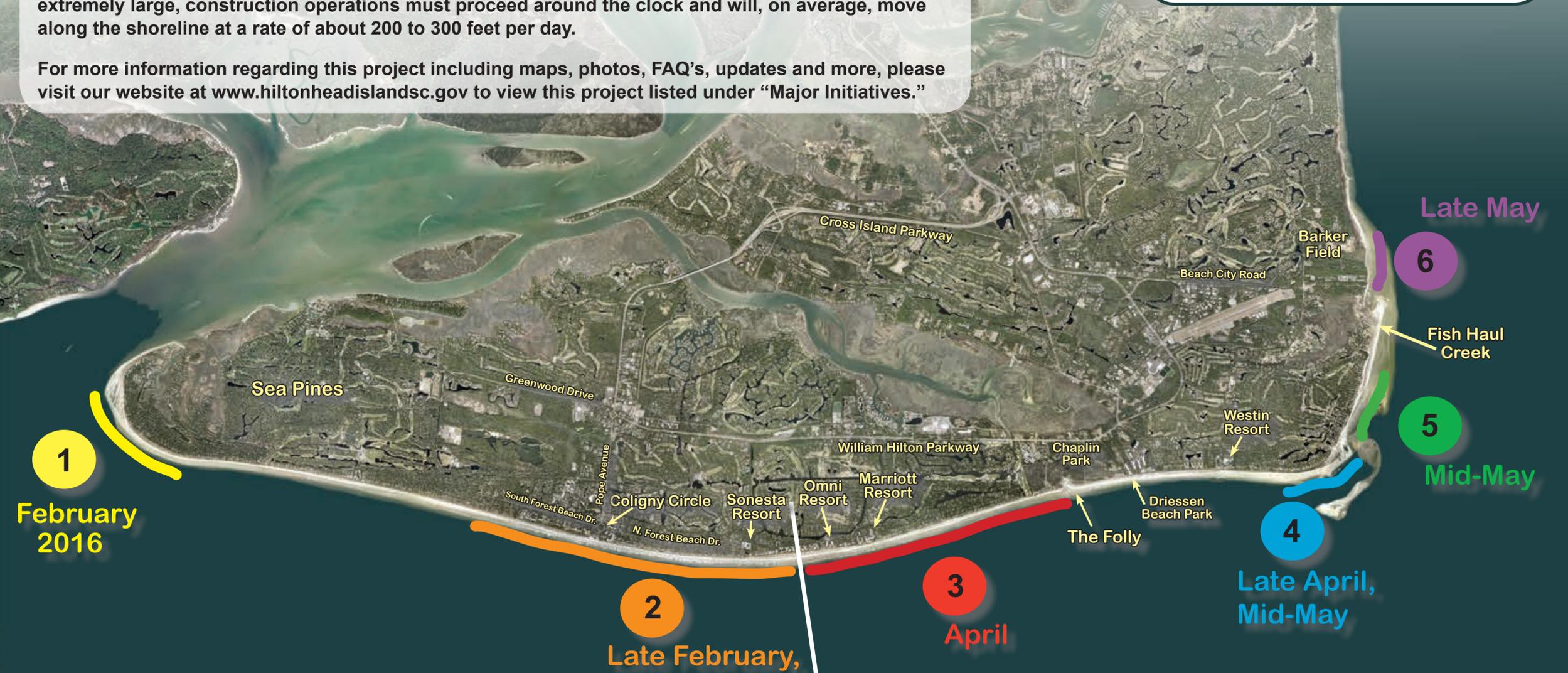
Beach Renourishment

The Town of Hilton Head Island recognizes that its beaches are a vital asset to its residents and the Island's economy. As part of the Town's long-term strategy for beach restoration and maintenance, the Town plans to begin its 2016 \$20.7 million renourishment project in February 2016. The source of the project funding is a longstanding 2% fee imposed on overnight lodging.

The 2016 renourishment of the Atlantic oceanfront shoreline will be similar to the projects constructed in 1990, 1997 and 2006, with the exception that no sand will be placed between The Folly and The Westin Resort. The project construction is expected to last about 5 months. Because the project is extremely large, construction operations must proceed around the clock and will, on average, move along the shoreline at a rate of about 200 to 300 feet per day.

For more information regarding this project including maps, photos, FAQ's, updates and more, please visit our website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov to view this project listed under "Major Initiatives."

In preparation for the upcoming 2016 beach renourishment project, the Town has created a new e-subscription service category for subscribers to receive project updates via email and/or text notifications. Please visit our website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov to sign-up for this free service and stay up-to-date on the latest beach renourishment project information as well as a variety of other topics.



Sand from **Barrett Shoals Borrow Area** ← → Sand from **Joiner Shoals Borrow Area**

Join our Facebook page for project updates
<http://facebook.com/TownofHiltonHeadIslandSC>

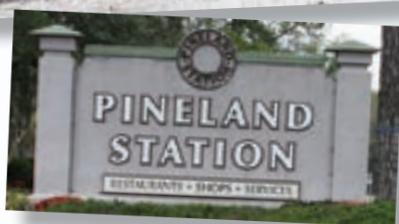


NOTE: The beach nourishment areas and shoals are approximations. The order of beach renourishment may alter, and start dates are subject to change.

Around Town

Sea Turtle Marketplace

The redevelopment of the former Pineland Station into Sea Turtle Marketplace has commenced with the gradual demolition of the old Pineland Station shopping center at the intersection of William Hilton Parkway and Mathews Drive. Sea Turtle Marketplace will include a new anchor and junior tenant spaces with a mix of retail shops, services, and restaurants. Starbucks and Stein Mart will remain in their existing locations. New construction could begin early 2016. Developers estimate that the entire redevelopment is expected to cost \$20 to \$30 million.



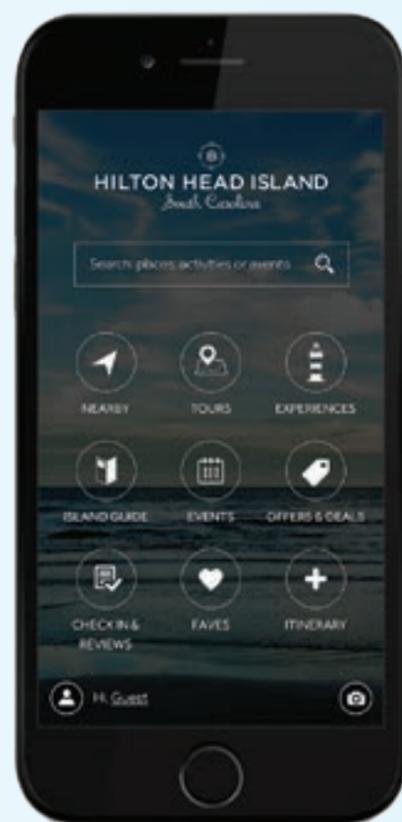
Navigate Your Way Around the Island



The Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce recently launched a new mobile app called the Hilton Head Island Compass. Finding your way around Hilton Head Island is quick and easy with the Island Compass App. It has all the shopping, dining and other events and recreational activities organized into categories and can even show you what's nearby. You can see reviews, create an itinerary and share your experiences on social media.

Download the Hilton Head Island Compass App Today!

HiltonHeadIslandCompass.org



Facebook and Town Council Policy Agenda Dashboard

As the Town strives to enhance communications, transparency and outreach with the community, we are excited to announce the addition of two new initiatives to connect with our citizens.

First, we have expanded our social media presence beyond our emergency Twitter account by launching an official Facebook Page for the Town of Hilton Head Island. The Town's Facebook page will become a place for residents to reach out, interact and learn about general items of interest, the services, and programs the Town provides. Facebook users will be able to read, 'like,' share and comment on Town posts. We encourage everyone to 'like' our page to stay up-to-date on the latest happenings going on in our town.

<http://facebook.com/TownofHiltonHeadIslandSC>



Secondly, we have added a Town Council Policy Agenda Dashboard to the home page of our website. This dashboard provides a quick up-to-date overview and progress of Town Council's annual policy agenda. Visit our website today to view the Town Council Policy Agenda Dashboard at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov.