



# OUR TOWN

A Newsletter of the Town Of Hilton Head Island

Brought to you by the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

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STEVE RILEY

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**“It’s déjà vu all over again.”**  
-Yogi Berra

It’s beginning to feel like we have “been there” and “done that” when it comes to all things hurricane related on Hilton Head Island.

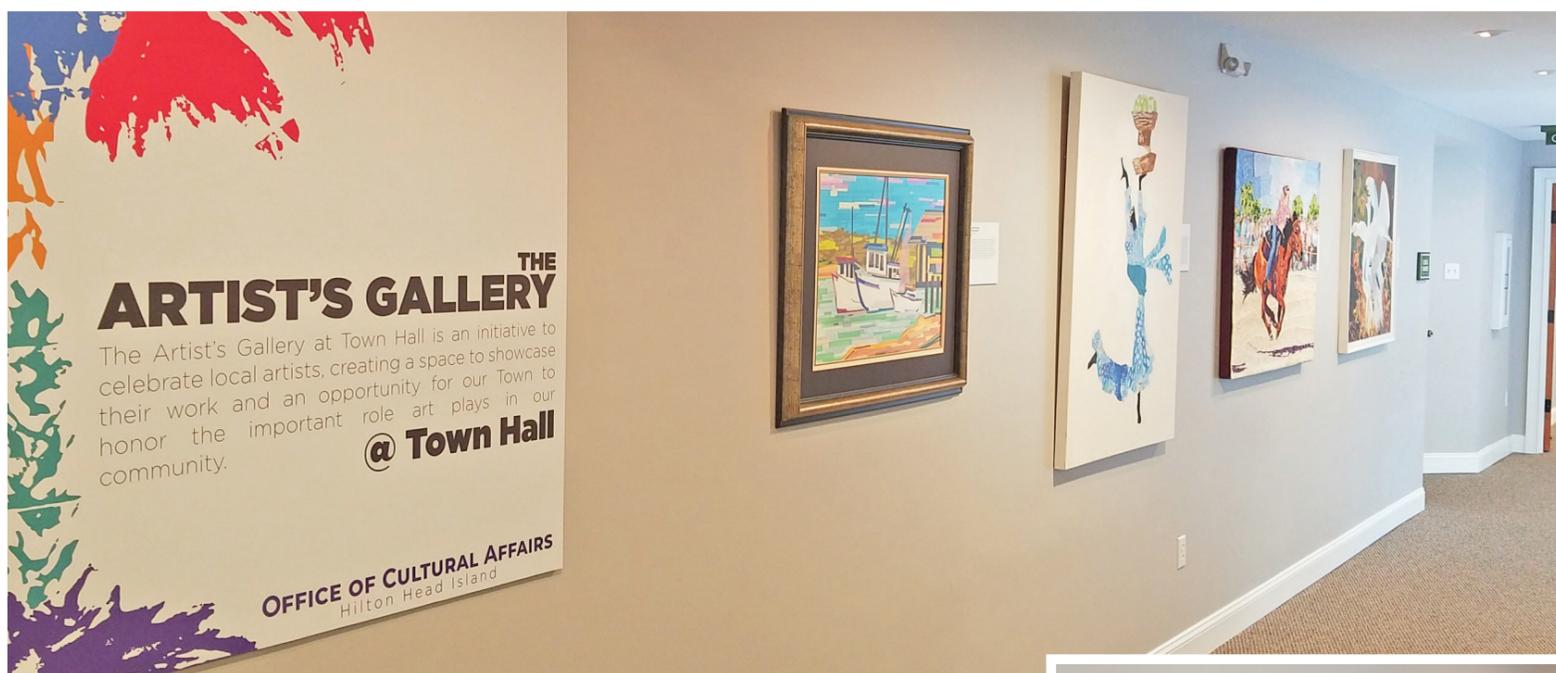
For the third time in the past three years, we have had to face down the possibility of leaving our homes and businesses in advance of a mandatory evacuation order. While the frequency of these storms potentially impacting our community is beginning to defy most statistical models, there is always something that we can learn from and improve upon after each of these events. In the case of Hurricane Florence, I think there is one very important lesson that we can take away should we be asked yet again to leave the Lowcountry. The lesson is that not all personal hurricane evacuation plans are created equal.

Just because your evacuation plan worked for you in a prior storm does not mean that repeating that plan for a future storm would be just as effective. For instance, I spoke with a nursing home employee who told me that after Hurricane Irma, his company had signed a contract with another nursing home to evacuate to an area just outside Charlotte, North Carolina. When I mentioned that this appeared to be taking them even further into the path of the storm’s potential impact zones, he told me that heading north was the only scenario they had contemplated and, more importantly, the only nursing home with which they contracted. This made me realize that in order to prepare best to evacuate from a storm, we need to plan ahead for several different scenarios.

In the case of Hurricane Florence, the best route of evacuation for most Hilton Head Island residents would have been to head south

into Georgia and Florida. Those areas had ample hotel rooms available for families with small children or pets and the roadways getting there were mostly free of substantial traffic volumes. For Hurricane Irma, evacuating to the south would have been prohibited given the fact that residents from Florida and Georgia had begun to evacuate days before and were all making their way north.

Because of this, Hilton Head Island residents need to not only have an evacuation plan, they should probably have several. Have plans that take you in all sorts of varying directions with names and phone numbers for hotels and local resources in different areas. That way, if there is yet again a need to leave home due to an approaching hurricane, you can pick the plan that best suits the needs of that specific situation rather than simply sticking with one that has worked for you before.



## Municipal Art Gallery

Our newly installed municipal art gallery has brought color and vibrancy to walls at Town Hall, and we invite you to check it out. The Artist’s Gallery at Town Hall is an initiative to celebrate the contributions Hilton Head Island’s art community has made to the Town. This public forum highlights local artists by dedicating a space to showcase their work and gives the Town an opportunity to honor the important role art plays in our community. Works in many different mediums, from watercolors to ceramics, are on display. You can visit the gallery during normal Town business hours, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The gallery is being presented in partnership with the Arts and Cultural Council of Hilton Head and opened as one of the highlighted events of *Crescendo*. In honor of October as National Arts and Humanities Month, the Arts and Cultural Council of Hilton Head Island presents *Crescendo*, a month-long celebration of art, culture, and history on Hilton Head Island featuring more than 95 unique arts and cultural programs, concerts, theatrical productions, museum and gallery exhibits, lectures, poetry readings, dance performances, historical tours, hands-on arts experiences and educational offerings. Some



*Crescendo* highlights include Hilton Head Island History Day, *Amadeus* at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, *Who Am I This Time? (And Other Conundrums of Love)* at Lean Ensemble, the Concours d’Elegance, and the opening of the Hilton Head Symphony’s new venue, SoundWaves. This is a great time to go out and enjoy the depth of the creative community on the Island. Visit the Office of Cultural Affairs website at [www.culturehhi.org](http://www.culturehhi.org) to stay up-to-date on all Island art, culture, history and entertainment events.



**November 1, 2018**

The Town of Hilton Head Island has adopted an Ordinance that bans grocers and other businesses from providing you with single-use plastic carryout bags. The next time you go shopping, remember to take your own reusable shopping bag with you. Here are questions and answers to help you prepare for a more environmentally-friendly approach to shopping.



# SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAG ORDINANCE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## What is the purpose of this Ordinance?

The purpose of this Ordinance is to improve our environment by curbing the use of plastic bags and shifting to reusable bags. Plastic bags can escape into our waterways and the ocean, where they are harmful to animals. They break down into smaller pieces of plastic that enter the food chain of animals and eventually that of humans.

## What businesses are affected by the Ordinance?

Most business establishments are subject to the new Ordinance, including grocery stores, department stores, hardware stores, liquor stores, convenience stores, farmers markets, restaurants, gift shops, and other retail stores or vendors. There is no exemption for small retailers or any business distributing items in single-use plastic bags.

## What bags are restricted by the Ordinance?

Single-use plastic bags considered disposable and not reusable are prohibited. This includes all disposable single-use plastic bags provided at checkout or point-of-sale.

## Where can I get reusable bags?

Businesses are encouraged to provide customers with reusable carryout bags or recyclable paper bags. Some stores may charge a minimal fee for their bags, so be prepared to pay.

## What type of bag is considered reusable?

A reusable carryout bag is a carryout bag that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple uses. Language describing the bag's ability to be reused and recycled should be highly visible on the exterior of the bag. The bag should have a handle and be made out of cloth, other washable fabric, or other durable materials, whether woven or non-woven, or recyclable plastic, with a minimum thickness of two and one-quarter (2.25) mils. Handles are not required for carryout bags constructed out of recyclable paper with a height of less than fourteen (14) inches and width of less than eight (8) inches.

## How can I help?

Remember to take your own reusable bags with you when you go shopping. Encourage family members and friends to do the same.

## Can organizations give out bags at their events?

The Ordinance prohibits organizations that host events on Town-owned property from distributing single-use plastic bags at their events.

## Can retailers provide plastic bags for meat, produce, bulk foods and other items?

Single-use plastic bags considered disposable and not reusable are prohibited. This includes all disposable single-use plastic bags provided at checkout or point-of-sale.

## Who may I call for additional information?

Sally Krebs, Sustainable Practices Coordinator, at 843-341-4690 or [sallyk@hiltonheadislandsc.gov](mailto:sallyk@hiltonheadislandsc.gov) or Carolyn Grant, Communications Director, at 843-341-4618 or [carolyng@hiltonheadislandsc.gov](mailto:carolyng@hiltonheadislandsc.gov).

## What bags are permitted under the Ordinance?

- » Laundry dry cleaning bags.
- » Meat, produce and bakery bags.
- » Newspaper and door-hanger bags.
- » Pet waste, yard waste and garbage bags.
- » Bags provided by pharmacists or veterinarians for prescription drugs or other medical necessities, as required by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- » Bags for items sold in bulk such as bulk food and bulk hardware items.
- » Bags or plastic wraps for flowers, potted plants or items where dampness may be an issue.
- » Bags of any type that a customer brings to the store for his or her own use to carry away goods that are not placed in a bag provided by the store.
- » Bags comprised of recyclable plastic, with a minimum thickness of 2.25 mils.

# Finance Department Strategies Yield Increase in Revenues

Collecting tax revenue and other fees can be challenging. So staff in the Town of Hilton Head Island's Finance Department recently revamped its process to make fee collection easier. This has yielded a more favorable collection rate for fiscal year 2018.

Increased use of technology and changes to the Town's investment strategy provided more structure and focus to the collection process, said John Troyer, Director of Finance.

With help from GIS personnel, Finance Department personnel designed mapping technology to help with its process. The Town added the State Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) to its investment strategy as an additional way for the Town's idle cash to work harder compared to traditional bank investment options previously used.

## As a result of these efforts:

- ↑ Local accommodations tax revenue was \$230,941 higher than budget expectations.
- ↑ Business license revenue was \$264,000 above budget expectations.
- ↑ EMS transport fees were \$188,586 more than budget expectations. Our collection rate rose from 72% in fiscal year 2017 to 78% in fiscal year 2018.
- ↑ Interest earnings increased by \$663,789 over the previous fiscal year.
- ↑ Hospitality tax revenue was up \$207,743 over the previous fiscal year.

According to Troyer, these increases are indicators that the economy is healthy and growing, and the Town's finances are starting to restore to our pre-Hurricane Matthew levels. These efforts help keep your property tax rate as low as possible and foster a competitive level environment for businesses on Hilton Head Island.

## Pathway Safety

The Town of Hilton Head Island provides 64 miles of public pathways as well as 50 miles of pathways in private developments for cyclists and pedestrians to enjoy. Many different people use these pathways so it's important to observe basic courtesies and rules.

If you encounter a white stripe and stop sign, you should stop and look for motorists. A yellow center line means there is two-way traffic so keep to the right. Ladder hatching stripes indicate a crosswalk so watch out for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

Motor vehicles and motorized vehicles are prohibited on pathways. This includes cars, trucks, tractors, mopeds, motorized bicycles, motorcycles, scooters with gas or electric motors, golf carts, all-terrain vehicles and go-carts. The only exception is a motorized wheelchair.

Most sections of the pathways are not lit so when you are using the pathways at night, wear light-colored clothing and carry a flashlight. Putting reflective tape on clothing is also a good idea. Bicycles must have a red rear reflector and a headlight. Ride in areas that are familiar to you.

If you are approaching pathway users from behind, please sound a warning device or call out "passing on your left" as you should always pass on the left.

Everyone, especially children, should wear a helmet when biking. Head injuries can be deadly. Cyclists must obey South Carolina traffic laws as bicycles are considered a vehicle. If there is no pathway and you



have to ride on the road, ride with traffic not against it. Assume that motorists and others don't see you, so always make eye contact. Hand signals tell others what you are intending to do and can help to keep pathways



safer. Over 70% of car-bicycle crashes occur at driveways or intersections so proceed with caution in these spots. Leave at least three feet when passing a parked car to avoid getting hit if the door opens.

Stay alert on the pathways. Watch out for potholes, leaves,

cracks or anything else that could make you fall. If a public pathway is in need of repair, please contact Facilities Management at 843-342-4580.

Many kiosks are located along the pathways and feature an Island-wide map and local routes to help you navigate the Island. The Town of Hilton Head Island is proud to provide a network of parks and beaches, which you can visit by bicycle. Most have public restrooms.

Stay safe, stay alert and share the pathways!

## Master Sewer Plan Projects by the Numbers

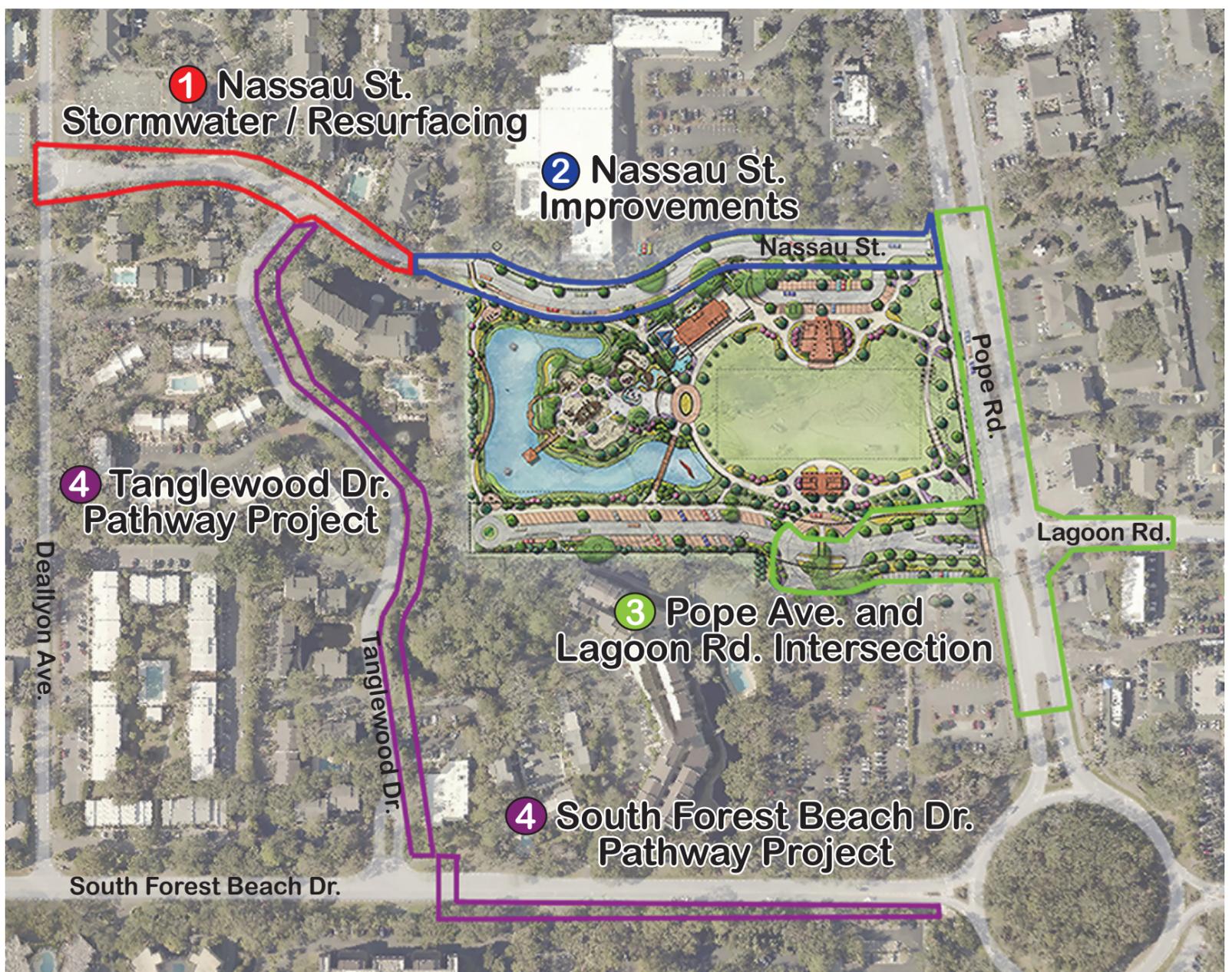
Work continues on bringing sewer service to homes in Hilton Head Island's north- and mid-island neighborhoods as part of the Town of Hilton Head Island and Hilton Head Public Service District (PSD) Master Sewer Plan projects. About 440 existing homes will ultimately gain access to sewer thanks to this jointly funded project - \$10 million from the Town for sewer mains and \$3 million from the PSD for new sewer lift stations and additional sewer mains. Project SAFE (Sewer Access for Everyone), a charitable fund of the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, is raising \$3 million for grants for low- and moderate-income homeowners' sewer connection costs.

In all, more than nine miles of sewer collector mains will be installed in neighborhoods that previously lacked access. The PSD already has installed five miles of sewer mains to serve 230 existing homes on

more than 25 streets in the Oakview, Marshland and Dillon roads areas. The utility has built two regional sewer lift stations on Marshland and Oakview roads, and has upgraded existing lift stations on Summit Drive and Muddy Creek Road. All owners receiving access in these areas have been notified that they can now connect. To date, more than 60 homes have connected to sewer as a result of these projects.

In addition, work is underway to install four miles of sewer on more than 25 streets in the Squire Pope, Wild Horse, Mitchelville, Fish Haul and Baygall areas. More than 150 existing homes will receive sewer access as a result of these projects, anticipated to wrap up by spring 2019. The PSD also is funding a group of projects for additional streets and landlocked properties, which will bring access to about 60 additional homes.

# Coligny District Redevelopment Conceptual Master Plan



Several road and pathway improvement projects are currently underway in and around the Coligny area. Phases of work overlap and may proceed simultaneously with the goal of being completed by June 2019. The road and pathway improvements will enhance pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular circulation.

In spring 2019, construction will begin on the proposed destination playground and park. The park, as well as the road and pathway improvements, will provide a foundation for generating activity that will support private sector growth and performance in the Coligny area.

- 1 Phase 1 - Nassau Street from the intersection at Deallyon Avenue to behind Circle Center**
  - Scheduled to start November 2018 and be completed by March 2019.
  - Improvements include:
    - o Road resurfacing.
    - o Storm drainage improvements.
- 2 Phase 2 - Nassau Street behind Circle Center to Pope Avenue**
  - Scheduled to start January 2019 and be completed by May 2019.
  - Improvements include:
    - o Storm drainage improvements.
    - o New water main and fire hydrant.
    - o New sewer line.
    - o Circle Center parking lot modifications.
    - o Bringing the road up to Town of Hilton Head Island standards.
    - o On street parking and sidewalk.
    - o Resurfacing Nassau Street.
- 3 Phase 3 - Pope Avenue and Lagoon Road Intersection**
  - Started September 2018 and scheduled to be completed by May 2019.
  - Improvements include:
    - o Storm drainage improvements.
    - o Repaving the entire length of Pope Avenue, excluding the recently constructed areas.
    - o Adding a signalized intersection with pedestrian crossings and activators at Lagoon Road and Pope Avenue intersection.
    - o Constructing a dedicated right and left turn lane into the beach parking lot.
    - o Widening the approach lanes of the existing Lagoon Road and beach parking lot to include a shared straight and thru lane.
    - o Constructing a roundabout in the beach parking lot.
- 4 Phase 4 - Tanglewood Drive Pathway and South Forest Beach Drive Pathway:**
  - Scheduled to start December 2018 and be completed by May 2019.
  - Improvements include:
    - o Storm drainage adjustments.
    - o Widening and resurfacing multi-purpose pathway on Tanglewood Drive.
    - o Constructing a new multi-purpose pathway on the ocean side of South Forest Beach Drive.

## Want to stay informed on the road and pathway improvement project?

Sign-up to receive updates through the Town's e-subscription service. It's free and easy for residents. Links to sign up for an e-subscription are located on the homepage of the Town's website. The only information required is an email address. You can change your subscription options or cancel the service at any time.

[www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov](http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov)