

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

Mayor's Note



Mayor Drew Laughlin

I want to bring you up to speed on Town Council's progress regarding some of our adopted priorities for the year. We've had a busy 1st quarter.

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2013 Policy Agenda Top Priority	
Target	Updates
Economic Development Organization: Creation and Operation	Town Council Approved Board Screening Process on April 2nd. Board Member Application period ended April 19th. Council considered organization Bylaws April 23rd.
Coligny Area Development Projects: Direction and Funding	Design Consultants have been interviewed. Town staff to negotiate contract with selected firm and target an early May contract execution.
Arts Collaboration: Framework and Strategy for Fostering Collaboration among Arts Organizations	Request for Proposal has been sent to various arts consultants; Pre-Proposal meeting held April 8th. Responses were due April 24, 2013.
Chaplin Linear Park and Boardwalk: Development and Permitting	Staff is negotiating a professional services contract with top-ranked design firm.
2013 Policy Agenda High Priority	
Land Management Ordinance (LMO) Modifications	The LMO committee has been meeting bi-monthly to provide input to the consultants on issues such as specific use conditions, allowed activities in the Transition Area of the Critical Storm Protection & Dune Accretion Area & Transition Area Overlay District and edge conditions. The committee will begin reviewing the drafts of Chapters 3 and 4 (Zoning and Specific Conditions).
Education Strategy: Identification of Needs and Direction	Working and meeting with Know2 committee and designing Town effort.
2013 Management Agenda	
Reassessment and Tax Rate Limitations: Direction and Public Information	Town Manager and Finance Director met with County in March. Expect 1st reassessment assessment figures from County in early April. Will incorporate information into FY14 budget and provide public information.
Shelter Cove Area Public Projects: Construction	Park kick-off meeting was held April 9th to start planning for the development and construction of the relocated Shelter Cove Community Park.
Posting of Quarterly Financial Reports Online: Purpose, Method, and Funding	Quarterly financial statements for December are online for all funds. Monthly dashboards for General Fund began to be online starting with January 2013.
Beach Renourishment (2015): Scoping, Designing and Permitting	Coastal Engineering Consultant Services Task Orders have been authorized for multi-beam hydrographic surveying of a portion of Calibogue Sound and surrounds, borrow site development including seismic survey, collection of vibracores and laboratory analysis. Contingency planning continues with respect to the Ocean Pointe erosional hot spot. Formulation of a permit application to pursue a truck haul project has been authorized.
Old Welcome Center Building: Direction	Town Council voted to demolish the building and beautify the site.

Town Manager's Note



Steve Riley

Our Capital Improvement Program, as usual, is rolling along and here is a snapshot of some recent activity:

Project	Updates
Leg O' Mutton Road Pathway	Substantially complete.
William Hilton Parkway – Wexford Drive to Fresh Market Shoppes Pathway	Under Construction – target completion date May 1, 2013.
Fire Station #6	Solicitation for construction released. Bids due May 3, 2013.
Mathews Drive Side Street Improvements	Final plans being developed; target bid date June 1, 2013.
Marshland Road / Mathews Drive Roundabout	Final plans being developed; target bid date June 1, 2013.
William Hilton Parkway / Leamington Intersection Improvements	Plans complete, permits in hand, land acquisition/legal tasks to be completed. Bid date expected in spring 2013; however, construction is recommended to commence in fall 2013.
Rowing and Sailing Center	In design; negotiating with stakeholders, construction planned to start in fall 2013.
Island Recreation Center Improvements – Phase 1	In design; target bid window spring 2013.
Hospital Center Blvd./ Main St. Intersection Improvements	Under contract; target completion date June 15, 2013.
Pedestrian Crosswalks (3 locations) and William Hilton Parkway (U.S. 278) left turn lane at Circle K (Yacht Cove Drive area)	Under contract; target completion date June 15, 2013.
Welcome Center demolition	Bids received April 18, 2013. Under staff review.

Hilton Head Island Public Pathways

The Town of Hilton Head Island currently has 57 miles of public pathways with an additional 28.3 miles planned for the future.



Use Hand Signals and Voice Commands 

Make eye contact with motorists at intersections.
Most crashes happen at driveways and intersections.
Use Caution

Wear a helmet - especially children! 

Be Visible and Alert... See and Be Seen

Obey Traffic Signals and Signs 



Public Pathway Legend

- Existing Pathways
- Planned Pathways
- Existing Sidewalks
- Under Construction
-  Crosswalks
-  Signalized Pedestrian Crossing

The Hilton Head Island Bicycle Advisory Committee

The Town of Hilton Head Island has, since incorporation, placed an emphasis on creating leisure trails and multiuse pathways. In 2011, the League of American Bicyclists awarded the Town the coveted Bicycle Friendly Community Award at the silver level. This program recognizes communities that promote and seek to improve conditions for bicycling. This is a tremendous accomplishment for the Town of Hilton Head Island and reflects decades of investment in pathways and safety initiatives to support residents and the nearly 1 million people who bike yearly on the Island. The preparation and submission of the League application was a collaborative effort by members of Town staff, the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce and community bicycle advocates.

Community bicycle advocates have formed a 25 person, all volunteer, Hilton Head Island Bicycling Advisory Committee. Its mission is to make our Island safer and more bicycling friendly for everyone and to improve upon the Town's silver certification.

Here is some of the progress the committee made in 2012:

- After four years of steadily increasing bike/vehicle crashes, 2012 crashes sharply reversed the trend and declined 38% year-to-year.
- A new bicycling Ambassadors program was initiated.
- For the first time, all major day-time community events are now bicycling friendly.
- The Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce upgraded its web site with Hilton Head Island biking content.
- Numerous bike safety-related projects have been implemented.



As a result of this work, there is now a greater community awareness of bicycle safety. There is a greater realization of the importance of cycling on the Island and the value of the Town's pathway system. Additionally, bike usage is up, and there are now about 30 shops or outlets buying, selling and/or renting bikes on the Island and it has become a popular year-round activity for residents and visitors. This safer pathway system has reduced traffic congestion, vehicular parking and attracted new visitors and potential residents interested in an active life style.

Bicycling Advisory Committee members are working on the following goals and projects for 2013:

- Continue to work toward implementation of a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program with Hilton Head Island schools.
- Recruit, train and equip additional bicycling Ambassadors and provide organized Ambassador support during RBC Heritage week and the 2013 visitor season.
- Increase bicycling usage at the RBC Heritage with improved parking, publicity and security; provide on-site bike parking at the Concours d'Elegance and for major community events in Honey Horn and the new Shelter Cove Park.
- Update and upgrade the Chambers' web site with additional bike-related content.
- Conduct an Island-wide bike count to document pathways' usage.
- Initiate new bike safety awareness, education and support programs.
- Expand National Bike Month activities (May) including a new community beach biking event.
- Initiate bicycling tours and activities to better showcase the Island.

Please visit the Town's website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov to view various upcoming events to celebrate National Bicycle Month in May on Hilton Head Island.

What Will Your Legacy Be?

In autumn of 2010, the Town of Hilton Head Island began participating in the Audubon International Sustainable Communities Program. This program assists communities with assessing natural resources and environmental concerns and identifies steps which can be taken to move closer to community sustainability. Participation in this program emphasizes the Town of Hilton Head Island's commitment to green initiatives and sustainability.

So, what is Sustainability? It is the practice of meeting the needs of the current generation without degrading or destroying the natural resources and natural services that future generations will also need.

The Town of Hilton Head Island's goal is to become a more sustainable community.

For more information and to tell us specific steps the Town could take to achieve this goal, you may visit Hot Topics/We Want Your Ideas on the Town's main web page at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov to submit your ideas or comments.

Areas of focus listed below will help you think about types of projects or initiatives for future improvements:

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| Agriculture | Economic Development/Tourism |
| Education | Environment |
| Governance | Public Health |
| Housing | Open Space and Land Use |
| Planning, Zoning, Building/Development | Population |
| Public Safety/Emergency Management | Recreation |
| Resource Use | Volunteerism/Civic Engagement |
| Transportation | |