



OUR TOWN

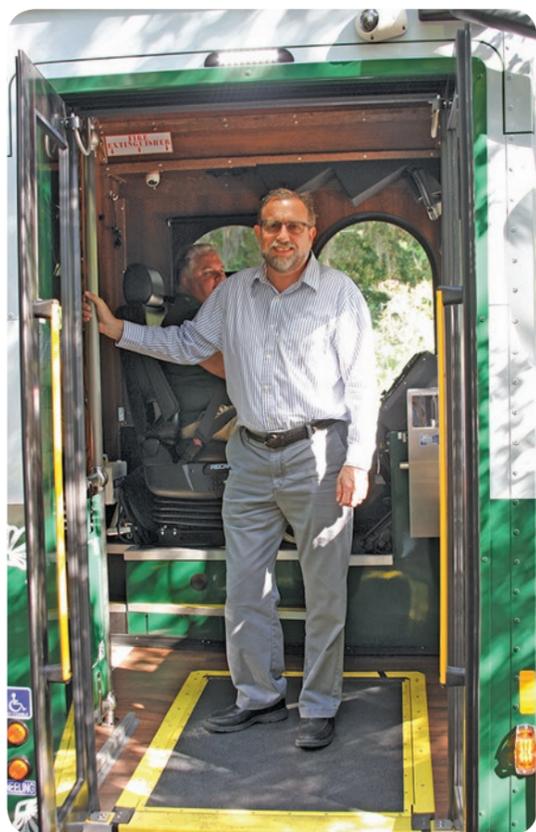
A Newsletter of the Town Of Hilton Head Island

Brought to you by the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina
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Town Manager's Note



STEVE RILEY

This summer, we are welcoming the start of our new trolley service, the launch of our new arts and cultural website, and the beginning of our new budget year.

By the time you read about our trolley service on page 3, I will have taken a ride (above) on one of the trolleys circulating between Shelter Cove Towne Centre and Coligny Circle. We are thrilled to offer this service in partnership with the Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority, which operates the Palmetto Breeze buses. The idea for the trolley service first emerged from discussions among members of our former Circle to Circle Committee. We hope this service helps alleviate some of the Island's summertime traffic congestion along William Hilton Parkway and Pope Avenue, and helps Islanders and visitors get around town easily.

After months of detailed work, we're also excited to introduce our website from our Office of Cultural Affairs - www.culturehhi.org. Right at your

fingertips is a site dedicated to the many wonderful arts, entertainment and cultural happenings on the Island. Take some time to check it out and read more about our arts and culture on page 4.

Our new fiscal year started July 1st. Our Town Council unanimously approved a \$76.6 million budget that included no tax increase and refocuses our attention to projects that we had to delay while we recovered from Hurricane Matthew and Tropical Storm Irma. That's good news for residents. Each year, we dive deep into our budget process for several months. Our goal always is to ensure the Town's continued long-term financial stability - enabling us to continue to meet customer needs responsibly and responsibly well into the future. Our approved budget honors our commitment to our community to maintain service levels while maximizing a limited resource of funds.

Here are some highlights from the budget:

Stormwater Management: As we recovered from Hurricane Matthew and Tropical Storm Irma, improvements to our stormwater system were put on hold. During fiscal year 2018, we managed the removal of Hurricane Matthew debris from more than 60 critical channels, dealt with the impacts of Irma, and completed 67 of 85 programmed capital and maintenance projects. We delayed start dates for the remaining work until fiscal year 2019. A \$5.3 million allocation in our new budget includes the 18 projects

carried forward and 42 others related to maintenance and improvements to the stormwater system Island-wide.

Capital Improvements: Our budget earmarks \$9.8 million for 14 capital improvements projects including an additional \$1.4 million for improvements to South Forest Beach Drive, Nassau Street, Lagoon Road and Tanglewood Drive, and a new entrance and reconfiguration of parking at Coligny Beach. The budget also includes \$3.2 million for the next round of sewer projects. With some funding from the Town, the Hilton Head Public Service District made significant progress to provide sewer service to areas of the Island that lacked this necessity. In phase one, HHPSD connected 53 homes to sewer. Nearly 200 more homes could potentially gain access to sewer in phase two.

Hurricane Recovery: An accomplishment worth mentioning is that in May, we repaid a \$20 million loan we borrowed to help pay for our Hurricane Matthew recovery efforts. To date, we've received \$40 million in reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the South Carolina Emergency Management Division to offset recovery costs.

As work gets underway on capital improvements, we will keep you updated. If you would like to review our complete budget, visit our website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov.

Plan Now for No More Plastic Bags

Single-use carryout bag law takes effect November 1, 2018



Plastic bags used to carry groceries, meals and other items from local retailers on Hilton Head Island and across Beaufort County will soon be a thing of the past.

Starting November 1, all businesses will be banned from giving customers single-use plastic carry-out bags to haul items. The law regulates the types of bags that businesses can provide customers at checkout and mandates a shift to reusable bags.

The goal behind this ban is to improve the Town's environment, our ocean and waterways, and to protect our marine life. Marine birds, for instance, mistake plastic bag pieces as food. Sea turtles often mistake them for jellyfish, one of their favorite food items. Plastics can cause blockages in the animal's digestive tract and subsequently lead to death.

Single-use plastic bags and other plastics that find their way into the ocean and other waterways never really biodegrade, according to Sally Krebs, the Sustainable Practices Coordinator for the Town. They break down into very small pieces of

plastic called microplastics, which are small enough to be filtered out of the water by oysters and other organisms, thus finding their way into the food chain.

Businesses are encouraged to make reusable bags available for sale or offer recyclable paper carryout bags for distribution. They are also encouraged to continue offering bins for all recyclable products including but not limited to plastic products.

As defined in the law, single-use plastic carryout bags include compostable and biodegradable bags but does not include reusable carryout bags. Reusable bags are made of cloth, other washable fabric or durable materials specifically designed and manufactured for multiple use.

If you or an organization you are a member of hosts any event on Town property, you're prohibited from providing plastic bags. Businesses that fail to comply may face penalties - a written warning at first, followed by fines of up \$500 for repeated violations. Town staff plans to provide more education

about the plastic bag ban to businesses and residents over the next few months.

For more information, call Sally Krebs at 843-341-4690 or visit www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov.

Some bags are exempt from the ordinance:

- Laundry and dry-cleaning bags
- Newspaper and door-hanger bags
- Packages of bags intended for disposal of trash, pet waste or yard debris
- Bags pharmacists or veterinarians use for prescriptions or medical necessities
- Produce bags used for bulk items like candy and small hardware, unwrapped and frozen foods, baked goods, and flowers and potted plants
- Any type of bags that shoppers bring to the store to carry away groceries and other items

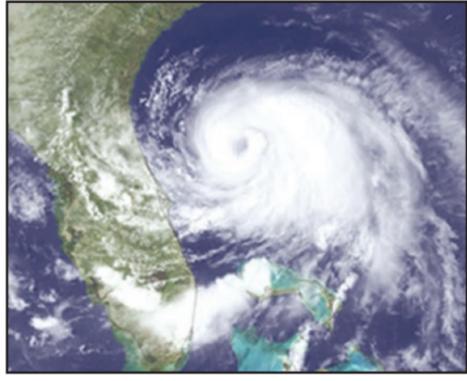
Hurricane Preparedness

The 2018 Hurricane Season officially began June 1 and goes through November 30. Activity in the Atlantic began in May with the first named storm of the season. It is important to recall that Hilton Head Island saw a lot of activity from tropical weather in the 2016 and 2017 Hurricane Seasons with impacts from six storms: Bonnie, Colin, Hermine, Matthew and Irma. Therefore, we need to be ready for the next one.

Preparedness does not have to be expensive or time-consuming. The important thing is to plan and develop your emergency kit for you, your family, and the way you live. Start by making a list of the important elements of your personal preparedness plan and work on those items one at a time. You don't have to do everything all at once.

Your list should include:

- **Emergency Kit**
- **Identify Evacuation Destinations**
- **Important Documents**
- **Plan For Your Pets**
- **Communications Plan**
- **Special Needs and Equipment**



The Town's Citizen's Guide to Emergency Preparedness is a great resource to help you prepare and understand the hazards that may impact the Town. The Guide is available (in English and Spanish) at all Town facilities and on the Town's website.

Emergency Kit

An emergency kit should include items you will need if you evacuate. If you use the supplies when you evacuate, replenish them before you return after a hurricane as there may be limited resources available when you return. You should have basic necessities for at least a week. Some items to consider are:

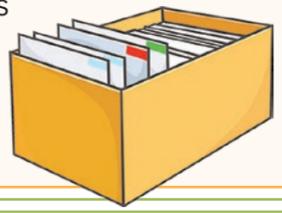
- ⊕ One gallon of water per person per day
- ⊕ Nonperishable food (consider special dietary needs)
- ⊕ Flashlights and a battery-powered or crank radio
- ⊕ Chargers for electronic devices and extra batteries
- ⊕ Clothing and hygiene supplies
- ⊕ Medications and first aid kit
- ⊕ Cash



Important Documents

If you are evacuating, it is a good idea to bring copies of important documents or keep a copy in another location, either electronically or with someone you trust. Some important documents to take with you could include:

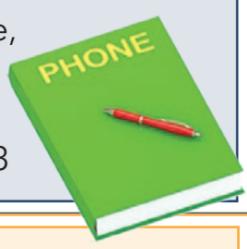
- Insurance policies - Home, Life, Auto, and Health
- Vehicle titles and registrations
- Mortgage or property deeds
- Recent tax returns
- Inventory of your home including pictures



Communications Plan

It is important to keep a physical list of important contacts. If electronic devices fail, you may lose access to important phone numbers in your contact list. Some important numbers to keep in your communications plan are:

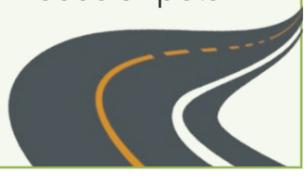
- ☎ Out of the area contacts
- ☎ Family physicians
- ☎ Pharmacy - local and in evacuation location
- ☎ Insurance companies - home, life, auto and health
- ☎ Veterinarian
- ☎ Re-entry hotline: 1-800-963-5023



Identify Evacuation Destinations

Do not wait for the mandatory evacuation order from the Governor; leave early! It is important to have multiple destination options for a hurricane evacuation. Do not make the assumption the hotel you want will be available. Contact the locations where you may stay and gather basic information about the location.

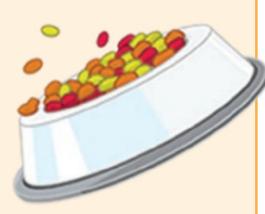
- 📍 Name - hotel, friend, or family
- 📍 Address, written directions and paper map
- 📍 Accommodation of any special needs or pets
- 📍 Phone number and email
- 📍 Estimated driving time
- 📍 Estimated cost of the room



Plan For Your Pets

Planning for your pets is very similar to planning for yourself. Your pets will have some of the same basic needs.

- 🐾 Food and water
- 🐾 Proof of vaccinations, medical records, photo of your pet with you
- 🐾 Extra leash and collar
- 🐾 Crate, bed, and/or blanket
- 🐾 Certification or documentation for service animals



Special Needs or Equipment

Consider all of your needs when preparing for an evacuation. Take into account any special needs or equipment you may have. Some additional things to consider are:

- ♿ A support network to help you in an emergency or while you are evacuated.
- ♿ Take the instructions for special medical equipment. If you are unable to operate the equipment, someone else may be able to assist you.
- ♿ Information for special equipment - model and serial number, manufacturer's phone number.
- ♿ Contact your oxygen supplier about their emergency plans and how you will maintain your supply.

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 media and Citizen Hotline (1-800-963-5023) to provide emergency information. The Town of Hilton Head Island will 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

How To Stay Informed



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 at:

- www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov
- www.bcso.net
- www.facebook.com/TownofHiltonHeadIslandSC
- www.twitter.com/TownofHHI



CATCH THE BREEZE

New Trolley Service helps shuttle islanders and visitors around town

If you're looking for an easy way to get around some areas of Hilton Head Island this summer, try the new trolley service, The Breeze, which made its debut this month.

From now through October 14, Islanders and visitors can use the trolley service to traverse through some of Hilton Head Island's busiest areas for just \$1 per ride. Rides will be free through the end of July. The trolley service runs from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily, making designated stops every 30 minutes along the route from Shelter Cove Towne Centre to Coligny Circle. On Tuesdays, it will run until 10:00 p.m. to shuttle riders back and forth to the fireworks display at Shelter Cove Harbour. Dedicated trolley stops are at:

- Shelter Cove Towne Centre
- King Neptune Statue at Shelter Cove Harbour
- Park Plaza
- Deallyon at Cordillo Parkway South
- Deallyon at South Forest Beach Drive South
- Coligny Circle
- Deallyon at South Forest Beach Drive North
- Deallyon at Cordillo Parkway North

Palmetto Breeze, also known as the Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority, is operating the trolley service through a partnership with the Town. The two green and light gray trolleys offer a vintage look and feel complete with nostalgic wood interiors, free Wi-Fi, air-conditioning, and plenty of comfortable wood seating with additional space for standees. They



are wheelchair accessible and are equipped with bicycle racks for two bikes. Each trolley is a "low-floor" vehicle, with ample space to accommodate approved mobility devices. There is also a ramp that the operator can deploy for anyone requesting even easier access while boarding. Animals, except for guide

dogs or trained personal assistant animals; beach carts; open strollers; and eating, drinking, smoking, alcohol and firearms are prohibited on the trolleys.

Each of the trolleys have names that pay homage to the history of transportation on the Island. One is named Comet after the Coastal Discovery Museum's Marsh Tacky Horse, Comet, to reflect the role these rare breed animals played in transporting Islanders in the early days of Hilton Head Island. The second is named The Alligator, as a tribute to Island native Charlie Simmons, aka "Mr. Transportation," for his contribution to transportation before the bridge connected Hilton Head Island to the mainland. One of his freight boats was named the Alligator and was used to ferry goods and people between Hilton Head Island, Savannah, and other mainland areas.

Riders can pay \$1 cash (exact change only) as they board the trolley, or they can pay using BreezePASS, the trolley ticketing app. Children shorter than 43 inches - the height of the farebox - may ride free. Riders also may track the real-time location of the trolley and see the stops along the trolley route with the app, CatchTheBreeze. Both apps may be downloaded at www.breezetrolley.com.





Take in Arts & Culture Offerings Across Hilton Head Island

Looking for interesting things to do on Hilton Head Island?

If the answer is yes, you can find a full schedule of art, entertainment, history, and cultural activities at CultureHHI.org, the new website launched by the Town of Hilton Head Island's Office of Cultural Affairs. Designed to be your one-stop shop for all things arts & culture on the Island, this vivid website is jam packed with information. The CultureHHI calendar included on the site is the most comprehensive listing of events to date on the Island. One of the principal goals of the site is to support our local arts and culture community by getting the word out and demonstrating the great depth of assets that we have to offer on the Island. All artists, authors, photographers, musicians, and arts and culture organizations and businesses are invited to register on the site and create a page to promote what they have going on. The registration page can be found at www.culturehhi.org/register/



THE ARTIST'S GALLERY

Stay tuned for our announcement of the opening date for The Artist's Gallery at Town Hall, an initiative to celebrate the contributions made by Hilton Head Island's

art community to the Town. The Artist's Gallery will be a public forum to highlight local artists, creating a space to showcase their work and an opportunity for our Town to honor the important role arts play in the community. With the gallery set directly outside Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers on the administration hallway, visiting officials, employees, and citizens will experience a welcoming and diverse display of art and culture from Hilton Head Island artists.

The gallery is being presented in partnership with the Arts and Cultural Council of Hilton Head, and the opening is slated for the end of September in time for "Crescendo," a month long celebration of the arts on Hilton Head Island in October.

STAY CONNECTED

When you visit www.culturehhi.org, be sure to sign up for its mailing list to receive bi-weekly newsletters of events and feature articles about the interesting people and activities on Hilton Head Island.

PUBLIC ART EXHIBIT OPENS IN SEPTEMBER

Save the date for the opening of the Public Art Exhibit on September 27. The Public Art Exhibition on Hilton Head Island is a large-scale sculpture exhibition being held at the Coastal Discovery Museum on Honey Horn Plantation and produced in a partnership between the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry and the Town of Hilton Head Island. Nineteen artists from around the country will have their work installed on a one-mile trail at Honey Horn. This free exhibition is open to the public and will be on display through January 2019.

SAVE
THE DATE

Save the date for the opening of the Public Art Exhibit on September 27.

SNEAK PEEKS FROM THIS YEAR'S PUBLIC ART EXHIBIT.



CORAL STARDUST:

Elizabeth Y. Akamatsu

(American, b. 1959)

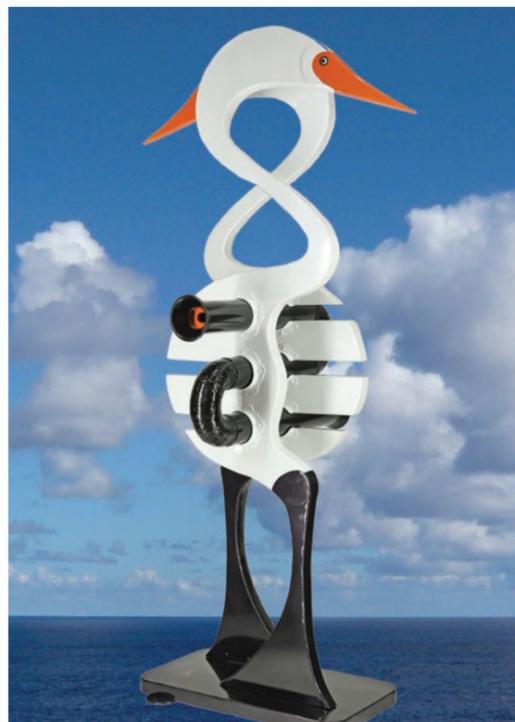
Lives and works in

Nacogdoches, TX

Coral Stardust, 2018

Powder coated and stainless steel
5'2" x 5'9" x 3'4"

► Elizabeth Y. Akamatsu's work is inspired by our natural world and her Japanese heritage. Coral Stardust reflects Akamatsu's recent inspiration in the geological rosette formation known as "the desert rose."



EGRETIOUS:

Mark Larkin (American, b. 1948)

Lives and works in

Hilton Head Island, SC

EGRETIOUS, 2017

Welded steel

9' x 4' x 4'8"

► Manipulating carbon steel to form shapes that become sculptures, EGRETIOUS' design creates a parallel relationship between two forms that resemble bird forms, and the work is informed by Larkin's admiration for natural beauty and life in the Lowcountry South.



PORTAL:

Christopher Weed

(American, b. 1963)

Lives and works in

Colorado Springs, CO

Portal, 2017

Steel with urethane finish
19' x 6' x 7'

► Portal overwhelms the observer with scale and sense of play. The intent is not to shock, but to inspire a sense of awe, transforming the viewer to another imaginary realm, if only for a brief moment.