

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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Mayor's Note



Mayor Laughlin

Before I introduce myself to you, I want to thank the man whose photo and article appeared here for the past ten years and who served as Mayor for 15 years, Tom Peeples. Tom's time as Mayor included a prolific period in the Town's short history with the acquisition of over a thousand acres of land, the development of award-winning parks and pathways, and numerous road and drainage improvements. Tom was quick to acknowledge that without the support of our residents and work of town councils throughout his tenure, none of these accomplishments would have been realized.

By way of introduction, I am a husband, a father, and local attorney. I am a lawyer with the firm of Laughlin & Bowen, P.C., which I co-founded in 1990. I represented Ward 3 on Hilton Head Island Town Council from November, 2003 until I became Mayor in December, 2010. I live in Spanish Wells Plantation with my wife, Jane, and we have four grown children.

Being elected as your Mayor is a humbling experience and honor, and I thank you for the confidence you have placed in me. Immediately after the election, I met with several mayoral candidates and solicited their support and service to the Town. The fact is, the election was close among 3 of us because our vision for the Island was a shared one with only shades of difference. Town Council recently conducted a 3 day strategic planning workshop that established our guiding principles, our goals through 2016 and our policy agenda/targets for action for 2011. Please see pages 2 and 3 of this edition for details. Many of the ideas expressed during the Town's recent council and mayoral campaign, and by the Mayor's Vision Task Force were discussed in detail at our workshop. There is nothing like a vigorous campaign

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that allows those seeking office to hear with clarity the direction residents want to take. If I had to sum up the message I received, it is this: WE as a community need to evolve in a manner that sees challenges as opportunities and is willing to take risks in the face of failure to achieve a quality of life befitting the expectations of residents and visitors.

Outside council chambers hangs a plaque dedicated to first Mayor, Ben Racusin. Ben said, at the first ever council meeting, the following: "We are now a town united in purpose, and that is to insure the health, wealth, and happiness of all the people of Hilton Head Island. It is with humility and singleness of direction that I, together with the newly elected council members, accept the challenges that have been given to us; to establish a sound and effective government; to insure the future well being of this Island, and its residents. We will make mistakes, you can count on that, but we hope the public will bear with us."

Truer words were never spoken.

Town Manager's Note



Steve Riley

Happy New Year to you! Once again our Island has been honored, this time, from *Conde Nast Traveler*. The magazine's reader poll selected Hilton Head Island as one of the top 10 islands in the country. But that's not all; Hilton Head Island has been selected to host the International Ecotourism Society conference this year as a result, in part, of our commitment to the environment. Hosting the conference here is a big

deal because of the international notoriety and attendees the conference attracts. Our congratulations to the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce for its effort to land the conference.

Residential recycling will begin April 1st this year as Council recently approved a 5 year franchise agreement for recycling and trash service with Republic Services. Our Island is known internationally for its natural resource protection and development measures. To complement that recognition, Council decided to start with a residential recycling program and consider commercial recycling in the near future. Here's how it works: First, recycling service and trash service is not mandatory; you may take your recyclables and trash to the Convenience Center at 26 Summit Drive, off Dillon Road if you like. If you decide to contract with Republic, it will pick-up your trash and recyclables at your service yard or wherever you currently place your receptacles. The basic service package will consist of trash pick-up 2 times per week and recycling 1 time per week. Additional service package options

are available upon request. Recycling service will be "single stream," which means that all acceptable recycling materials may be put in the same cart. For trash collection, you will be able to use your own trash receptacle or you can choose to use Republic's for \$3 per quarter. All customers who sign up for service will be provided a recycling container, free of charge. I encourage you to contact Republic at: www.republicserviceshiltonhead.com or call the company at: 681-6330 or e-mail: hiltonhead@republicservices.com. More recycling and trash collection information is found on page 4.

The Town will save \$2.87 million over 16 years by refinancing \$13.74 million in debt issued in 2002 for drainage improvements on the Island. This amounts to an annual savings of \$175,000. The Town enjoys the highest bond rating (AAA) of any municipality in the state and that classification is paying off big time. This is a credit to the financial policies initiated by the Town over the years.

2011 Town of Hilton Head Island Strategic Plan

Town of Hilton Head Island: Destination 2020 Guiding Principles

Living in Harmony with Nature, Protecting the Natural Beauty, and Creating a Unique Sense of Place
Sustaining Community Prosperity Through a Diversified, Strong Local Economy Based Upon Resort, Retirement, and Non-Hospitality Businesses
Providing Meaningful Experiences that Cherish our History, the Arts, Cultural Diversity, and Enrich the Lives of our Residents and Guests
Striving for Excellence in Everything We Plan, Build, Do, and Maintain
Providing a Serene, Safe, and Healthy Living Environment for Residents, Guests and Visitors
Working Together and Volunteering for the Greater Good of the Hilton Head Island Community

Town Council 2011 Policy Agenda: Targets for Action

Top Priority

Heritage Golf Tournament: Seek to Secure Its Long-Term Future
Technology Infrastructure: Evaluation and Direction of Town's Role
LMO: Amend to Foster Greater Flexibility, Simplicity, and Revitalization
Coligny Area Redevelopment: Conceptual Plan, Direction, and Town's Role
South Island Marina Dredging: Determine Town's Role and Funding
Redevelopment Authority/Community Development Corporation: Evaluation and Direction

High Priority

Economic Development Corporation: Evaluation
Mitchelville Development: Evaluate Business and Master Plan and Town's Role
Proactive Marketing Campaign and Program: Broaden Marketing of Island to Retirees and Businesses
Arts & Conference Center: Evaluate Citizen Committee Proposal and Town's Role
Shelter Cove Mall Redevelopment: Conceptual Plan, Direction, and Town's Role
Chaplin Linear Park and Boardwalk: Determine Project Priority for Funding and Develop Detailed Plans

Moderate Priority

Regional Coalition: Development
Regional Legislative Program and Regional Educational Opportunities
Shoreline Change Blue Ribbon Committee: Closely Monitor
Community Based Education Program on Environmental Stewardship
Fire Station #6 Direction
Law Enforcement Center: Seek to Acquire with County
Public Information Enhancement

Our Goals: 2016 & Beyond

Reinvigorate the Local Economy
Revitalize the Built Environment
Recognize the Importance of Regionalism
Re-establish Pre-eminence for Environmental Stewardship
Focus Town Government Service on Excellence and Core Service Values

Management Agenda 2011

Top Priority

Airport Issues: Follow up on Tree Issues and Masterplan Implementation
EcoTourism Conference: Work with Chamber
Habitat Housing Project: Evaluate Specific Proposal
Recreation Center Expansion: Evaluate Feasibility Study
Legislative Program
Stormwater Utility Needs and Agreements

High Priority

Business License Code: Evaluation and Direction
Bicycle Friendly Community: Seek Designation
Residential Recycling Development
Town Council Redistricting: Direction

Meet Our New Mayor

Mayor Drew Laughlin was born in McKeesport, Pennsylvania and raised in Fairfax County, Virginia and Honolulu, Hawaii. Drew Laughlin has lived on Hilton Head Island since 1977, and his wife, Jane has lived on the Island since 1981. They have four grown children and one grandchild. Drew and Jane currently reside in Spanish Wells Plantation.

Drew has a B.A. in economics from the University of Virginia and a law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Here are just a few of the contributions Mayor Laughlin has made to his profession, Town, and community:

Professional: Private practice of law with the firm of Laughlin & Bowen, P.C., which Drew co-founded in 1990.

Public Service: Drew represented Ward 3 on the Hilton Head Island Town Council from November 2003 until he became Mayor in December 2010. He is a former chairman of the Town's Planning Commission and Corridor Review Commission (now the Design Review Board), a past-president of the Hilton Head Plantation Property Owners' Association, and a former member of the Hilton Head No. 1 Public Service District Board of Commissioners.

Civic: Drew was a coach for the Hilton Head Dixie Youth Baseball League for five years.



Meet Our New Ward 4 Councilmember



Kim Likins has been a resident of Hilton Head Island for sixteen years. She and her husband Steve have two sons, Ben (15) and Alex (10). Kim is a 1983 graduate of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill with a double major in Communications and Public Relations. Prior to moving to the Island, she lived in Atlanta.

Kim was employed by McKesson Corporation, a Fortune 100 healthcare software development corporation, for twenty years. In 2003, after her retirement from McKesson, she formed a publishing company, *Island Friends, LLC*. In 2006, her company was named the Hilton Head Island SCORE New Business client of the year. She has authored and published two children's books whose setting was based in Hilton Head Island.

Kim was an original board member of an organization dedicated to opening an educational interactive Children's Museum for the families and visitors of Hilton Head Island. In 2005 the doors of The Sandbox Children's Museum opened with Kim serving as its first Executive Director. In addition to her ongoing involvement with The Sandbox, Kim currently serves as the Executive Director of Main Street Youth Theatre, another Hilton Head Island non-profit organization.

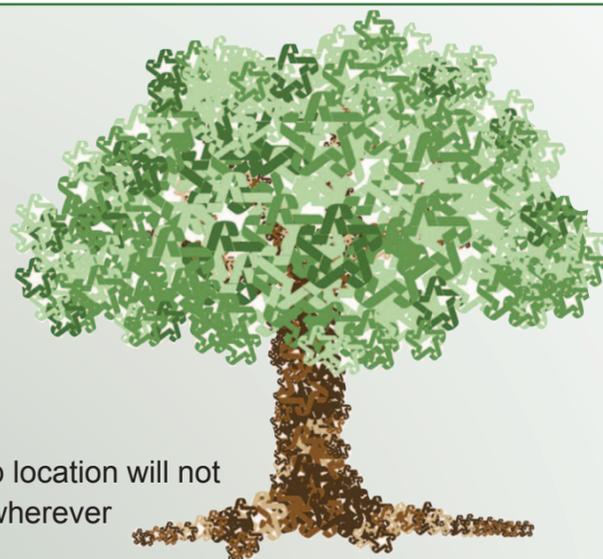
Kim is an active member of St. Andrew by the Sea United Methodist Church, serves on the Board of Directors of Hilton Head Christian Academy and is Chairman of the Board of The Sandbox Children's Museum.

Waste and Recycling

Republic Waste Services of Hilton Head is the new franchised residential waste and recycling hauler for the Town of Hilton Head Island starting April 1st, 2011. At this time, Republic is signing up customers for this new service and will be glad to begin service at an earlier date if needed.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Where will the hauler pick-up my waste and recyclables?** Your current pick-up location will not change. Republic will pick-up your trash and recyclables at your service yard or wherever you currently place your receptacles.
- **How will I report a missed pick-up or service issue?** Contact Republic at www.republicserviceshiltonhead.com or call them at 681-6330. This advanced reporting system will remedy the majority of service issues within 24 hours.
- **How do I know that prices are not going to go up next year?** The Town entered into a 5 year contract with Republic Services. This 5 year contract details all pricing for the entire term. The increase in costs are limited to a 2.25% gas escalation fee/year which is standard for all services of this type. The escalation fee will only apply to the base service fee, not to the add-on services such as waste cart rental or waste container liner.
- **What if I only reside on Hilton Head Island seasonally?** All residents can initiate service on a quarterly basis.
- **If I choose not to use Republic will I still be able to use the Beaufort County Convenience Center at 26 Summit Drive?** Yes, this drop-off center will remain open and available to receive waste and recycling for residents and visitors who choose to self-haul.
- **Does Republic automatically provide residential service to residents effective April 1, 2011?** No, because residents are given the option to self-haul their waste and recyclables, Republic must be contacted to initiate service.
- **What if I currently have a signed contract with another waste hauler?** Residential households which have signed contracts in place for waste or recycling collection services on April 1, 2011 shall have until their existing contract expires, OR until September 30, 2012, whichever date is earlier.
- **Are there any discounts available?** Yes, there is a 5% discount off the base service price for annual pre-payment and there is a 3% discount off the base price if you use paperless billing and payment using the collection services of Republic.



To initiate service, please visit www.republicserviceshiltonhead.com or phone 843-681-6330.

Email: hiltonhead@republicservices.com