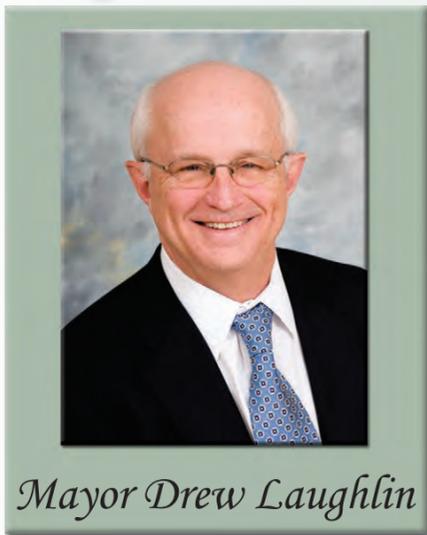


# Our Town

*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 Drew Laughlin

Town Council convened our annual Strategic Planning Workshop over 2 ½ days and the results are found on pages 2 and 3. This publicly held workshop was attended by media and residents and was conducted by a professional facilitator, Lyle Sumek. From my viewpoint, Town Council members did an outstanding job of focusing on adopting priorities that are affordable and doable in the near future. More importantly, our adopted priorities reflect the expectations of residents and are geared toward reinvigorating the Island. We are experiencing an Island momentum that we should all embrace and be proud of. The Town Council is flexing its authority

to make land management laws more flexible. The hospitality industry is undergoing close to \$100 million in improvements. Residents with relevant skill sets are: aiding the Town in developing an Economic Development Corporation; improving our permitting process; and improving telecommunications services to better serve the demand for residents and visitors to be technologically connected. Bottom line: our 3-legged stool of government, private sector, and citizen involvement is working to secure a better future.

We have two new Council members on board, John McCann and Marc Grant, who were sworn in a few months ago. They have hit the ground running and Council and I welcome their participation as we face some challenges and opportunities ahead. Please look at Council biographical information on page 4 and get to know your Council better. One of the items we will soon be deciding is the scope of our Economic Development Corporation. To me, the corporation ought

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to focus on a couple of targeted areas where we are likely to achieve needed results, and then allow the corporation to expand its reach. Stay tuned to this topic and let us know what you think.

Finally, the readers of Conde Nast voted to make Hilton Head Island 8th on a list of the top 10 Islands in the country. When you consider our list of competitors, that is a significant accolade and raises our international image. Our residents, business community, and town government have played a role in achieving this distinction.

## Town Manager's Note



Steve Riley

We have a lot to celebrate on Hilton Head Island, nearly every week. This year, for example, we will have one major celebration for residents. We will celebrate our Island's sighting 350 years ago by Captain William Hilton and we will be celebrating the 30th incorporation of the Town of Hilton Head Island. The Heritage Library approached us about half a year ago and volunteered to take charge of the 2

anniversaries. Islander Leslie Richardson has taken the lead and conducted dozens of meetings with countless Island organizations. These groups represent a cross section of our Island and have responded with great enthusiasm. The "350/30" Anniversary Celebration will be a week-long event from September 30 to October 5. The "350/30" organizers will be providing residents with details of the celebration week in the near future, and I think you will find their efforts extraordinary and unique, just like Hilton Head Island.

As Mayor Laughlin noted above, Town Council adopted several priorities for 2013 including what we refer to as the "Management Agenda" (see pages 2 and 3). Some of the Management Agenda priorities are being acted upon now e.g. the old Welcome Center has been authorized to be demolished, as it has seen better days (please note that visitors to the Island are still welcome!). The Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce determined



Mayor Laughlin has the honors in the ceremonial demolition of part of the Shelter Cove Mall

last year that as times have changed i.e. visitors and would-be visitors learn of Island amenities, lodging, retail, and hospitality by using smart phones and computers (internet) and are not likely to stop and visit a Welcome Center as much. The Center needed about \$500,000 in improvements to be an acceptable structure, but it was an old and tired building. We'll demolish it and allow a nice view of the marsh.

Finally, we are likely to begin the process of a year 2015 beach renourishment project soon. We will need to identify needed renourishment areas and begin the application permitting process. As has been the case in the past, we will devote a considerable amount of effort in keeping residents and the business community informed of the project.

# 2013 Town of Hilton Head Island Strategic Plan

## Town of Hilton Head Island: Destination 2028 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 2013 Policy Agenda: Targets for Action

### Top Priority

Economic Development Organization: Creation and Operation  
Coligny Area Development Projects: Direction and Funding  
Arts Collaboration: Framework and Strategy for Fostering Collaboration among Arts Organizations  
Arts Center of Coastal Carolina: Short-Term Financial Direction  
Chaplin Linear Park and Boardwalk: Development and Permitting

### High Priority

LMO Modifications  
Aging Office Buildings & Commercial Centers: Policy Direction and Town Tools  
Education Strategy: Identification of Needs and Direction  
Recreation Center Expansion: Direction on Future Phases  
Mainland Transportation Agreement: Dirt Road Policy Direction, Flyover Funding, and Future Town Acceptance of Private Roads Direction and Funding  
Solid Waste Contract: Direction

### Moderate Priority

Beaufort County Strategy: Issues, Positions, Dialogue  
Recreation Organization, Management and Performance Audit  
Commercial Recycling: Evaluation and Direction  
Land Acquisition Program: Policy Direction, Acquisitions, and Funding



## Our Goals: 2018 & Beyond

Positive Climate for Business Investment  
Town Government: Financially Sound, Excellent Services  
Enrich Lives of Residents and Guests  
Upgraded Public Infrastructure and Facilities  
Pre-eminence for Environmental Stewardship

## Management Agenda 2013

### Top Priority

Airport Issues: Resolution  
Reassessment and Tax Rate Limitations: Direction and Public Information  
Shelter Cove Area Public Projects: Construction  
Tax Increment Financing District: Study Extension

### High Priority

Employee Compensation and Benefits: Review and Direction  
Posting of Quarterly Financial Reports Online: Purpose, Method, and Funding  
Beach Renourishment (2015): Scoping, Designing and Permitting  
Old Welcome Center Building: Direction

# Getting to Know Your Town Council



**Drew Laughlin**  
Mayor  
2010-Present  
Town Council  
2003-2010

**Spouse:** Jane **Married:** 12 years  
**Children:** 4; 2 grandchildren  
**Place of Birth:** McKeesport, Pennsylvania  
**Years on the Island:** 35 years  
**Hobbies and Interests:** Jazz music, baseball, family, reading and good cigars  
**Education:** BA in Economics from the University of Virginia and a law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law  
**Professional Background:** Private practice of law with the firm of Laughlin & Bowen, P.C., which I co-founded in 1990  
**Civic Background:** Coach for the Hilton Head Dixie Youth Baseball League for five years, Town Corridor Review Commission, Town Planning Commission, Hilton Head Plantation POA Board of Directors, Hilton Head No. 1 PSD Board of Commissions and Town Council



**Marc A. Grant**  
Ward 1 Councilman  
2012-Present

**Spouse:** Wanda Grant **Married:** 12 years  
**Children:** 3 children  
**Place of Birth:** Trenton, New Jersey  
**Years on the Island:** 25 years  
**Hobbies and Interests:** Tennis and Golf  
**Education:** Masters of Educational Leadership  
**Professional Background:** Self-Employed – Grant's Mini Market  
**Other Affiliations:** Member of Queen Chapel A.M.E. Church



**William D. Harkins**  
Mayor Pro-Tempore  
Ward 2 Councilman  
2009-Present

**Spouse:** Mary Ellen **Married:** 45 years  
**Children:** 3; 4 grandchildren  
**Place of Birth:** Hartford, Connecticut  
**Years on the Island:** 10 years  
**Hobbies and Interests:** Boating, Tennis, Skiing, Reading  
**Education:** BA in Political Science, Providence College, MPH, Yale University  
**Professional Background:** Healthcare CEO/35+ years  
**Civic Background:** Town Council, Rotary, Greater Island Council  
**Other Affiliations:** Member of St. Francis Catholic Church  
**Item of Interest:** I like to garden. I have a vegetable plot that I enjoy working in. I also maintain my own yard.



**Lee Edwards**  
Ward 3 Councilman  
2011-Present

**Spouse:** Rebecca **Married:** 10 years this fall  
**Children:** 3 daughters  
**Place of Birth:** Greensboro, North Carolina  
**Years on the Island:** 40 years  
**Hobbies and Interests:** Surfing, Sailing and Hunting  
**Education:** BA History with a minor in English, Tulane University  
**Professional Background:** President/CEO of The Greenery Inc.  
**Item of Interest:** I am a licensed U.S. Coast Guard captain. I plan to sail my boat around the world.



**Kimberly W. Likins**  
Ward 4 Councilwoman  
2010-Present

**Spouse:** Steve Likins **Married:** 18 years  
**Children:** 2 children  
**Place of Birth:** Salisbury, North Carolina  
**Years on the Island:** 18 years  
**Hobbies and Interests:** Spending time with my family, watching my kids play sports and traveling  
**Education:** University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Double Major in Public Relations /Communications  
**Professional Background:** 20 Years – McKesson Corporation, Management and Executive Sales, Writer and Publisher of 2 Children's Books, 7 years in Non-profit, Currently the Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Hilton Head Island  
**Civic Background:** First Term on Town Council  
**Other Affiliations:** Chairman of the Board of Hilton Head Christian Academy, member of the Greater Island Council, member of St. Andrew by the Sea United Methodist Church  
**Item of Interest:** I met my husband while vacationing on Hilton Head Island!



**George W. Williams, Jr.**  
Ward 5 Councilman  
2001-Present

**Spouse:** Carol **Married:** 50 years  
**Children:** 2 daughters; 4 grandchildren  
**Place of Birth:** Lancaster, South Carolina  
**Years on the Island:** 17 years  
**Hobbies and Interests:** Fishing, Kayaking, Beachcombing and entertaining grandchildren  
**Education:** Bachelors in Electrical Engineering from University of Louisville, KY; Registered Professional Engineer-Texas  
**Professional Background:** 30 Years – Mobil Oil Corporation in the area of oil transportation and distribution  
**Civic Background:** Presently on Board of Sea Pines South Beach Owners Association (President) and Braddock Cove Home owners Association  
**Other Affiliations:** Coached girls soccer, worked on local community associations and was an active member of various business-related organizations.



**John J. McCann**  
Ward 6 Councilman  
2012-Present

**Spouse:** Valerie L. **Married:** 17 years  
**Children:** 3 children; 2 grandchildren  
**Place of Birth:** Brooklyn, New York  
**Years on the Island:** 13 years; 18 previous years as Guest/Vacation  
**Hobbies and Interests:** Beach, Family/Friends, Travel, MLB **Education:** BS Thomas A. Edison State College  
**Professional Background:** Retired Chairman/CEO Bridge Trading, a Reuters Co.; 44 year career in the financial service industry  
**Civic Background:** Six years Town of Hilton Head Island Parks and Recreation Commission, two years as Chairman; five years Port Royal Plantation Landowners Association, three years as President; Member of the Greater Island Council of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton; Member of World Affairs Council  
**Other Affiliations:** Current Chairman Technical College of the LowCountry Foundation Board; ten years Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board, five years Chair of the "Investing in Performance" campaign; Guest Financial Services Instructor Lincoln High School honors classes and at Brookdale Community College; board member American Ireland Foundation; four term President of the SIA Credit Division; member SIA Operations Committee; NASD Arbitrator; baseball coach Great Kills Athletic Club; baseball/basketball coach Athletic Club; basketball coach mentally challenged children Goodhue Community Center  
**Item of Interest:** Avid New York Yankee baseball fan.