



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 JOHN J. MCCANN

Town Council Workshop Puts Priorities in Place

"You hit home runs not by chance, but by preparation."—Roger Maris
 This past December, my fellow Town Council members and I undertook the Town's annual planning workshop process to discuss our goals and objectives for 2019.

During this two-day session facilitated by Patrick Ibarra of the Mejorado Group, a fantastic exchange of thoughts and ideas took place amongst the members of Town Council and included a great deal of commentary and feedback from members of the public as well. I am proud of the work that was done by the Council as it exemplified how people from various backgrounds

and differing geographic areas of our Town can come together to chart a unified course of action on where we should be heading as a community.

To that end, we agreed upon three mission statements:

- *Protect and enhance our Island's community character, quality of life and environment.*
- *Create or cause to be created a social, political and economic environment that stimulates the right kind of private investment.*
- *Efficiently and effectively provide the appropriate level of governmental services and facilities.*

The Town Council also identified several areas of focus where we expect to see significant levels of progress or support from the Town and its staff this year. These areas are the Lowcountry Celebration Park and Coligny Area Redevelopment Initiative, the U.S.

278 Corridor Project, Mitchelville and Gullah Geechee Cultural Preservation, the Comprehensive Plan Update, including a master plan for parks and recreation, and Workforce Development. For each of these areas, we have tasked Town Manager Steve Riley with developing a more specific set of project goals and milestones that he believes can be reasonably accomplished this year. We are expecting him to present this detailed proposal at a Town Council meeting in March. At that time, the Town Council will review this report and formally adopt its recommendations.

As a direct result of this preparation and advance planning, there is no doubt in my mind that the Town will hit a proverbial grand slam in accomplishing its goals of transparency, fiscal accountability and increased vibrancy of the community we all call home.

Town Manager's Update



STEVE RILEY

New USCB and Island Rec Center Campuses Expand Community Offerings

The past several months have been a particularly exciting time on Hilton Head Island. We have seen the completion of two new facilities that will have long-lasting and positive impacts on our community.

The first of those two community facilities is the new University of South Carolina Beaufort's Hilton Head Island campus that houses the University's Hospitality Management program. This \$25 million dollar redevelopment project brought a much needed investment and facelift to help reinvigorate the area. It is now becoming an incredibly vibrant area where students, lifelong learning enthusiasts, and members of the general public can gather to savor some of the more interesting food and drink creations that will be prepared in the school's two kitchen

and beverage demonstration areas. Additionally, in the state-of-the-art classrooms, students will learn how to successfully prepare for careers in the hotel, restaurant and tourism industry, which is the backbone of most economic activity on Hilton Head Island.



The other community facility that recently completed a renovation and expansion project is the Island Rec Center on Wilborn Road. This undertaking, the first of its kind for the Island Rec program since the original building was built in 1987, more than doubles the original facility's footprint from 14,000 square feet to over 36,000 square feet. This expansion included two basketball gyms, an elevated walking and running track, cardio and other fitness machines, classroom spaces for afterschool care programs and community meeting rooms.

This \$14 million dollar investment by the Town and local philanthropic organizations represents a renewed opportunity for Hilton Head Island residents to interact and connect with one another while engaging in healthy activities. According to the National Recreation and Park Association, substantially increasing a community's access to places for physical activity has shown to result in a 25 percent increase in the number of individuals who exercise three or more days a week. With this increased access, the Town and its partners are hopeful that residents and visitors will continue to engage in healthy activities that improve their overall well-being.

As Winston Churchill famously stated, "healthy citizens are the greatest asset any country can have."



FAST FACT: Sand Shark Drive is the name of the road for the new University of South Carolina Beaufort's Hilton Head Island Campus. The Sand Shark is the University's mascot.

Meet Our U.S. 278 Gateway Corridor Committee



With the recent adoption of a resolution calling for the formation of the Hilton Head Island U.S. 278 Gateway Corridor Committee, the Hilton Head Island Town Council formally appointed 13 local citizens to serve on the advisory panel.

The committee will work with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), which is planning roadway improvements along U.S. 278 from the intersection of Moss Creek Drive to the intersection of Spanish Wells Road. This will include the eastbound bridge crossing Mackay Creek to Hilton Head Island, which the SCDOT has deemed as structurally deficient, and the other three bridges crossing Mackay Creek and the Intracoastal Waterway.

"This is a major project that will have considerable impact on the environment, the communities situated along the area slated for improvement and the Island as a whole," said John J. McCann, the Mayor of Hilton Head Island. "We have heard about potential effects from families, businesses and other Island residents. We felt strongly that we needed a way for the community to be involved, and this committee will help fulfill that role."

According to its charter, the committee will work cooperatively with the SCDOT to gather information, obtain and provide citizen input into the environmental process, and make recommendations to Town Council regarding the U.S. 278 environmental assessment and design alternatives. The environmental assessment process is the first step in the project and will identify various alternative treatments for this crossing; evaluate the environmental, cultural and social impacts of each alternative; and develop a recommended alternative.

This committee is representative of families in the historic Stoney community, located along U.S. 278 in the proposed project zone, and area businesses. It consists of individuals with vast experience in transportation, planning and the environment.



DAVID C. JOHNSON JR., CHAIRMAN

David is an investor and entrepreneur with 40 years of experience in asset management. He is a partner with Speyside Partners. He spearheaded Citizens for Better Roads and Bridges and is a member of the Greater Island Council Regional Committee, the Savannah Music Festival Board of Trustees and the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation Board of Trustees. He has lived on Hilton Head Island for two years.



FRANK BABEL

Frank is a former executive with 32 years of experience in finance, marketing, sales and other areas of business. He is co-chairman of the Hilton Head Island Bicycle Advisory Committee and serves on the Greater Island Council Transportation Committee and the Sea Pines Leisure Trails Safety Committee. Frank has lived on Hilton Head Island for 14 years.



ALEXANDER BROWN JR

Alex, a native of Hilton Head Island, is vice president of operations for Resort Retail Operations Inc. He has

Photo courtesy of Mike Kitterbeck

more than 20 years of experience in business and community involvement. He is chairman of the Town's Planning Commission. He serves on the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee and the I.W. Wilborn Jr. Scholarship Golf Classic Committee. He coaches basketball at Hilton Head Island High School and is a member of Central Oak Grove Baptist Church.



TOM Z. CREWS

Tom is an architect with more than 32 years of experience with local project design and coordination. He is currently a consultant for the Court Atkins Group. Tom is a board member of the Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance & Motoring Festival, the Windmill Harbour Property Owners Association, and the architectural review boards for Palmetto Hall, Sea Pines and Spanish Pointe. He has served on numerous Town committees including the Comprehensive Plan Committee, the Land Management Ordinance Rewrite Committee and the Planning Commission.



JERRY W. CUTRER

Jerry, a Hilton Head Island resident for 16 years, has more than 40 years of experience as a municipal finance professional. He is currently vice president of the Town's Board of Zoning Appeals and is a member of the Greater Island Council. He served on the board of directors for the Hilton Head Plantation Property Owners' Association and was a former city councilman in Roswell, Georgia.



J. CRAIG FORREST

Craig has more than 40 years of experience in transportation, including working at the Maryland Department of Transportation. He is a former director of transportation planning for Baltimore County in Maryland. He was involved with the Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority, the Greater Island Council and Sun City Hilton Head's Government and Business Committee. Craig currently serves on the Beaufort County Transportation Committee.



MARC A. GRANT

Marc is a Hilton Head Island Town Councilman and will serve as an ex-officio member of the committee. He is a native of Hilton Head Island and has a background in education and business. Marc is self-employed with Grant's Mini Market and has served on the Town Council since 2012. He is a member of Queen Chapel A.M.E. Church.



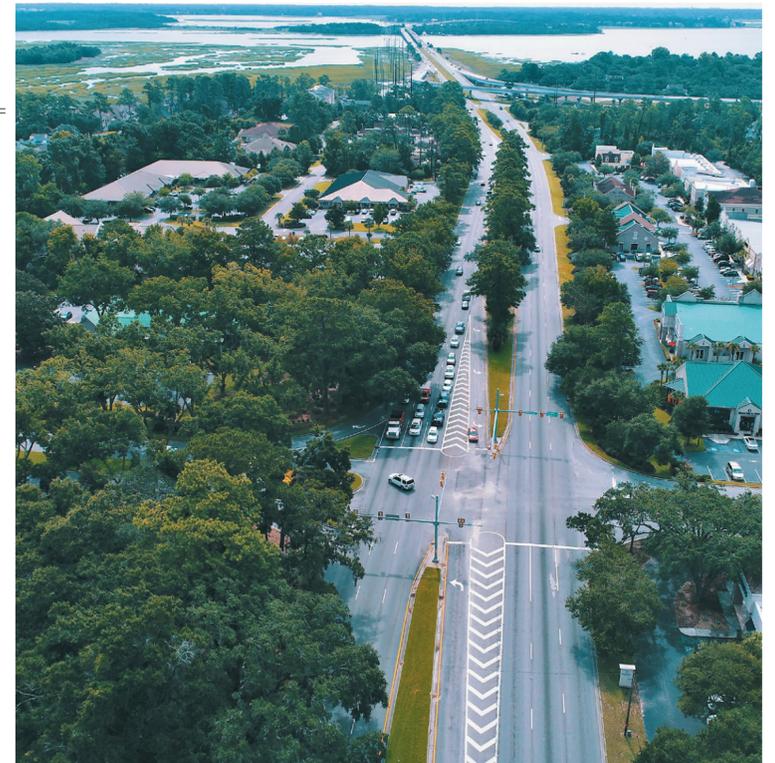
HANNAH HORNE

Hannah is a five-year resident of Hilton Head Island. She is a former news reporter and producer, and is currently vice president of public policy and programs with the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce. She is affiliated with Providence Presbyterian Church.



DAVID T. LUNKA

David has worked in the field of construction as a general contractor, developer and consultant for nearly 40 years. He is a dispute resident advisor for the Ohio Department of Transportation. David has lived on Hilton Head Island for five years and is a board member for the Paddocks development on Hilton Head Island.



THOMAS D. PEEPLES

Tom formerly served as Mayor of Hilton Head Island for 15 years and as a Town Council member for six years. He has lived on Hilton Head Island for 45 years and is the owner of Tom Peebles Builder. He has been involved with the Coastal Discovery Museum, the Homebuilders Association of Hilton Head Island and the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce.



JOHN TAYLOR

John is an economist who has lived on Hilton Head Island for three years. He has worked as a regulatory consultant and expert witness for utilities in North America. He brings experience as a national leader for Sierra Club outings. He is owner of Birdie James Boutique, a principal consultant with Black & Veatch, and a sales director for Nova Data Testing.



BRENDAN REILLEY

Brendan is a Hilton Head Island native and restaurateur who is self-employed with Coastal Restaurant and Bars. He is on the board of the South Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association and is involved with People for Parks.



KYLE H. THEODORE

Kyle, a 20-year resident of Hilton Head Island, is a landscape architect and principal with Wood & Partners Inc. She is a member of the Town's Design Review Board and the Island Recreation Association Board of Directors. She previously served on the Hilton Head Island Mayor's Circle to Circle Committee and is a member of First Presbyterian Church.

Sign up on the Town's website (hiltonheadislandsc.gov) to receive notices and updates about the committee's meetings and work.

Prepare to Pay



This past November, Beaufort County voters approved a 1-percent sales tax that would fund installation and repair of roads, bridges and sidewalks in the county. Improvements are slated for U.S. 278 between Moss Creek and Squire Pope Road on Hilton Head Island. The tax, which the South Carolina Department of Revenue will collect from merchants, is expected to generate \$120 million. It will be collected over a four-year period, starting May 1, or until the designated amount is reached.



Workforce Housing Study Process Sheds Light on Island's Housing Dilemma

Three out of five workers on Hilton Head Island make a daily commute to their jobs at restaurants, schools, doctors' offices, grocery stores and other settings. More than 6,500 households on Hilton Head Island face a challenge paying their living expenses, and thousands of other working households cannot afford housing on the Island.

These are some of the facts that Lisa Sturtevant, a housing consultant hired by the Town of Hilton Head Island, has uncovered and will use to develop tools and strategies for expanding workforce housing options on the Island. The pursuit of workforce housing is a critical part of workforce development, which the Town Council adopted as a key priority for 2018 and is keeping among its list of priorities to focus on in 2019. "Those tools and strategies will be our roadmap of steps we can take to enhance workforce on the Island," said Jennifer Ray, Planning and Special Projects Manager for the Town.



LISA STURTEVANT

Ray said Town staff worked with the Town Council and its Public Planning Committee to identify initial policy direction including housing types, the role of the Town in delivering workforce housing, participation in regional efforts and priorities for redevelopment. "We researched best practices from similar communities around the country and sponsored a workshop at Town Hall with housing experts in conjunction with our local chamber's Unite Summit," Ray said. This initial work ultimately led to the hiring of Lisa Sturtevant and Associates LLC (LSA) last August to prepare an Affordable Workforce Housing Strategic Plan.

Since that time, Sturtevant and her team has presented an assessment of workforce housing needs on Hilton Head Island and has conducted focus group meetings with resort and restaurant employers, developers and realtors, housing advocates, gated communities, the Gullah Geechee community, employees, and anchor institutions. LSA is currently finalizing a Review of Best Practices: Tools and Strategies for Expanding Workforce Housing Options. Following additional public input, the team will prepare a strategy toolkit and implementation framework. The strategic plan is scheduled to be completed in April 2019.



Preserving Hilton Head Island's Gullah Geechee Culture

More than 100 residents, including Gullah Geechee descendants, have had a say in how to protect the Gullah culture on Hilton Head Island.

As part of the Town of Hilton Head Island's Gullah Geechee Cultural Preservation Project, local citizens have expressed concerns about heirs' property, barriers to development, protecting the culture, paying taxes, and navigating Town codes and policies. "There are many issues that affect the Island's historic Gullah communities, so I'm glad that the Town has taken steps to help address them," said Lavon Stevens, a member of the Town's Planning Commission and chair of its Gullah Geechee Land and Cultural Preservation Task Force.

Two years ago, the Town Council identified Gullah preservation as one of its top priorities. Last fall, the Town hired The Walker Collaborative, a consulting firm based in Nashville, Tennessee, to help drill down on issues the community faces and draft sustainable solutions for concerns residents have brought forth. The consultants held several community sessions to gather input and plan to present recommendations in the coming weeks.

The Town's historic Gullah Geechee neighborhoods include Big Stoney, Little Stoney, Squire Pope, Jarvis, Jonesville, Old House Creek, Spanish Wells, Gardner, Marshland, Chaplin, Grassland, Big Hill, Baygall, and Mitchelville. Signs have been installed to help mark the locations of most of these neighborhoods.

To follow this initiative, visit hiltonheadislandsc.gov and sign up to receive notifications.

Meet Tamara Becker

Hilton Head Island's Newest Town Council Member

Tamara Becker is Hilton Head Island's newest Town Council member. Elected in November 2018, she filled the Ward 4 seat vacated by former Town Councilwoman Kim Likins.

Prior to becoming a Town Councilwoman, Becker, a Bradley Circle resident, vocalized her concerns on various issues at Town Council meetings. She became interested in serving on Town Council after experiencing changes in her neighborhood. Now, as a member of the Town's governing body, Becker said her goal is to ensure Hilton Head Island retains and remains the unique, environmentally sensitive and safe place to live, visit and work that its reputation has been built on from conception.

"As a council member, I intend to listen carefully, work with full transparency and vote with a personal understanding of the full impact and consequences of choices and votes taken that affect the entire Island - gated and ungated, from south to north. I intend to be informed, thoughtful and patient in my votes," Becker said.

FAMILY: Dale Becker, Husband; 3 children - Chris (Ann), Elizabeth (David), and Katharine (Phill); 5 grandchildren and 4 amazing rescue pups.

YEARS ON HILTON HEAD ISLAND: 10

HOBBIES: Enjoys spending time with family, working in the yard and gardens, art and reading

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Arts, Psychology and Political Science; Master of Arts, Counseling; Certification in Criminology and Teaching

CAREER: Director of Youth and Family Services, Teacher, Manager-Teacher of Higher Education Continuing Education Program, Program Director of Statewide Teacher Prep Program, College of Education Grant Manager

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT: Served on a Board of Education and Economic Development Committee in New Jersey.

FAVORITE SPOT ON HILTON HEAD ISLAND: "My favorite spot is with my family wherever we are. We enjoy our home and always enjoy as much of all Hilton Head Island offers as we can."

FAVORITE INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." -John 3:16

Town's Facilities Management Team Keeps Town in Top Shape



One of the busiest departments at the Town of Hilton Head Island is the Facilities Management Division. As a team of 13 employees, Facilities Management responds to more than 5,000 requests for service annually from residents and Town staff.

"These calls can range from fixing lights to repairing boardwalks. We have to be ready to respond at a moment's notice. We're on call seven days a week," said Julian Walls, manager of Facilities Management. Walls oversees the team, which is comprised of an assistant facilities manager, a maintenance supervisor, eight facilities technicians, a business coordinator and a business assistant. The division manages contracts for landscaping, litter control, janitorial services, HVAC maintenance, beach operations, water feature maintenance, holiday lighting and more.

In addition to responding to calls, the Facilities Management team is tasked with maintaining more than 20 parks and 64 miles of pathways, and takes care of buildings and grounds at Town Hall at One Town Center Court, Fire Rescue Headquarters at Summit Drive, the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office on Shelter Cove Lane, and seven fire stations around the Island.

Thousands of visitors and residents



"THESE CALLS CAN RANGE FROM FIXING LIGHTS TO REPAIRING BOARDWALKS. WE HAVE TO BE READY TO RESPOND AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE. WE'RE ON CALL SEVEN DAYS A WEEK," SAID JULIAN WALLS

come to the Town's beach parks and use the pathways winding around the Island. To keep these amenities in top shape, facilities technicians are assigned to check on certain properties each day and address any issues they find. This may include painting signs, making minor carpentry repairs, replacing decks, blowing debris off pathways, and emptying trash cans. They also collect money from meters at the beach parks.

When decisions are made to evacuate the Island due to hurricanes, as has happened over the past three years, facilities technicians have to be on-call to assist as needed, and to secure and assess Town property. At other times, you may see facilities technicians picking up litter, power washing Town properties, setting up and breaking down chairs and tables for meetings at Town Hall, and checking property lights at night to ensure they work.

Walls and Alice Derian, assistant facilities manager, also serve as project managers for various Town initiatives. Most recently, they provided project management for the new kayak launch at the Rowing and Sailing Center on Squire Pope Road and the Island Recreation Center's Enhancement Project, which included upgrades to the existing gymnasium, office areas, class rooms and toilets. The project also included construction of a full size gymnasium with retractable bleachers, community and fitness rooms, a running track and exercise areas, pool office and storage buildings, and other offices.

"What makes us special is the balancing act that everyone in our division carries out daily to meet a very wide variety of needs," Derian



said. "All of our positions in the division require us to continually evaluate and adjust our schedules and priorities, and respond to whatever issue arises."

How to reach Facilities Management

Call 843-342-4580 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Catch the Breeze Trolley Starting in March

Palmetto Breeze's "The Breeze Trolley" will resume service on Friday, **March 15, 2019** with new operating hours: 12 p.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday; and 12 p.m. to 12 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The fare is \$1 per passenger per ride; children shorter than the height of the fare box ride for free. The service will operate every day until October 15, 2019. Visit our website for more information on riding the trolley and an updated schedule of routes.

How to get a Beach Parking Pass

Beach parking passes are issued to individuals who live or own property within Town limits. Beach parking passes for 2019-2020 are \$30 and are valid until December 31, 2020. Applications and information can be found on-line at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov. The beach parking passes can be purchased at Facilities Management, 12A Gateway Circle, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



CHANTELLE RYTTER, ARTIST AND FOUNDER OF THE ATLANTA BELTLINE LANTERN PARADE

Community Art Engagement at Center of Culture and Arts Events

The Office of Cultural Affairs started off 2019 with a bang and has several exciting events planned through the year.

We started the year with a great partnership with the Island Recreation Association. To celebrate the opening of the new Carmines Recreation Building at the Island Rec Center,



LOCAL ARTIST
LAUREN ANDREU

local artist Lauren Andreu designed a mural paying tribute to historic peacemakers for the community room. In a paint-by-numbers style event, our community painted the mural. "Artists" of all ages picked up paint brushes and contributed their own special touch to this beautiful work of art covering the walls of the community room.

A second community art making project takes place at the Island Rec Center in late February and early March. Sponsored by the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, local artist Stella-lee Anderson will be leading a tapestry art project weaving ecology, history and art together. The project is dedicated to endangered and extinct plant and animal life from the coastal waters of South Carolina.



There will be free lectures and art making classes for the public. The final result will be a large-scale tapestry that will be hung in the new Carmines Recreation Building for all to enjoy.

February marked the 23rd Hilton Head Island Gullah Celebration. This month-long festival will close out soon, but you still have time to get out to remaining events and take in great art, music, food and history. You can find more event details at gullahcelebration.com.

In November, we will launch our first Hilton Head Island Lantern Parade. Chantelle Rytter, artist and founder of the Atlanta Beltline Lantern Parade, was inspired to create this new genre public art concept by the total inclusivity of the community lantern parades of the British Isles, and the striking large scale light sculptures of Asia and Australia. She believes creative play is a gift that you give your community; lantern parades based in public participation is her favorite focus. Holding up a light is a universal gesture of faith and support and a symbol of community around the world. Our lantern parade will include a week of lantern making workshops with partner organizations on the Island. If your organization is interested in hosting a lantern making workshop during the last week of October or first week of November, please contact our Office of Cultural Affairs at 843-341-4703.

Lastly, don't forget to check out our municipal art gallery during your next visit to Town Hall. Works by some great local artists are on display.



SAVE THE DATES

- **Now - March 4, 2019.** Each Monday, lead artist Stella-lee Anderson will work to assemble tapestry art project at the Island Rec Center, 20 Wilborn Road.
- **March 8, 2019 - Noon.** New Genre Public Art Lecture by award winning artist Chantelle Rytter at the USCB Hilton Head Island Campus, One Sand Shark Drive. Attendees may bring their own bag lunch.
- **March 11, 2019 - 10:30 a.m.** Adult Indigo Presentation and Tye-Dye Workshop with artist Elizabeth Pinkney at the Island Rec Center, 20 Wilborn Road.
- **April 19, 2019 - 1-4 p.m.** Free Junk Art Workshop with artist Stella-lee Anderson and author Miho Kinnas. Free drop-in for all ages but adults must accompany and help children. Junk and crafting supplies provided. People are encouraged to bring their own clean unrecyclable trash such as CDs/DVDs, corks, straws, plastic utensils, bottle caps, ribbon, string, twistie ties, soup cans, chopsticks, fabric scraps, old board game pieces, fruit mesh bags, etc.

All of these events are free but if you plan to attend, please register in advance at CultureHHI.org.