



# Town of Hilton Head Island **TOWN MANAGER UPDATE**

**An Update from Deputy Town Manager Josh Gruber  
4/9/2021**

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

Here's an update on what's happening around Town:

## **The Breeze Trolley Service Starts April 10; New Season Includes New Route and Is Fare-Free for Riders**

Another season of the Breeze Trolley service starts this Saturday, April 10, on Hilton Head Island with the new Mid-Island Route and the existing South Island Route. And the best thing of all – routes are fare-free for all passengers for the entire season.

The existing trolley route, referred to as the “**South Island Route**,” will follow the same service hours, routing, and stops as last year using two trolleys each day. The new “**Mid-Island Route**” will use one trolley and will serve portions of William Hilton Parkway, Folly Field Road, and Shelter Cove Lane. The service will run 1 p.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, and 1 p.m. to midnight, Fridays and Saturdays, reaching each stop approximately every 30 minutes.

More information can be found at [www.breezetrolley.com](http://www.breezetrolley.com). To continue to contain the spread of COVID-19, The Breeze will be following a number of safety precautions including frequent cleaning and disinfecting of the trolleys and encouraging social distancing. In accordance with local mandates, passengers are required to wear face coverings.

## **Shari Mendrick, Town's Floodplain Administrator, Named S.C. Floodplain Manager of the Year**

We have the best floodplain manager in the state! Congratulations to our very own Shari Mendrick, the Town's Floodplain Administrator, on being named Floodplain Manager of the Year by the South Carolina Association for Hazard Mitigation. Shari was recognized by her peers for her outstanding dedication to floodplain management activities locally and across South Carolina. Thank you, Shari! We are so proud of you.

## **2021 Accommodations Tax Out-of-Cycle Grants**

Hilton Head Island non-profit organizations that have urgent or emergent needs may apply for out-of-cycle Accommodations Tax grants. The Town has nearly \$381,000 in accommodations tax funds to award. In December 2020, when it issued 2021 grants, the Town's Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee recommended this surplus of funds be put aside until it was needed.



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Per state law, the funds must be used for tourism-related expenditures. Applicants must describe how their urgent or emergent event or project either drives tourism to Hilton Head Island or enhances the visitor experience. Applicants may begin submitting their requests electronically at 8 a.m., Monday, April 26, to Cindaia Ervin, Finance Assistant, at [cindaiae@hiltonheadislandsc.gov](mailto:cindaiae@hiltonheadislandsc.gov). The deadline for submission is Friday, May 7.

For a complete list of submission criteria, please visit our website at [hiltonheadislandsc.gov/atax](http://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/atax) or contact Ms. Ervin at [cindaiae@hiltonheadislandsc.gov](mailto:cindaiae@hiltonheadislandsc.gov) or at (843) 341-4646.

## South Carolina's COVID-19 Update

Dr. Jane Kelly, assistant epidemiologist with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), shared the latest update on COVID-19 with us this week.

- After nine weeks of a steadily decreasing trend in new cases, we are starting to plateau. Don't let down your guard just yet! We don't want a surge like some other states are experiencing.
- Everyone age 16 and up is eligible for vaccines.
- On a survey, some younger people are saying they don't think they need to get vaccinated.
- The fastest way for things to return to normal is for everybody age 16 and older to get vaccinated. Look for a vaccine appointment by visiting:
  - 1) [Vaxlocator.dhec.sc.gov](http://Vaxlocator.dhec.sc.gov)
  - 2) [CVAS.dhec.sc.gov](http://CVAS.dhec.sc.gov)

## Where to Get a COVID-19 Vaccination

Hilton Head Hospital and Coastal Carolina Hospital are operating their vaccine clinics Wednesday thru Friday at the Buckwalter Recreation Center, 905 Buckwalter Parkway in Bluffton. If you prefer to get your vaccines at locations on the Island, please check the South Carolina DHEC website at [scdhec.gov/vaxlocator](http://scdhec.gov/vaxlocator) for a complete list of pharmacies that are offering vaccines to eligible persons. You may also call DHEC's COVID-19 Vaccine Information Line at 1-866-365-8110 for help.

## Where to Get a COVID-19 Test

Hilton Head Hospital and Coastal Carolina Hospital are now only offering drive-thru COVID-19 testing from 8 a.m. to noon on Mondays and Thursdays. Testing is completed with or without a physician's order and at no charge to participants.

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control is offering drive-thru COVID-19 testing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at Tanger Outlets 2 in Bluffton. No appointment or doctor's order is needed.

## Where to Find More Information on COVID-19



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For more COVID-19 information, please visit our COVID-19 Hub page at [hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19](https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19) . There you can find links to information DHEC has compiled about COVID-19 cases, vaccines, the state's vaccine distribution plan, and the vaccine locator map. You can also find information on community resources.

### **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Offers Financial Help to Families**

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families, and FEMA would like to help ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the virus. Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. If you had COVID-19 funeral expenses, FEMA encourages you to keep and gather documentation such as an official death certificate; funeral expenses documents and proof of funds received from other sources specifically for use toward funeral costs.

FEMA will begin accepting applications on April 12, 2021. To learn more visit [www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance](https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance), or call the COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line Number between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. (central time) Monday – Friday at **844-684-6333** | TTY: **800-462-7585**.

FEMA has received reports of scammers reaching out to people offering to register them for funeral assistance. FEMA has not sent any such notifications and does not contact people prior to them registering for assistance.