



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

**An Update from Deputy Town Manager Josh Gruber
12/11/2020**

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

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

Celebration Park

It's Friday. As we head into the weekend, we hope you will take a moment to head down to our new Lowcountry Celebration Park, which officially opened on yesterday. Thank you to everyone who watched our virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony video and shared positive feedback. We're excited about this new park and all the memories you and your families and friends will be able to create here for years to come. For more park info, visit hiltonheadislandsc.gov.

Applications for Hilton Head Island Beach Parking Passes

In the interest of public health concerns related to COVID-19, the Town of Hilton Head Island is requesting that applications for 2021-2022 beach parking passes be mailed to or dropped off at a collection box at its Facility Management office at 12A Gateway Circle, effective Monday, December 14th.

The collection box will be located in front of the building. You may obtain an application for a beach parking pass from the Town's website. To limit person-to-person interaction and help prevent the spread of the coronavirus, Town staff will not accept applications or sell beach passes in person. Also, applications for beach parking passes will not be accepted at Town Hall and beach parking passes are not available at Town Hall.

Passes are available only to Town of Hilton Head Island property owners and residents. The pass costs \$30 per vehicle and is valid until December 31, 2022. The pass allows property owners and residents to park in designated spaces at Islanders Beach Park at 94 Folly Field Road, and Driessen Beach Park at 64 Bradley Beach Road. In addition, pass holders are not required to pay meter fees at any of the Town's public access beach parking lots.

To apply for a beach pass:

- Complete the beach pass application
- Attach copies of the required documentation.
- Include a check or money order for \$30 per vehicle payable to the Town of Hilton Head Island.
- Mail or drop off your completed application, documentation and payment to:
Town of Hilton Head Island, Attn: Beach Pass, 12A Gateway Circle



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Hilton Head Island, SC, 29926

Please allow Town staff time to review and process applications. Upon approval, the beach pass will be mailed to the applicant. For more information on beach parking passes, call 843-342-4580 or visit the Town's website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov; in the "How Do I" section of the home page, click on "Obtain" and choose "beach parking pass."

Keep the Wreath Green

Our Keep the Wreath Green project has already seen some of our green lights turned to red due to fire-related incidents that could have been prevented. The wreath hangs in front of Fire Station #3 at 534 William Hilton Parkway (next to First Presbyterian Church). It was illuminated with all green bulbs until December 2. A green bulb is changed to a red one if a preventable fire (cooking, smoking, space heaters, candles, etc.) occurs during the holiday season. So far, we have had two incidents involving a HVAC system and a dumpster fire. This wreath is a reminder of the safety precautions we should take throughout the year and especially during the holiday season. Please help us avoid red bulbs through January 2, 2021. For tips on preventing fires and to check the status of the wreath, visit www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov and click on "Keep the Wreath Green."

Holiday Help for Families

Do you need help this holiday season? If so, check out the community resource page of our COVID-19 Hub on our website at hiltonheadislandsc.gov. There you can find information on numerous holiday help programs for families and individuals in our community. Deadlines for applying for assistance are approaching, so be sure to get your requests in on time.

COVID-19 Cases and Vaccine Information

Extensive reporting on county-level information, demographics and more about coronavirus cases is available at scdhec.gov/COVID19. The website is updated **between 1 p.m.-3 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m.-1 p.m. weekends**. You can also find case data on our website at hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19. Visit scdhec.gov/COVID19vaccine for the latest vaccine information.

COVID-19 Testing

Drive-thru testing for COVID-19 is available from 8 a.m. to noon at Hilton Head Hospital (25 Hospital Center Blvd. on Hilton Head Island) and Coastal Carolina Hospital (1000 Medical Center Drive in Hardeeville). The test is free. No appointment or doctor's order is needed.

Don't Get Hit with a Surprise Tax Bill- Unemployment Compensation is Taxable Income



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Since the pandemic began, thousands of South Carolina workers have filed initial unemployment claims and have been paid unemployment and pandemic-related benefits, according to the [SC Department of Employment and Workforce](#). The South Carolina Department of Revenue (SCDOR) reminds individuals receiving unemployment that these benefits are taxable. South Carolina and federal taxes apply to unemployment benefits – including unemployment benefits from programs related to the pandemic. If you are receiving unemployment benefits, please visit the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce's [website](http://www.scdew.gov/individuals/apply-for-benefits/paying-taxes) at <http://www.scdew.gov/individuals/apply-for-benefits/paying-taxes> for information on paying taxes related to these benefits.

Tax Tips for Individuals: Preparing for Tax Season

It may seem like a long way off, but next year's tax season will begin next month. Organizing and preparing now can save you time, headaches, and even money next year. The South Carolina Department of Revenue (SCDOR) offers these tips to help individuals get ready:

- **Organize your records now!** Save your tax records, W-2s, 1099s, receipts, and other important documents organized in a secure place electronically or in a folder. Keeping the year's important tax records together saves time when completing next year's return.
- **Report any new information from life changes**, such as a new last name, new mailing address, or new bank account number. Since state and federal tax returns are tied to Social Security numbers, notify the Social Security Administration of any new name using **Form SS-5**. Notify the IRS (using **Form 8822**) and the SCDOR (using **MyDORWAY** or an **SC8822**) of any address changes.

Get more tips at <https://dor.sc.gov/communications/tax-tips-for-individuals-preparing-for-tax-season>. For more information about South Carolina Individual Income Tax returns, visit dor.sc.gov/iit. To learn more about preparing for your federal return, visit IRS.gov.