



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

An Update from Assistant Town Manager Josh Gruber 8/13/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

Here's an update of what's happening around Town with our projects and COVID-19.

Accommodations Tax Process Update

The Accommodations Tax (ATAX) Advisory Committee held a virtual applicant workshop today to discuss the 2021 application process and to answer any questions from potential applicants. Town Staff reviewed the 2021 application form and walked through the application process. Applicants asked questions regarding funding, the expected economic effects of COVID-19 and the expectations regarding potential funding. The video of this meeting is available on the Town's Public Meeting Facebook Page.

Previously, Town Council approved that 2020 ATAX grantees are allowed to carry over funds for an additional year to be expended until December 31, 2021. Town Staff is currently working on correspondence to be sent to the 2020 grantees. The committee will seek information about the amounts grantees may seek to carry-forward and also details regarding their rescheduled events.

Applications for 2021 Accommodations Tax Funds must be submitted electronically, in complete form, through the Town's Website no later than 4:00pm on Friday, September 4, 2020. If you have any questions or need additional details, please contact [Cindaia Ervin](#) at 843-341-4646. If you have any technical difficulties regarding the online ATAX Application, please contact [Rene Phillips](#) at 843-341-4792 for assistance.

Lowcountry Celebration Park Update

The Lowcountry Celebration Park continues to evolve and is an exciting project to watch as it progresses. It is now being wired for fun and safety. As part of Town Council's mandate, the park was designed to include the latest technologies. Conduit is currently being installed to provide Wi-Fi access throughout the park and connect cameras to keep park visitors safe. If the battery on your mobile device runs low, USB charging stations will be available at benches in the playground. The restroom breeze way is wired for the future addition of a digital message board that could display trolley schedules, maps and event information. Evening strolls around the parks will be facilitated by low bollards that light the perimeter sidewalk and bike racks while the boardwalks and bridge will have lights under the handrails. On that evening stroll you will be able to enjoy the subtly lighted "Setting Sun" sculpture and fountain in the lagoon.

Additionally, trees are important part of our environment and this park. But, you may have noticed that a large Hickory tree that was on the site is gone. Recently, it was struck by



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lightning and had to be removed. Trees will be replanted in this area to mitigate the loss. You can stay up-to-date on this project and others by visiting the Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) Dashboard on our website.

Resources for Parents

With the new academic year about to start, parents may be seeking resources to help them navigate the virtual learning environment. We're happy to share information deemed appropriate with parents in our community. Please submit your information for consideration to communications@hiltonheadislandsc.gov. We are adding this information to the community resources page of our COVID-19 Hub on our website.

The Hilton Head Island Chamber of Commerce is offering a webinar on Managing Work, Family and School in the Time of COVID-19, at 1 p.m., Wednesday, August 19. Registration is required for this webinar (<https://mailchi.mp/hiltonheadisland/how-are-you-balancing-work-family-educating-your-kids>). In this 1-hour webinar, you will hear creative solutions for possible operational changes, learn what the law requires and allows, and get tips on how to manage the stress of it all in these challenging times.

Town Hall Reminder

Earlier this summer, we installed a buzzer/intercom system at the main front entrance of Town Hall. This is just a gentle reminder that when you need to speak with someone at Town Hall, you will need to push the buzzer by the front door so our front desk receptionists can assist you. If you have business you need to conduct with staff, you may contact individuals and schedule an appointment. A directory of staff members is posted by our main front door and is also accessible on our website.

COVID Update for Our Community

We join health experts in reminding you of the steps you can take to stop the spread of COVID-19:

- Wearing a mask in public.
- Practicing social distancing.
- Getting tested.
- Avoiding group gatherings.
- Regularly washing your hands.
- Staying home if sick.

As always, the S.C. Department of Health and Environment department maintains data on the latest confirmed and estimated COVID-19 cases by ZIP code for our area on its website at scdhec.gov. For Hilton Head Island, those zip codes would be 29928 and 29926. We also share this data on our COVID-19 hub page at hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19.