Town of Hilton Head Island
TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Deputy Town Manager Josh Gruber
9/10/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

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

2020 Census
Thank you to all of our residents who took time yesterday on Beaufort County Census Day to complete the 2020 Census. But don't stop there. Inspire others.

Tell everyone—your friends and family, neighbors and co-workers—that you have completed the Census, and that they should respond now, too! Census results have an impact on planning and funding for highways, fire departments and disaster response, health and hospitals, education programs, college tuition assistance and so much more. We will be encouraging everyone almost daily to fill out the census.

There are three options for completing the census on your own:
- Fill out the paper form the U.S. Census Bureau sent to your home in March and return it by mail.
- Call 844-330-2020 (English) or 844-468-2020 (Spanish) to complete the census over the phone.
- Go to my2020census.gov and complete the census online.

Census workers are also out knocking on doors of households that have not responded to the census.

Voter Registration in Beaufort County
Residents who are not registered to vote in Beaufort County and want to participate in the November 3, 2020 election in the county have a few more weeks to get registered. Voter registration is handled by the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Beaufort County. Here are upcoming deadlines for voter registration:

In-Person: October 2, 2020 by 5 pm. You can register to vote at the County's voter registration office at 61B Ulmer Road in Bluffton. Office Hours are 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m.
Email, Fax, or Online: October 4, 2020 by 11:59 p.m. Visit beaufortcountysc.gov/vote or scvotes.gov for forms and online registration.
By Mail (Must be postmarked by): October 5, 2020

Voting With Absentee Ballots

Residents who plan to participate in the upcoming election with absentee ballots should contact the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Beaufort County at Absentee@BeaufortCountySC.Gov or 843-255-6900. You can also beaufortcountysc.gov/vote or scvotes.gov/absentee-voting for information on obtaining an absentee ballots.

County offices will be open for in-person absentee voting beginning on September 28 for the 2020 General Election. You may vote absentee in person up until 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election. Rules for photo ID required to vote at the polling place apply. The County office on Hilton Head Island is located at 539 William Hilton Parkway. You will only be able to vote absentee at this location, but you will not be able to get registered at this location.

Learn About Local Candidates Seeking Election

There are a number of local and state election races that occurring in addition to national races. If you are seeking information on candidates running for seats on the Hilton Head Island Town Council, Beaufort County Council, Beaufort County School District and S.C. State Senate, check out the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Area League of Women Voters' website at my.lwv.org/south-carolina/hilton-head-island-bluffton-area/article/candidate-forums-2020. Beginning Saturday, September 12, the league is co-hosting a series of virtual candidate forums; the website includes information on how you can register for those forums.

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Right to Vote

The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote. In commemoration of this anniversary, we have commissioned local sculptor Kevin Lawless to create an artistic bench. The bench will be purple and will be installed with a seasonal floral garden in the colors of purple, white and gold, the official colors of the U.S. suffrage movement. The bench, which will be completed in a couple of weeks, will be installed in the Betsy Jukofsky Xeriscape Garden at Town Hall. Visit www.2020centennial.org/ to learn more about the anniversary.

Managing COVID-19 While Voting

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/election-polling-locations.html) has prepared guidelines to help voters and poll workers carefully navigate elections during the coronavirus pandemic. Some of the guidelines are the same ones we have frequently shared. As we get closer to elections and as you prepare to vote, and I know some of you will do so early, we will share more tips that you can use to protect yourself during this election season. In the

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meantime, please be mindful of the following safety measures to protect yourself and others from getting or spreading COVID-19:

- Wear a mask in public.
- Distance yourself physically by six feet.
- Avoid group gatherings.
- Wash your hands often.
- Get tested.
- Stay home if you are sick.

COVID-19 Cases in Our Community
For the latest figures on the number of cases of COVID-19 on Hilton Head Island, please visit www.scdhec.gov or the Town's COVID-19 hub page at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19. DHEC maintains the latest data on COVID-19 cases across the state and in our community, and we integrate some of that data on our website.

Free COVID-19 Tests Are Available in Our Community
Free COVID-19 drive-thru testing is available at Hilton Head Hospital from 8 a.m. to noon, Monday thru Friday. No appointment or physician order is necessary. Typically, test results will be e-mailed within 72 hours. Participants are asked to have a valid e-mail address available.