



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

An Update from Deputy Town Manager Josh Gruber 9/24/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

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

September 26 is Census Day in South Carolina

We have six more days from today to make sure Hilton Head Island residents are in the count – the census count that is. We are calling on every resident to be a part of the census. Please take some time today, tomorrow and especially on South Carolina Census Day to complete census if you haven't done so already.

You have three options for completing the census:

- Fill out the paper form the U.S. Census Bureau sent to your home and return it by mail.
- Call 844-330-2020 (English) or 844-468-2020 (Spanish) to complete the census over the phone.
- Go to www.my2020census.gov and complete the census online.

S.C. Thrive Accepting Applications for COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program Through October 1, 2020

S.C. Thrive has announced that the application period will end for the COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program on October 1, 2020. Applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM on October 1st to be considered for the program.

Launched in late May in cooperation with the South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority (SC Housing), the COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program aims to lessen the impacts of the COVID-19 health crisis on state residents by keeping renters affected by shutdowns, closures, layoffs, reduced work hours or unpaid leave housed. This program can provide assistance of up to \$1,500 for rent in a one-time, lump-sum payment made directly to property owners or management companies.

Those wishing to submit new applications for the program or simply learn more about it can do so at rent.scthrive.org.

SCDOT's Public Notification of Proposed Conversion of Cross Island Parkway to Non-Tolled Road in Hilton Head

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is providing notification of



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the Transportation Commission-approved public comment period for the proposed conversion of the Cross Island Parkway toll facility in to a non-tolled road in Hilton Head, SC. The public has the opportunity to comment on an action to amend the 2017-2022 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to include engineering and construction for the conversion. SCDOT will receive public comment for a 21-day period from September 22, 2020 through October 13, 2020.

The toll on the Cross Island Parkway (US 278) is set to expire in 2021. This project includes the removal of existing toll infrastructure and roadway improvements required to change the Parkway to a conventional, non-tolled four-lane road. The total estimated cost of the project is \$14 million.

Pending consideration of public comments, the proposed changes will be recommended for inclusion in a future revision to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

A copy of this press release, along with a location map, is available for public review and comment until October 13, 2020 online at these links:

English: <https://bit.ly/ccipntr>

Spanish: <https://bit.ly/ccipntrsp>

Campaign Sign Guidelines for the Town of Hilton Head Island

With recent legislation passed for absentee voting in South Carolina, rules permitting placement of election campaign signs in the Town of Hilton Head Island are now in effect. In the past, election campaign signs have been permitted on single family properties thirty (30) days prior to Election Day. On September 16, 2020, the South Carolina Legislature passed H.5305/R.149, which changed absentee voting procedures. People may begin voting on October 5, 2020, which is less than thirty (30) days away.

To accommodate this change, the Town's is permitting candidates to place campaign signs effective today. Campaign signs:

- Are only allowed on residential property with permission of the property owner and property or homeowner's association, if applicable.
- Are not allowed on commercial property.
- Are not allowed in right-of-ways and medians.
- Must be removed the day after election.

Free COVID-19 Tests in our Community

Hilton Head Hospital and its sister facility, Coastal Carolina Hospital in Hardeeville, offers free COVID-19 drive-thru testing is available from 8 a.m. to noon, Monday thru Friday, at its campus. You do not need an appointment or a physician's order. Your test results



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typically will be e-mailed within 72 hours to the valid e-mail address you are asked to provide. You can also visit [scdhec.gov/covid19testing](https://www.scdhec.gov/covid19testing) to find other testing clinics or events near you and what the requirements are for testing at those locations.

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.