



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Deputy Town Manager Josh Gruber 9/4/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

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

Happy Labor Day Weekend. This is one of the last busiest weekends of our summer tourist season, so things will start to slow down a bit. Regardless, we still want to remind everyone to be safe. We are still reeling through the coronavirus pandemic and we want to do all we can to slow down the spread of the coronavirus. 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.

Hilton Head Island is First South Carolina Municipality with #HurricaneStrong Designation

In July, we announced our designation as a #HurricaneStrong community. Since that initial announcement, we have learned that we are the first municipality in South Carolina to earn this designation. The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, aka FLASH, the national organization behind this designation, hosted a virtual award ceremony on Thursday and presented us with our award. Communities are selected for this achievement based on their hurricane preparedness, disaster resilience and other factors. I must say we have an outstanding leadership team and staff who make sure we stand ready to respond to any disaster, not just hurricanes. Join me in thanking them for all they do to keep Hilton Head Island safe and for helping us to earn this incredible designation.

Speaking of #HurricaneStrong, our Emergency Operations Center team continues to monitor the weather for any threats of tropical storms and hurricanes. We still have a few months left in this year's hurricane season so we stay alert.

This is the Last Weekend for the Palmetto Breeze Shuttle Service

This is the last weekend the Town will provide free shuttle service for Coligny Beach Park visitors who park at the USCB Hospitality Campus, 1 Sand Shark Drive. Labor Day



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typically marks the end of our busy beach season, so beach visitors will have more available space at the Coligny Beach Parking lot.

Temporary Business Signs

In response to requests from the business community, the Town of Hilton Head Island relaxed temporary sign enforcement for a second time from late July through Monday, September 7. This allowed our local businesses to place signs letting patrons know their business is open, particularly as they continued to recover during the coronavirus pandemic. After Monday, businesses will need to begin removing those signs.

Political Signs

Election season is underway. As a reminder, political signs cannot be located on commercial property or in the right of way. They can only be located on residential property with the occupant's permission.

United Way of the Lowcountry COVID-19 Relief Fund

United Way of the Lowcountry has a fund to assist the Lowcountry's most vulnerable neighbors with the resources they need during this critical time. United Way of the Lowcountry will distribute 100% of the funds collected to provide services to residents in Beaufort and Jasper Counties to meet basic needs including rent/utility assistance and other necessities due to the loss of income or employment related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Individuals can call the Helpline at (843) 524-4357 to see if they are eligible.

What to Do if You're Facing Eviction

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, families and individuals have experienced housing issues, including evictions. Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a nationwide order halting certain forms of evictions. This is not a universal stop of all evictions and there are prerequisites that have to be met. More information about the CDC's declaration can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-eviction-declaration.html>. The Town of Hilton Head Island does not handle issues with evictions. If you are experience issues with evictions, we advised you to contact the Beaufort Housing Authority at 843-525-7059.

Also, the South Carolina Bar and South Carolina Legal Services has set up an assistance hotline to assist South Carolinians facing evictions and housing-related legal issues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. You may call 1-833-958-2266 toll-free any time. When connected to the hotline, callers should leave a message providing brief details about the assistance needed along with contact information and the best time of day to receive a return call. Individuals who qualify will be connected to South Carolina Legal Services for assistance or matched with South Carolina lawyers who have volunteered to provide free legal help. Callers should be aware there are some limitations on the legal services available. More information about pandemic-related legal help and resources for



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emergency rental assistance available to South Carolinians can be found at www.sctar.org/covidhelp.

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.

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.

Culture HHI Keeps Us Connected to the Island's Arts and Culture Scene

If you are looking for some fun and interesting activities to do, please check out our CultureHHI Facebook page. Our Office of Cultural Affairs does a great job bringing us virtual classes and performances, interviews with artists and news of other available resources to keep you culturally connected.

Give to Help Others

Please continue to support organizations in our community that working to support those in need. Visit the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber Commerce at <https://www.hiltonheadchamber.org/covid-19/> for a list of very worthy organizations and initiatives that need your support as they continue to help individuals in our community

Town Hall Closed on Labor Day

In observance of Labor Day, the Town Administrative buildings will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2020. We will resume our regular hours of operation on Tuesday, September 8. Additionally, the Hilton Head Island Convenience Center will be closed for Labor Day and reopens on Tuesday.