



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Town Manager Steve Riley 5/18/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders,

This week, May 16-23, is National EMS Week. I am taking a moment to shout out a huge thank you to our Fire Rescue Division. Our EMS practitioners, firefighters and other first responders have shown tremendous leadership and bravery throughout this COVID-19 pandemic. This group of men and women are on the frontline daily responding to calls, dealing with people who have the coronavirus, helping the Town navigate through the situation and more. They have been phenomenal. Please join me in thanking them for all they do to serve others and protect our community. A great way to honor and thank this deserving group of first responders is to wear your mask when you're out in public, shopping in stores, visiting with others or going to a restaurant.

Town Council Virtual Meeting, Tuesday, May 19

At its special meeting at 2 p.m., Tuesday, May 19, our Town Council will again take up the matter of encouraging the public to wear masks. Other agenda items include discussion of beach access parking, a staff recommendation about Shelter Cove Community Park and an emergency ordinance to extend electronic meetings for Town Council.

You can view the agenda in a pdf format on our website at

<https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/council/tcagendas.cfm>

To comment on these topics through our online comment portal, visit

<https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/opentownhall/>. The portal will close TWO (2) hours prior to the scheduled meeting start times to enable the Town Clerk to compile comments.

To watch the meetings, tune in to our Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/TownofHiltonHeadIslandSC> or our website at <https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov>.

Business Restoration Update

Many businesses are reopening or have reopened, and the public needs to be aware of them. The Town supports businesses as they get back to serving the public and bring employees back to work. For the time being, we have:



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- Relaxed enforcement of our temporary sign regulations. All businesses are allowed to install temporary signs on their properties to announce openings. A permit is not required but the following guidelines should be followed:
 - each business is permitted to have one sign per street frontage
 - each sign should be no larger than 18" x 24"
 - each sign must be located on the same site as the business
- Relaxed enforcement of our single-use plastic bags ordinance.
- Permitted restaurants to use tents to expand their outdoor dining areas as long as the following guidelines are adhered to:
 - Fire Prevention (843-682-5145) must be contacted prior to installing tents of any size on a site.
 - Seating or tents do not block Fire Department access.
 - Doors to the building are not locked or blocked while the building is occupied.
- Delayed collections of business license fees, local tax, and local hospitality tax until June 20.
- Created an online directory so businesses can post information about their hours, discounts and services for the good of the community. Please visit our website at <https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19/> and add your information to the directory.
- Developed a business restoration plan to guide our efforts in supporting local businesses. We are now working on more details to flesh out this plan. A copy of the plan is available for review on our website at <https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/publicsafety/coronavirus/businessplan.cfm?menuheader=5>
- Encouraged businesses to follow guidelines for opening and operating safely. The following sites have recommended guidelines businesses should use:

Governor's accelerateSC initiative

<https://accelerate.sc.gov/>

S.C. Restaurant and Lodging Association

https://www.scrila.org/page/COVID_19



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S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control

<https://scdhec.gov/COVID19>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce Path Forward Initiative

<https://www.hiltonheadchamber.org/covid-19/>

<https://www.hiltonheadisland.org/thepathforward>

As we finalize and roll out more details as part of our recovery plans for the Town, some special allowances will go away. We will continue to support businesses as much as we can within statutory limits.

Lowcountry Celebration Park

There is a lot of activity happening in the Adventure Playground at our Lowcountry Celebration Park. The playground is themed around Hilton Head Island's environment. Contractors have planted large Oak trees in the playground. This was done early so that the equipment used to plant them would not damage the sidewalks that will be installed soon. Our landscape plan specified large sized trees to provide shade for the playground. We are excited because these trees slightly exceed the trunk diameter (6") and height we originally specified. Last week, the shell was formed for the interactive wading water feature meant to simulate tide pools on the beach. Starfish, sand dollars, raccoon tracks, bird tracks, and other shells and species that you would find on the beach were "stamped" into the shell concrete. Follow our Lowcountry Celebration Park Facebook Group for updates and photos.

Cultural Trail

<https://culturehhi.org/cultural-trail-map/>

Around Town you may have noticed some new oval-shaped signs by some of our historical sites. Those signs were installed in March as part of our Cultural Trail initiative. As we celebrate National Bike Month, we think it's an appropriate time to share the exciting news about our Cultural Trail. Using our Cultural Trail is a healthy way to get out in the community, whether you are walking or riding your bike. Check out our digital, responsive map on CultureHHI.org, which gives you information about the different history sites and public art pieces. You can pick up a hard copy map at the Heritage Library, which re-opened today. Before you go by the library, be sure to check in with the staff about visiting hours and guidelines. The library's number is 843-686-6560.

Be Counted In the Census

Complete the census by going to www.my2020census.gov, calling 844-330-2020 for English or 844-468-2020 for Spanish, or by filling out the paper form sent by mail.



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Keep Up With COVID-19

For the latest update on COVID-19 cases in South Carolina and in Beaufort County, visit [SCDHEC.gov](https://www.scdhec.gov).

Ways to Give

If you're looking for a charity to support, visit the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber Commerce at <https://www.hiltonheadchamber.org/covid-19/> You will find a list of very worthy organizations and initiatives that need your support as they continue to help individuals in our community.