



# Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

## An Update from Town Manager Steve Riley 5/6/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders,

Just when we think we've got one crisis almost behind us, it's time to start thinking about the possibility of another: hurricanes. We couldn't let the week go by without acknowledging that this week (May 3-9) is National Hurricane Preparedness Week. Hurricane season starts June 1<sup>st</sup> and goes through November 30<sup>th</sup>. For tips on hurricane preparedness, please visit our website at <https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/publicsafety/hurricane/home.cfm>.

### **Parks**

Jarvis Creek Park and Crossings Park (no team sports will be allowed here) will reopen tomorrow, May 7. You will have access to restrooms, but all playgrounds, recreational equipment and picnic shelters will remain closed. Orange fencing and signs have been installed to prevent use of the playground equipment and picnic shelters. Here are some tips for maintaining physical distance in our parks:

- Know what six (6) feet looks like. Lay measuring tape on the ground. It's the distance of a surfboard, long yoga mat or adult bike.
- Do not use playgrounds or other frequently touched surfaces.
- Go by yourself or those you live with. Strongly consider the use of a face covering.
- Avoid crowded areas. If a space cannot be enjoyed safely, go home or discover a new park in your community.

For more resources on how to use parks safely during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit: [nrpa.org/Coronavirus](http://nrpa.org/Coronavirus)

### **Guidelines for Outdoor Dining Areas**

Businesses wishing to add temporary outdoor dining areas should use the following guidelines:

- Prior to installing tents of any size on a site, the business must call Fire Prevention at 843-682-5145.
- Fire Department access may not be blocked by seating or tents.
- Doors to the building cannot be locked or blocked while the building is occupied.

### **The Path Forward**

Businesses can find guidance on safety through the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce's Path Forward initiative. Task force members have developed



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recommended safety protocols for customers and staff at specific industries and sectors. You can view these at <https://www.hiltonheadisland.org/thepathforward>. Businesses that demonstrate their commitment to safety as a top priority will be recognized with a Path Forward Safety Seal. Look for the seal on business websites, restaurant menus and storefronts. If you have questions or concerns, you can email them to [pathforward@hiltonheadisland.org](mailto:pathforward@hiltonheadisland.org).

## **accelerateSC**

Governor Henry McMaster has announced the launch of the initial phase of [accelerate.sc.gov](https://www.accelerate.sc.gov). Designed to provide citizens centralized access to easily connect with COVID-19 related information, this one-stop-shop website will also share details about the state's revitalization efforts. To quickly direct people to trending topics such as how to file for unemployment and employment opportunities, [accelerate.sc.gov](https://www.accelerate.sc.gov) contains an "I Need To..." drop-down feature. The Citizen Information section allows users to link to information sources for other in-demand topics, such as guidance for masks and face coverings, telehealth providers and how to manage stress.

## **Keeping 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). Hilton Head Hospital is doing tests for the coronavirus, but a doctor's order is required. For information about testing, call Hilton Head Hospital's hotline at 843-682-7348.

## **Shelter Cove Intersection Improvement**

By the end of this week, you be able to drive on U.S. 278 (BUS) through the Shelter Cove area with few remaining interruptions. The last of our paving work wrapped up last week and the contractor is making finishing touches this week with completion expected on May 14. Last Sunday, crews trimmed some low hanging tree limbs to give motorists a better view of traffic signals. Throughout this project, work was done at five intersections / median crossovers: King Neptune & Queens Folly, the cross over at Shelter Cove Lane at Kroger Fuel Station, Shelter Cove Lane formerly Mall Blvd, the cross over at Whole Foods, and Shelter Cove Lane by the Sheriff's Department. We added two new signalized crosswalks and removed two un-signalized crosswalks. With these improvements, the area should be safer for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists

## **Community Heroes**

Today, we shout out to Margie Tomczak, a Second Helpings board member, and Avery and Finley Watterson. Avery and Finley are the young leaders of Kids4Hope, an offshoot of the Help4Hope project, which has provided over 12,000 meals for families in need as well as financial support for our restaurants and workforce. These Islanders have done a phenomenal job making sure local residents have access to food during the COVID-19 crisis. Check out their stories in the Community Heroes section of our COVID19 hub



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page at [hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19](https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19). If you know of other individuals in our community who have helped us survive this crisis, please nominate them. Nominations can be submitted at [www.culturehhi.org](http://www.culturehhi.org).

### **Support A Charity**

Many organizations and agencies in our community have shown a tremendous amount of generosity and deserve a world of thanks. I encourage you to continue supporting charities in our community because they are doing all they can to help people with food, rent, utilities and other needs. Their resources need to be replenished constantly.

**National Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>**

**National Nurses Week, May 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> (May 6 is National Nurses Day)**

**National Hospital and Healthcare Week, May 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>**

**National EMS Week, May 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>**

This month is filled with appreciation and recognition weeks for teachers, nurses, other healthcare workers and EMS practitioners. Please take a moment to thank professionals working in these occupations. Teachers are experiencing different ways of delivering lessons and work hard to keep our students focused as they connect virtually. Nursing, healthcare and EMS professionals have been on the frontline helping patients. They, too, are our community heroes.