



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

An Update from Town Manager Steve Riley 6/1/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

South Carolina Hurricane Preparedness Week

Hurricane season begins today. My best advice to you is to be prepared and ready to go should it become necessary. Governor Henry McMaster has proclaimed this week as South Carolina Hurricane Preparedness Week. Residents, businesses and communities in South Carolina should begin preparations for the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Advanced preparation and planning safeguards lives, protects property and lessens the devastating impacts of tropical storms and hurricanes.

You can download the 20th annual South Carolina Hurricane Guide at scemd.org. Printed editions of the Guide will be in all Walgreens stores statewide, at coastal DMV offices and in newspapers from Columbia to the coast beginning June 7.

In addition to the South Carolina Hurricane Guide, visit scemd.org to stay informed during an emergency. SCEMD's website is designed to make it easy to get the information you need before, during and after a major disaster, such as a hurricane. Download the South Carolina Emergency Manager mobile app as your official tool for emergency planning and follow the official @SCEMD accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to stay connected.

Town Council Virtual Meeting, Tuesday, June 2

The Town Council will host a special meeting electronically at 2 p.m., Tuesday, June 2. Among agenda items are the proposed fiscal year 2021 budget, beach and park access, and the destination marketing plan.

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 for 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>.



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Business Restoration Survey

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your business? Let us know. Please take a moment to provide us with feedback on our business restoration survey at <https://www.opentownhall.com/8851>

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).

Rowing and Sailing Center at Squire Pope Community Park Playground and Parking Expansion

A playground and parking expansion project is underway at the Town's Rowing and Sailing Center at Squire Pope Community Park. This project is being funded with a portion of the 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation the Town receives on an annual basis from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The parking expansion has been completed and added 34 new parking spaces along the sides of the existing drive aisle in the park. The playground expansion will begin soon and includes installation of new playground equipment in the area adjacent to the existing swing.

Count Me In the Census

The #2020Census helps direct billions of dollars of funding for things that your community needs, including roads. Complete the census today. Currently, 39.8 percent of the households here have self-responded to this year's census compared to 42.9 percent in 2010. We would like to top our 2010 number. You can 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.

Assistance with Rent and Other Hardships

We continue to receive many inquiries regarding paying rent, unemployment benefits, and other hardships that are not addressed by services that the Town provides. There are many organizations that are providing help. For information, visit the community resources section of our COVID-19 Hub at <https://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov/publicsafety/coronavirus/communityresources.cfm>.

Ways to Give

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



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Retirement Announcement

Today is a special day for me. On this day, 29 years ago, I started at Town Hall as Community Development Director. So I thought it would be fitting to take this opportunity to announce that I will retire from the Town of Hilton Head Island by the end of the year. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as Town Manager of this vibrant and award-winning Island for 26 of my 29 years with the Town. My plan is to be here until December 31 unless a replacement is named sooner. When I began, the Town was putting in place one of its earliest comprehensive plan. We are working on a new comprehensive plan and it is now time for a new team to usher plans forward. I am confident those we have in current leadership roles along with the rest of our staff will do well.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and I love the Hilton Head Island community, but I know it's time for me to move to a different stage in my life. The coronavirus pandemic has reinforced that life is precious. Thank you to the many, many individuals who have supported me over the years. Thank you to current and past Town Council members. I have enjoyed working with the various Mayors and members of Town Council over the years and to have been a part of so many initiatives that enriched the lives of our citizens and guests. Thank you to our amazing volunteers and to my wonderful, dedicated staff.