



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Town Manager Steve Riley 6/17/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

I'd like to pause for a moment of remembrance. Five years ago today, South Carolina experienced a very tragic loss when a white supremacist shot and killed nine South Carolinians attending Bible study at the Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston. With all of the recent situations of racial unrest that have occurred across the country, we still have much work to do in understanding differences and dealing with racial biases. But, as I reflect on that tragic evening in 2015, I want the families and friends of the Emanuel Nine to know that we at the Town of Hilton Head Island have you in our thoughts and prayers.

Wear Your Mask

You will hear me say this more often: wear a mask or face covering. The coronavirus is still spreading on Hilton Head Island. Hilton Head Island residents and guests are urged to wear a mask and maintain 6 feet distance in public. Wear it for yourself, for your neighbor, for the customer you serve a meal to or sell a t-shirt to, for the person you go biking or walking with, for the person you ride the trolley with, for the person you play golf with and the person your work with.

With a steady increase in the number of reported cases this year in our County (647 as of 6/15) and the number of cases in our Hilton Head Island zip codes of 29926 and 29928 (129 as of 6/15), we are all still at risk. The number of estimated cases are much higher. The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) reports on numbers daily so you can visit [SCDHEC.gov](https://www.scdhec.gov) for the latest update.

There are a lot of messages out there urging people –whether they live on Hilton Head Island or are visiting the Island – to where a mask. This isn't overkill. This is to stop a virus that hasn't slowed down.

So what can you do? Make sure your friends and family members, including those who are visiting, mask up when they are here. Make sure when you are in public, you wear a mask too.

COVID-19 Screenings

Mobile screenings for the coronavirus will be coming to our community on June 29th. Our Fire & Rescue division, along with the Hilton Head Island Volunteers in Medicine Clinic, Hilton Head Hospital and SCDHEC, is organizing this screening. The screening will be



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held at the Fire Rescue Training Center on Dillion Road. It is free and no appointment or physician order will be required. We will share more details as plans are finalized.

Town Council Passes Budget

The Town Council passed the FY2021 budget on Tuesday. The \$75.98 million budget is \$3.17 million less than FY 2020 with no increases in tax rates or fees.

Town Council Intergovernmental Meeting

The Town Council Intergovernmental Committee wants to hear your comments and feedback on various matters affecting the Hilton Head Island community. The committee will be conducting a virtual Special Meeting at 10 a.m., Wednesday, June 24, 2020. Visit <https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/boards/boardagendas.cfm?DetailID=INTGOV> for a meeting agenda. You can submit public comments on agenda items electronically via our Open Town Hall portal at <https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/opentownhall/>

The public comment period will close at noon the day before the scheduled meeting. All comments will be provided to the committee for review and made a part of the official record. Citizens may also call 843-341-4700 to sign up for public comment participation during the meeting by phone. The sign up period for public comment participation will close at Noon on Tuesday, June 23, 2020.

The meeting can be viewed on the Town's Public Meeting Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/TownofHiltonHeadIslandMeetings/>) and the Town's website (www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov).

Juneteenth Observed Locally with Digital Commemoration

Friday is "Juneteenth", short for June 19th, the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. It marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, in 1865, with news that all enslaved people were free. This happened a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth is considered the longest-running African American holiday. Our friends at the Mitchelville Preservation Project sponsor an annual event to celebrate Juneteenth. But due to concerns related to the coronavirus public health crisis that celebration will not take place as normal.

Instead, Mitchelville is among six leading Black museums and historical institutions from coast to coast that will join forces on June 19th to launch BLKFREEDOM.org, a digital commemoration of Juneteenth. BLKFREEDOM.org will air an original video presentation featuring appearances from Lonnie G. Bunch III, the first African American and first historian to serve as the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; Dr. Johnetta Betsch Cole, anthropologist, educator, museum director, and the first female African American president of Spelman College; and the Honorable Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress,



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the first woman and the first African American to lead the national library. The program will premiere at 12:00PM EST/11:00AM CST/ 9:00AM/PST on June 19th, 2020. Visit <http://exploremitchelville.org/events/blkfreedom> for more information.

Important Dates to Keep in Mind

- June 20th Deadline for business license renewal for the Town of Hilton Head Island. Call 843-341-4677 if you have questions. You can complete your renewal online or drop it off at Town Hall.
- June 22nd The Breeze Trolley will resume service. It will be fare-free all season. The routes and stops remain the same. Visit www.breezetrolley.com for more information.
- July 3rd Town Hall will be closed in observance of the 4th of July. Also, July 4th fireworks on Hilton Head Island are cancelled this year.
- July 7th All temporary signs must be removed. This is the last day to use single-use plastic bags.
- July 15th Deadline to file personal income tax returns. Visit www.irs.gov for federal information and <https://dor.sc.gov/> for state guidelines.

Beaufort County to Host Electronics Recycling Event

The Beaufort County Department of Solid Waste and Recycling will host a free electronics recycling event for County residents on Saturday, June 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Beaufort County Public Works, 9 Benton Field Road, Bluffton. To limit personal contact and for protection against coronavirus, please STAY IN YOUR CAR during the event. Staff will unload all items and will use personal protection equipment (masks and gloves).

Any personal computers, laptops, CRT monitors, LCD monitors, CRT televisions, non-CRT televisions, printers, hard drives and miscellaneous electronics (microwaves, cell phones, radios, fax machines, and typewriters) will be accepted. For questions or more information, visit www.beaufortcountysc.gov/recycle or call 843-255-2736.

S.C. Lt. Gov. Pamela S. Evette Issues “2020 Census Day of Action Challenge”

Lt. Governor Pamela S. Evette was joined today by S.C. Complete Count Committee stakeholders to issue the “2020 Census Day of Action Challenge.” The goal of the challenge is for 10,000 South Carolina households to complete the census before the end of the day. This would represent an approximate two-percent increase in the state’s census response. [To view a video of today’s full press conference, click here.](#)



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“The one thing we have to stress is that the census only happens once every ten years, so we do not get a second chance,” said Lt. Governor Evette. “We will be living with the consequences of these numbers for the next 10-years especially when we are making important changes in our state with broadband, roads, schools, and healthcare.”

A complete count of S.C. residents will drive local funding allocations for schools, healthcare, disaster response, and more than 50 other federal programs for the next 10 years. Completing the census takes less than 10 minutes and can be done on my2020census.gov or by calling 1-844-330-2020 (English)/1-844-468-2020 (Spanish). The last day for census self-response is October 31, 2020.

Stay Up-to-Date With Town Government

Visit our website at hiltonheadislandsc.gov and sign up for our e-subscription service. On the sign-up page, choose topics you are most interested in receiving information about. If you have already signed up for this service, we encourage you to go to your subscription page and update your selections. This is something you will need to do because as a self-service portal we do not have access to privacy information to update the service for you.

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/> These organizations are assisting with rent, food and other needs.