



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Town Manager Steve Riley 9/2/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

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

Beaufort County Schools Gearing Up for Virtual School Start

This morning, Beaufort County Schools Superintendent Frank Rodriguez shared with the community that the school district is ready to kick-off the new academic year with virtual learning on Tuesday, September 8th. School officials are also simultaneously finalizing preparations and protocols for future face-to-face instruction. The school district does plan to resume face-to-face instruction and therapy for students with special needs and disabilities on September 14th. We won't see school buses rolling down the road on Tuesday, but school will be session. We wish all of our students in public and private schools the best for this academic year, despite the challenges they are facing due to the coronavirus pandemic. As a community we are continuing to monitor the coronavirus cases and hopefully, as number of cases decline, students and staff will be able to return to safe learning environments.

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control Announcements

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control made two announcements this week pertaining to the coronavirus pandemic – one having to do with nursing homes and the other dealing with schools.

Data on Cases of COVID-19 in K-12 Grade Levels by School: This week, DHEC will begin providing twice-weekly reports on the number COVID-19 cases associated with staff and students at public and private schools in the state. This school reporting will include for every school both cumulative and rolling 30-day counts of confirmed cases among students, teachers and faculty members, and will be updated on DHEC's COVID-19 webpage on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. The first reports will be available this Friday, Sep. 4. To read the full announcement on the type of data that will be included in the reports, visit <https://www.scdhec.gov/news-releases/dhec-begins-providing-k-12-cases-covid-19-school-south-carolina-announces-latest>. To view the school cases lists, which will first be available this Friday, visit [scdhec.gov/COVID19schools](https://www.scdhec.gov/COVID19schools).

Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities: With new guidelines for limited outdoor visitation at nursing homes and community residential care facilities, commonly referred to as assisted living facilities, families will soon be able to see their loved ones. A facility's ability to allow visitation depends on existing cases of the virus within the facility, its staffing capabilities and availability of personal protection equipment, testing



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requirements, and other factors. These facilities will need a reasonable amount of time in order to meet criteria, meaning outdoor visitation will not be immediately available. You are encouraged to contact facilities to determine when visitation may be permitted and to coordinate visits when possible. To read the full announcement on these guidelines, visit <https://www.scdhec.gov/news-releases/dhec-provides-new-guidelines-limited-outdoor-visitation-nursing-homes-assisted-living>

Breeze Trolley Service to Return Thursday, September 3

The Breeze trolley service will be back on the road as of 1 p.m. tomorrow, September 3, and ready to once again accommodate riders. The Lowcountry Regional Transit Authority, which operates the service, had to temporarily reassign the trolley drivers and suspended The Breeze trolley service on August 19 so that its regular commuter routes could be safely and adequately covered.

Crescendo Celebration of Arts and Culture Moves from Fall 2020 to Spring 2021

Our Office of Cultural Affairs and the Arts Council of Hilton Head has announced that the Fourth Annual Crescendo Celebration of Arts & Culture, originally scheduled for October and November 2020, is delayed until May 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Crescendo: A celebration of art & culture on Hilton Head Island is traditionally organized in honor of October as National Arts and Humanities Month. It highlights and showcases the vast array of arts, culture, and historical organizations, individual artists, performers, and authors living and creating on Hilton Head Island. In place of a full Crescendo Celebration this year, Culture HHI will host a series of virtual and in-person events that follow social distancing and recommended safety guidelines. Sign-up for the Culture HHI newsletter at CultureHHI.org and follow Culture HHI on Facebook for current information on all events.

Funds Available for Local Nonprofits That Assist Low- to Moderate-Income Residents

Local nonprofit agencies that provide services for low- to moderate-income families and individuals are encouraged to apply for grant funds the Town recently received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). We partnered with the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry to distribute the \$378,000 grant. Agencies can apply for up to \$25,000. The deadline to submit applications is September 15.

The funds we received are a part of HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Agencies can use funds to assist our residents with rent, utilities, mortgage, food, transportation, childcare and other needs. For more information on how to apply for funds, visit www.cf-lowcountry.org



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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 COVID-19 cases on Hilton Head Island, please visit DHEC's website at www.scdhec.gov or the Town's COVID-19 hub page at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19.

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.

Ways to Give

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.