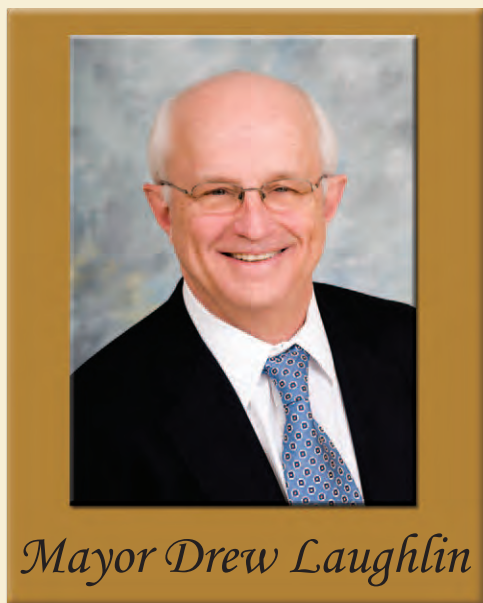


Our Town

A Newsletter of the Town of Hilton Head Island
 Brought to you by the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina
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Mayor's Note



In July 2011, the Town of Hilton Head Island, once again, received strong bond ratings by all three national bond rating agencies. This is a reaffirmation of the good work councils and staff have done over the years to position the Town's finances with the ability to build reserves while improving our parks, fire stations, water and sewer, roads, pathways and intersections without resorting solely on property taxes. With your support, we have managed to continue improving our Island in the face of an economic downturn. While we know our financial position, by design, is strong, we are pleased that scrupulous bond rating agencies think so as well.

Our citizen Land Management Ordinance (LMO) Rewrite Committee has been hard at work, and council recently approved the committee's request to hire a consultant to assist with meeting council's directive of re-writing what is considered a long and complex document. Our goal is to develop a revised LMO that will help: reinvigorate the local environment; revitalize the built environment; lead the way to reinvestment; and foster greater flexibility and simplicity. Amending the LMO is but one means to achieve these goals, and we are working hard at other initiatives as well. We continue to actively participate in redevelopment ideas and plans for the Mall at Shelter Cove and the Coligny area. Stay tuned for specific plans to be rolled out and acted upon in the near future.

Town-owned land and future acquisitions is one tool at our disposal that may be utilized to spur development and redevelopment. In my opinion, we hold sacred the value our land acquisition program has meant to residents, and I will not favor any departure from the underlying reasons we hold land; however, there may be opportunities that use of existing or future land creates for the greater good of our Island. We may be

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considering innovative ideas for land swaps, possible sales if only a real and defined benefit to all, and various arrangements where our land is used or managed by others. There will be plenty of public discussion about this, and I look forward to hearing from you.

The Town recently facilitated sewer extension in the Stoney area meaning Squire Pope, Gumtree, Wild Horse, and Spanish Wells Roads. This means that about 130 properties will now have sewer access. Hilton Head Island PSD reports that 8% of the district's 18,000 customers aren't connected to public sewer systems i.e. they utilize septic systems. While hook-up costs are expensive, 20 year low interest PSD assessments are available. The Town's contribution of \$1 million came from the use of Tax Increment Financing dollars.

Mayor Martha Baumberger passed away last month. On behalf of the community, we extend our heartfelt condolences to her family. Martha was a trailblazer, and her contributions to our Town will never be forgotten.

Town Manager's Note



One of council's guiding principles has been "striving for excellence in everything we plan, build, do, and maintain" and there are recent examples of Town projects that fit this mindset.

For the last decade or so, erosion has washed away as much as 1,000 feet of beachfront at the heel of the Island, threatening oceanfront property. The project area is located over a mile

long stretch in Port Royal Plantation and will require almost a million cubic yards of sand and will include the creation of a groin to prevent sand from washing away. The work begins in November. Our beaches are public and are connected and while it may seem the benefit of this project is limited to Port Royal, engineers who know will tell you different. We know there is no good time or place for a public project, but we believe we are doing the work at the least intrusive time for residents and visitors. The project should take a couple of months.

For anyone travelling on Arrow Road, you can't help but notice we are building a new roundabout at the intersection of Arrow and Dunnagan's Alley. This improvement will make safer an intersection that has been difficult to traverse. Our contractor has been doing all it can to minimize traffic delays, and I think when the project is completed, you will agree that a significant improvement has been made.

Another project soon to be completed is a transformation at the Bristol Sports

Arena at the Crossings Park. We're flip-flopping the hockey rink with the skate park. The Bristol Family Foundation has been generous once again to the benefit of our youth and has donated a portion of the cost. We are thankful for the Foundation for its commitment to our community. Improvements include new lighting, fencing, dasher boards, bleachers, and a score board.

Finally, after more than a year of hard work and dedication, the Public Art Committee, created the Public Art Exhibition at Honey Horn. Presented by the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, the exhibition is a mile-long trail that includes 20 outdoor sculptures out of 330 submissions considered. Particular thanks goes to Carolyn Torgeson of the Foundation and Mark Baker, and his many volunteers of the Public Art Fund. As Mark has been quoted as saying, "Art offers a richer experience for residents and visitors beyond our traditional offerings of golf and tennis...it enhances the Island's culture and aesthetic appeal."