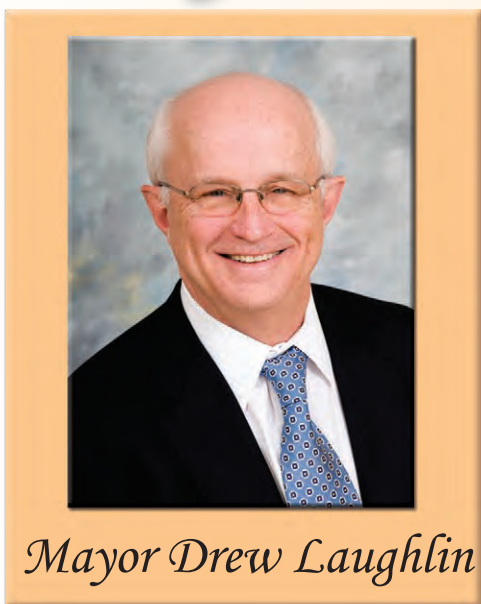


# Our Town

*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



Mayor Drew Laughlin

As you will see on page 3, Coligny Beach area improvements are on the way, and redevelopment there was one of Town Council's top priorities this year. Our vastly improved and popular Pope Avenue pathways will soon be complimented with gateway features, a "central park," pedestrian enhancements, roadway and streetscape improvements, increased parking, and the potential for the develop-

ment/partnership with USCB. Now is the time to reinvigorate the Coligny area and Town Council has authorized exciting initial concepts that you will be seeing more detail of in the very near future.

As to USCB's presence, let me make the case for this important potential feature. While the Coligny area is a vibrant resident and visitor locale in the summer months, the presence of a university will bring a year-round energy to the area. USCB would include the University's Center for Event Management and Hospitality Training and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI at USCB is devoted to providing quality, intellectually stimulating, not-for-credit, educational opportunities and experiences specifically developed for adults who are age 50 and older). Both elements are uniquely compatible to the Coligny area and the Island. Our Island enjoys a high number of educated, interested, and active persons and OLLI may be right at your door-

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step offering opportunities for intellectual stimulation. I believe there will be a return on investment with USCB as well. Just look at the impact of USCB's Gateway Campus. USCB's FY 2012 budget is \$24,742,000. Close to 400 hundred jobs have been created at USCB and those people live, work and spend money in Beaufort County. The total annual economic impact of USCB's Gateway Campus is \$ 74 million dollars, and its existence created over 1,000 jobs. Granted, a smaller footprint on a Pope Avenue location will not have the same impact, but it will have a positive year-round impact and that is Town Council's goal as we redevelop the Island.



## Town Manager's Note



Steve Riley

Let's talk trash! And let's talk recycling! As you will see on page 4, the Island has increased recycling by 360% and that number is expected to grow. Wow! Congratulations are in order to residents for making your Island greener than it already is. This is worthy of a celebratory pat on the back to all residents. Yes, the transition period from several waste haulers to one has experienced failures of service delivery. Town staff has immediately relayed service delivery complaints to Republic Services. The failure rate though is infinitesimal com-

pared to the success rate. Specifically, the collection failure rate is only 1 for every 300 collections, or, to put it more positively, the collection success rate is 300:1. Granted, this success rate won't satisfy a missed collection, and we understand that some residents miss their former waste hauler, but the value of the Town granting a franchise to one hauler benefits the Island as a whole. To date, Republic has paid to the Town \$95,000 from the franchise fee and Sonoco (handles recycling material once transported by Republic to Savannah) has paid to the Town \$35,000. We have used some of this money to expand recycling on our beach.

Town Council approved plans for a Rowing and Sailing Center off Squire Pope Road. The construction of a floating dock, boat storage, restrooms, and a community pavilion will start early in 2013. The project will start a year before originally planned because we reduced the scope of the project. Nothing's easy, but we are proceeding through the design, bidding and permitting process as fast as we can. We are going to use Tax Increment Financing to fund construction of the project. The Island Recreation Association will manage the center and

the Town will cover operating costs going forward. This project illustrates the beauty of utilizing Town-owned land to add a water amenity for residents. For years, many have said that for a town surrounded by water there weren't many access points, but this project adds yet another invitation for residents to enjoy a kayak ride or even fish or crab off a dock.

Our Fire and Rescue Department recently demonstrated to Town Council its "Pit Crew" approach to saving cardiac patients. The new method involved up to 9 responders. Each responder is assigned a specific role. As I viewed the demonstration, I likened the role of each responder to that of a musician in a symphony even though the concept is more likened to NASCAR. By himself, a musician is not effective when trying to produce the sound of a symphony, but when paired with other musicians all playing a different instrument or role, a beautiful melody results. From 2005 to 2010, around 1 in 10 cardiac-arrest patients responded to by Fire and Rescue survived, similar to the national average. In 2012, our survival rate is about 4.5 out of 10.