

Our Town

A Newsletter of the Town of Hilton Head Island
 Brought to you by the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina
www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov (843)341-4600

Town Manager's Note



Steve Riley

Once again the Island has seen its share of accolades from media outlets. Since the last edition of Our Town, we've heard from:

- Conde Nast Traveler named Hilton Head Island No. 7 on its list of top islands in the United States (October 2015);
- Coastalliving.com named the Island on a list of America's 21 Best Beaches and "Best Places to Dig your Toes into the Sand." (July 2015);
- Forbes.com featured the Island in their story, "How to Spend Two Perfect Days in Hilton Head." (July 2015);
- The Huffington Post named Hilton Head Island among its Five Great Southern Resorts for Families this Summer." (August 2015); and
- The Town received the Sustainable Planning Award from Audubon International (July 2015).

The litany of accolades is attributable to the natural resources we enjoy and a commitment of business, government and residents that work to achieve a high quality of life. Congratulations!

You may have read recently that Town Council approved a beach renourishment plan that will begin February 2016. We have not had a major renourishment project since 2006 and it is time. Please see the plans on pages 2 and 3. The engineering of this project is fascinating. More than 2 million of cubic yards of sand will be pumped from offshore onto 6 segments of our Island beach. Our contractor should be able to finish the project, weather and equipment function-permitting, by June. As you can see from the map, the largest segment will be 5.4 miles long from Marriott's Grand Ocean in South Beach to the northern part of Palmetto Dunes. Our Public Projects and Facilities Director, Scott Liggett, has been working with our Coastal Engineering firm, Olsen Associates, perfecting various state and federal permit applications for over a year in anticipation of the project. Four firms bid on the project and the cost will be about \$20.7 million. The source of project funding is a longstanding 2% fee imposed on overnight lodging. Our contractor, Weeks Marine, will be able to complete the project

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expeditiously because of the equipment it brings to bear. This means that we should be able to avoid a project when our beaches begin to fill-up. Please note that Weeks Marine will not be operating on all 4 areas at the same time. The actual project areas consume small portions of the beach. We have created a new e-subscription service category for subscribers to receive project updates via email or text notification, or both. Please visit our website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov to sign-up for this service.

The Town is starting a new public awareness program regarding flooding hazards by educating residents about flood hazards and flood insurance requirements. We already have a great Community Rating System program (we are one of the 3 highest rated communities in SC!) that provides policyholders in the Special Flood Hazard Area a 25% discount each year on their flood insurance premium, that's an estimated community savings of about \$5.6 million each year! We want to reach more residents, so our outreach program is underway with well over 30 tasks, including partnering with real estate, mortgage and insurance companies to expand awareness.

Town Council Build Day

In 2011, the Town of Hilton Head Island donated 14 acres of land to Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity. As part of the deal, Habitat for Humanity paid to build a road and install utilities. In phase one of the project, Habitat will build 16 homes on 6 acres, including a one acre retention pond, common areas and a pump station. Preliminary concept designs estimate 16-20 homes will be built on the same acreage in phase 2 of the project.

On October 14, 2015, the Town continued their strong support for this affordable housing effort with our Mayor, Town Council, Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager and Fire Chief participating in a Habitat for Humanity Town Council Build Day. The Town is currently exploring multiple days for additional Town staff to participate in Habitat for Humanity Town Hall Build Days. While participating in these build days have the obvious charitable benefit of giving to our community, it also provides an opportunity to promote team-building among staff and elected officials.

