

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

The Town was proud to have been recognized as the eCity of the Year by Google, Inc. The award recognizes the country's strongest online business communities and bustling start-up communities. Additionally, Google noted that Hilton Head Island is a tech savvy community.

Thanks to our Chamber and business community for making this happen!



Congratulations are in order to the Coastal Discovery Museum. Our museum was named as an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and is only one of 201 museums, educational and cultural organizations to earn the distinction. The museum's record of scholarship, professionalism, high quality exhibits and educational

programs qualified it for the affiliation. So, there you have it: our business community, non-profits, and local government working in parallel paths to achieve distinction for our great Island.

Last fall, Town of Hilton Head Island employees partnered with Memory Matters, a non-profit organization that serves persons with dementia, in their community-wide initiative, The Purple Angel Project. This initiative develops dementia-friendly communities to take deliberate, coordinated and ongoing action to enable people with memory loss to feel safe in a community. Over 175 Town employees, who are key in providing the highest level of customer service, were trained in skills to support our citizens and visitors with dementia. By participating in the Purple Angel Project, partnering with Memory Matters and joining other local organizations in this worthy cause, our employees will serve a critical role as we become one of the first dementia-friendly communities in the United States.

Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue has been awarded a federal grant

Inside This Edition

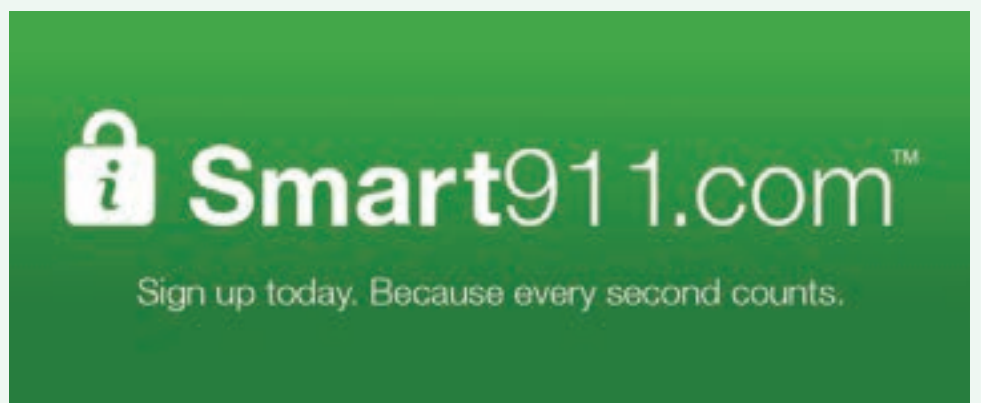
2016 Town Council Key Priorities	2
Beach Renourishment	3
Island Recreation Center Additions & Renovations	4
Flood Awareness	4

in the amount of \$471,306 for the purchase of 12 cardiac monitors through the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. This grant will allow Fire Rescue to update current monitors with the most recent technology developed in accordance with the latest American Heart Association guidelines. The cardiac monitors are used by paramedics to monitor the patient's heart rhythm during medical emergencies and transmit the electrocardiography (ECG) to Hilton Head Hospital.

Finally, with the impending resignation of Council Member Lee Edwards, Beaufort County will conduct a special election for this council seat May 3rd. There will be another election November 8th for the seat once again.

Smart 911

Smart911 is a national service that allows citizens to create a free Safety Profile for their household. The profile can include as much additional information as desired so that 9-1-1 and first responders have in the event of an emergency, information on medical conditions, medications, emergency contact information, access codes for doors, current pictures of children in the home, pets, and cars associated with the address, etc. If an emergency arises that a citizen needs to dial 9-1-1, their Safety Profile will immediately display on the call taker's screen, saving seconds and even minutes in response to the emergency.



Citizens are encouraged to sign up for Smart911 and create a Safety Profile at www.smart911.com to ensure 9-1-1 will have access to their information during an emergency. Smart911 is private and secured using the same security protections many financial institutions use. Your safety profile is only made available to 9-1-1 when an emergency call is made.

2016 Town Council Key Priorities

On November 5, 2015-November 7, 2015, Town Council held a 2 1/2 day workshop to develop key priorities for the upcoming year for council. The five key priorities are outlined below with an update for each one.



1. Arts and Cultural Planning: Consider the Final Report from the Task Force, scheduled for either late 2015 or early 2016. A notable item includes the Town providing funding for hiring full-time staff to oversee Arts and Cultural planning within the community.

Update: Town Council adopted the Arts and Strategic Planning Committee's Final Report in January 2016, and requested the committee to provide more information and alternative details to the HHICAN (Hilton Head Island Cultural and Arts Network) recommendation. In addition, the Council has created an Arts Venue Committee to provide recommendations on the number and types of venue(s) for arts and cultural organizations. Membership to the Committee will be appointed in April 2016.

2. Sewer: Move forward with the 5 year plan as presented and the existing policy of sewer for those who want it. Continue partnership with the Hilton Head Public Service District, which shall continue to acquire easements through donations. In the future, it may become necessary to revisit the voluntary nature of the program.

Update: Fiscal year 2016 funding in the amount of \$950,000 has been put in place to advance Year 1 projects. The Public Service District is pursuing the design, permitting, and easement acquisitions in order to commit a construction contract before the end of the June 2016.

3. Circle to Circle: The Task Force has engaged the services of a Traffic Engineering firm.

Update: In addition, Design Workshop, a consulting firm with Urban Planning experience, has been engaged to provide outside perspective and a means to coalesce ideas and options the Task Force is considering recommending to Town Council. The Task Force is finalizing its discussion with the consultants and the community around the major elements of the Circle to Circle area. Recommendations are anticipated during the May/June timeframe.

4. Economic Development: The Hilton Head Island Economic Development Corporation (HHIEDC) will present additional information for the Town Council to consider regarding the four tools needed to achieve economic development goals: 1) Real Estate Solutions; 2) Business License/Fee Incentive Program; 3) Broadband Program for HHI Businesses; and 4) Funding for Economic Development Programs.



Update: The HHIEDC Board of Directors has recommended that the Town Council evaluate the feasibility of creating a commerce park on Town-owned land on Summit Drive adjacent to the Fire & Rescue Headquarters and training facility. The HHIEDC has also engaged a consulting firm to evaluate options for a co-working facility on Hilton Head Island that could also serve as an entrepreneurial center for the Town, which options will be presented to Town Council in spring 2016. In addition, the HHIEDC is evaluating potential sites for workforce housing and conducting an analysis of the potential for a 5-star hotel in the Town of Hilton Head Island. The HHIEDC has previously made a recommendation regarding a tiered business license fee structure that would encourage new businesses to locate on Hilton Head Island. The HHIEDC has partnered with the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce and the Information Technology Task Force in the development of a Request for Proposals to develop a Telecommunications Road Map for Hilton Head Island to address gaps in cellular, Internet, and Wi-Fi service in the Town.

5. Visioning: A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued to engage the services of a consulting firm to coordinate the Visioning process in 2016. Items of particular concern to the Mayor and Town Council to be incorporated into the process include: A) Composition of the Task Force; and B) Community outreach methods to solicit public input from the various population segments in the community.

Update: Mr. Steven Ames, of Steven Ames Consulting, conducted a 2 1/2 day workshop to discuss the process for determining an Island-wide Vision and Master Plan. In 14 different meetings, he interviewed over 60 individuals, representing Native Islanders, Community Leaders, the Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Corporation, the Arts, the Planned Unit Development General Managers, and members from Town Council and Planning Commission. Discussions will be held in April to determine implementation methods recommended in the Summary Memo from Mr. Ames.

2016 Beach Renourishment Project

The Town of Hilton Head Island recognizes that its beaches are a vital asset to its residents and the Island's economy. As part of the Town's long-term strategy for beach restoration and maintenance, the Town plans to begin its 2016 \$20.7 million renourishment project in June 2016. Although work will commence this summer, high density visitor-oriented beaches along central shoreline will not be impacted until fall (See Map Below). The funding source of the project is a longstanding 2% fee imposed on overnight lodging.

The 2016 renourishment of the Atlantic oceanfront shoreline will be similar to the projects constructed in 1990, 1997 and 2006, with the exception that no sand will be placed between The Folly and The Westin Resort. The project construction is expected to last about 5 months. Because the project is extremely large, construction operations must proceed around the clock and will, on average, move along the shoreline at a rate of about 200 to 300 feet per day.

For more information regarding this project including maps, photos, FAQ's, updates and more, please visit our website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov. Additionally, the Town has created a new 2016 beach renourishment project e-subscription service category for subscribers to receive project updates and daily restricted area location reports via email and/or text message notifications. Please visit our website to sign-up for this free service and stay up-to-date on the latest beach renourishment project information as well as a variety of other topics.

Join our Facebook page for project updates
<http://facebook.com/TownofHiltonHeadIslandSC>



Photo from 2006 Beach Renourishment Project showing the 1,000 feet of restricted area, in addition to the remaining open beach.

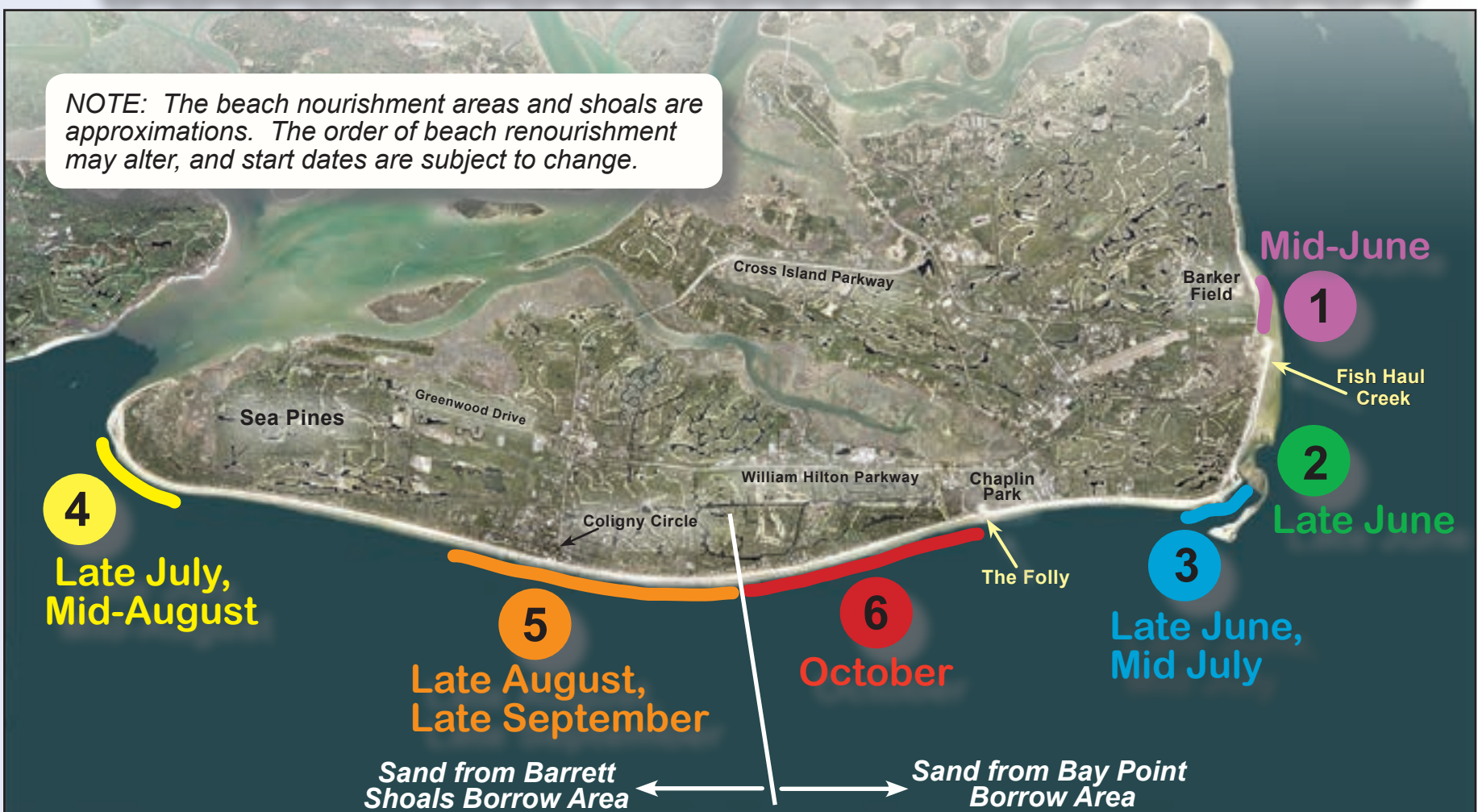


Beach Renourishment pipeline has arrived and is being stored at Islanders Beach Park.

Our Beach is Open for Business in 2016!

This Map displays the total area that will be addressed during the 5 month renourishment project. Please note that only 1,000 feet of beach access will be restricted per day, leaving all remaining beach on Hilton Head Island available for use.

NOTE: The beach nourishment areas and shoals are approximations. The order of beach renourishment may alter, and start dates are subject to change.



Island Recreation Center Additions & Renovations

The Island Recreation Center, located at 20 Wilborn Road on the Hilton Head Island School campus, is currently housed in a building constructed in 1988. The facility includes a gymnasium with bleachers, two classrooms, miscellaneous offices, an indoor/outdoor pool, three outdoor basketball courts, a playground and play fields. The center runs a pre-school day program, afterschool, and summer programs for school age children along with sports programs for all ages, adults and children alike.

The center also operates the only public pool facility on the Island. It provides swimming and water exercise opportunities for all ages as well as a place for local, private swim teams and the Hilton Head Island High School swim teams to practice and hold competitions. The pool operates year round by incorporating the use of an air supported dome enclosure to enclose the pool area during the winter season.

The FWA Group is currently working with the Center staff under the direction of the Town of Hilton Head Island to upgrade their current outdated facilities. The project includes upgrades to the existing gymnasium, office areas, classrooms, and toilets. New construction will include the following:

- Full size gymnasium with retractable bleachers;
- Registration/office areas;
- Vending/snack area;
- Community and fitness rooms;
- A second floor running track and exercise areas;
- Pool office/storage buildings; and
- Pool restroom facilities building.

Other upgrades will include additional parking on School Road; relocated tennis courts and ROTC drill pad; a new pool deck and pool dome; and additional field lighting for an existing field on the school property.

The proposed new building will be approximately 31,000 square feet on two stories with 15,000 in renovated existing space. Exterior support areas make up an additional 2,500 square feet.



Flood Awareness

The Town of Hilton Head Island participates in the Community Rating System (CRS), a program under the National Flood Insurance Program that awards the Town by giving its residents in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) a 25% discount on their flood insurance premiums. One of the major components of the CRS program is to promote flood awareness and provide essential flood safety information to our residents.

Knowing what to do when you encounter a flooded road is important. Never drive on flooded roads – almost half of flood deaths happen in vehicles. Six inches of water is enough to cause you to lose control of your vehicle. When streets are flooded, do not walk or drive into them, Turn Around-Don't Drown.

