



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



Town Council just finalized the Town's budget last month and we have succeeded in substantially reducing costs while maintaining our core services such as beach, park, road and pathway improvements. Additionally, in an effort to address crime hot spots at a few local bars, we have added \$50,000 to the Sheriff's Office overtime budget and we have funded an additional Sheriff's Office Investigator position that will concentrate on liquor law violations. These actions, along with adopting a law that prohibits the sale and consumption of liquor after 3:00 a.m. and a nuisance law, should go a long way to decrease the

problems we've seen at a few bars. If it doesn't, Council will consider tougher measures. On a similar note, Council also appropriated \$35,000 to the Solicitor's Office for a special prosecution team that targets career felons housed in the Beaufort County jail. We need these defendants to be tried and, when convicted, sent to state prisons and out of Beaufort County.

On the land acquisition front, Town Council made two strategic purchases recently. We purchased a 4.7 acre parcel at the corner of Gardner Drive and William Hilton Parkway (U.S. 278) from Hilton Head Christian Academy. This large parcel fronts U.S. 278 and could have been the location, for example, of a service station. We intend on keeping the property in its natural state consistent with other property we own at the intersection. We also purchased 4 parcels from Property Research Holdings. The 1st parcel is 1.8 acres at Arrow Road and Target Road. The 2nd and 3rd parcels are strips found along Arrow Road. These 3 purchases will further the Town's Capital Improvements Projects efforts. The last parcel is half an acre near Central Park close to existing Town-owned land at the corner of Leamington in Palmetto Dunes. The Town will also receive a waiver of any rights that Property Research Holdings

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has, or may have, with respect to any properties the Town owns or may acquire in the future. The Town now owns 132 parcels totaling 1,179.51 acres. Taken together, these parcels have resulted in a potential reduction of 4.39 million square feet of commercial development, 1,365 motel rooms, 4,210 residential and timeshare units, and the preclusion of 37,151 pm peak-hour driving trips.

In our continuing effort to relax development rules without jeopardizing our commitment to regulating growth, we have finalized our approval allowing the Mall to expand by adding a theatre. Without the Town's action, the Mall owner believes the future of the Mall would be in jeopardy. Other examples are beginning to emerge where property owners have taken advantage of more flexible Town development and redevelopment standards, and we hope that when the economy improves, residents will realize that we have laid the groundwork for a re-emergence of sorts.



Artwork at Coligny Beach Park

Town Manager's Note



As the economy slows to a halt and revenues trend down, we have still managed to meet the demands of residents and visitors by providing well-maintained beach parks, pathways, roads and other public facilities. We can do this when operating budget costs are cut, as we have just seen in our 2009-2010 fiscal year budget and from the year before. Town Council has made it clear that law enforcement and fire and rescue services are a priority and enhancements have been made for both critical services. The Mayor,

above, has noted examples of the Town's commitment to public safety. While we have had some challenging budgets the last two years, we have been able to make improvements where needed.

The recently finished improvements (see page 4 for more details) to Coligny Beach Park are a prime example of dedicating funds and time to a critical public amenity. Please take the opportunity to visit the new and improved beach park. You will experience a whole new look. We have dramatically opened up the view from Coligny Circle towards the ocean. The improved beach park will include new restrooms and shower features, elevated seating areas, a picnic shelter and improved boardwalks taking tourists from Coligny Circle to the beach. Finally, we have topped off the improvements with a beautiful ground level fountain with 26 synchronized water jets. The fountain will be tasteful and is not meant to compete with the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas. This project represents Council's redevelopment initiative in the area. We hope that projects like this will spur or revitalize businesses and pedestrian use. If you look at the wildly successful Pope Avenue pathway improvements, the significantly utilized new Compass

Rose Park, Coligny Circle roundabout improvements, coupled with Coligny Beach Park's re-birth, you will begin to understand that we mean business when it comes to redevelopment. The project was behind schedule and we apologize for this but commit to finishing projects on time in the future.

Writing of other tired public properties leads me to the replacement of Fire Station 5 located at the entrance to Hilton Head Plantation. The station is about 30 years old, and, as you can imagine with the rough and tumble use it gets from firefighters 24 hours a day, it was in immediate need of replacement. Now demolished, the station will be built, fingers crossed, within a year. The new station will be about two times the size of the old one. New Fire Station 5 will be 20 feet above sea level and could act as a temporary location for some staff and vehicles in an emergency because it is rated for a category 3 hurricane or less. If you want to know what it will look like, just look at the stations at the back gate to Hilton Head Plantation or the one at the Cross Island Parkway. They are built to last.

Background Image: Coligny Beach Park

Around Town

Fire & Rescue Training Center

Construction has been completed on the new Fire & Rescue Training Center located on Hiltech Lane near the Fire & Rescue Headquarters. The Training Center offers the Town tremendous improvement in fire and emergency training. It will provide a place to conduct fire and rescue training that was previously not available locally. The new Training Center also eliminates the need to use public buildings, streets and parking lots as temporary training locations, as well as allows for certain driver's training to take place away from the public streets.

The 4-story training tower includes two roof ventilation props, a fire sprinkler prop, a standpipe prop, a rope rescue anchor system, and an artificial smoke distribution and removal system. The interior firefighting facility provides live fire capability up to 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit and is equipped with a temperature monitoring system to improve safety. Other Training Center features include a car fire prop, a flammable liquid gas firefighting prop, a vehicle extrication pad, a pumper testing facility and a driver training course. The Training Center warehouse features office space, apparatus bays, and shower and cleanup facilities.

The Training Center gives Fire & Rescue the ability to conduct live fire training without the environmental and safety problems inherent in burning structures. The water filtration system, the use of propane fuels, and the use of "green" firefighting foam will help keep the environment clean and ensure that we have one of the most environmentally-friendly training centers in the region.



Coligny Beach Park Redevelopment

The Coligny Beach Park Redevelopment Project was just completed. Construction to improve the existing park, comprising approximately 1.47 acres off Coligny Circle, began in February. Though there were delays in the project's completion, the final result was worth the wait for citizens, visitors and area businesses. The improved views of the ocean, accessibility and amenities will enhance the park's enjoyment for everyone.

The updated park includes two restroom facilities, new beach showers and foot showers and a picnic shelter. Two elevated platforms have been constructed to allow users to look out over the dunes to views of the ocean while sitting on swings underneath the shade of pergolas. There are booths to provide beachgoers the opportunity to change into their street clothes so they may comfortably enjoy the shops and restaurants in the Coligny area. The biggest modification to the old park is the addition of an interactive fountain with 26 water jets at grade level that will allow visitors an opportunity to cool off after going to the beach or play in the water. The reconfiguration of the built elements on the site will allow anyone visiting the park the opportunity to visit the beach, play in the fountain, or simply sit in the shade on a swing, bench, or rocking chair and enjoy the beautiful views of the Atlantic Ocean.

This \$1.43 million project is a part of the Bridge to the Beach Redevelopment plan, a strategy of Town-built projects, policies, and programs meant to stimulate private redevelopment in the area.

