

# 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

see page 3 for information as to how you can keep up-to-date on daily project developments. Also, Town Council recently adopted its 2016-2017 fiscal year budget, as described on page 4 of this edition.

Concurrent with the new budget, staff recommended, and council adopted, a road usage fee. The Town of Hilton Head Island owns and maintains approximately 18 miles of roads and related roadway improvements for the safety and welfare of its residents, for access and egress to residential and business activities, and for emergency evacuation. Creating a uniform fee (\$25) to be collected for the purpose of creating a new fund to pay, in whole or in part, for:

1. Maintenance of Town-owned roads and roadway improvements within the territorial limits of the Town;
2. Acquisition and stabilization of private roads within the territorial limits of the Town;
3. Paving of newly acquired private roads within the territorial limits of the Town;
4. Acquisition or construction of future Town-owned roads and roadway improvements within the territorial limits of the Town;
5. Acquisition or refurbishment of fire rescue apparatus/vehicles which may be used to provide services to roadway address-

### Inside This Edition

<i>Hurricane Preparedness</i>	2
<i>Around Town</i>	3
<i>Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Budget</i>	4

- es provided such uses shall be funded in the approximate proportion of services calls to roadway addresses to total service calls;
6. Principal, interest, redemption premium and any other costs associated with debt incurred for a purpose authorized herein; and
  7. Establishment of replacement reserve accounts associated with a purpose authorized herein.

Our budget reflects the needs as we see them for the coming year; please support our efforts to make the Island a fantastic place to live, work, and visit.

**F**irst and foremost, congratulations to David Ames, long-time community asset and new Town Council member. Mr. Ames' involvement and participation from both a business person and active Island volunteer will serve the Town well in his new role as a council member. Please see below for more biographical information on David. I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate outgoing ward 3 council member Lee Edwards for his service to the Town. Council members put long hours into each day, and Lee was able to balance running a large business, raising a young family, and working as a council member for nearly four years.

We have 2 big updates for you. Our long, anticipated beach renourishment project has begun. This \$20+ million dollar project, primarily paid for by a beach preservation fee imposed mostly on visitors from various room rentals e.g. hotels. Please

### Lights Out for Turtles!



*Sea Turtles are nesting. It is more important than ever that you turn off your outside lights and close your blinds or drapes at 10:00 pm if you live or are staying along the beach to prevent sea turtle disorientation.*

## Meet Our New Ward 3 Councilmember



David Ames  
Ward 3 Councilman

- Spouse:** Nancy **Married:** 49 years
- Children:** Two daughters and two grandsons
- Place of Birth:** Hartford, Connecticut
- Years on the Island:** 43 years
- Hobbies and Interests:** Kayaking, flying, photography
- Education:** Princeton University (Architecture), University of Pennsylvania (MFA Architecture and Planning)
- Professional Background:** Community planning and development
- Civic Background:** Mayor's Task Force, LMO Rewrite Committee, Beaufort County Aviation Board, and boards of SC Naure Conservancy, SC Independent Colleges and Universities, Hilton Head College Center, Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, Leadership SC, Leadersip HHI, Children's Center, Hilton Head Prep.
- Other Affiliations:** Circle to Circle Committee, Greater Island Council's Vision Steering Committee, Hope Haven of the Lowcountry.
- Item of Interest:** I planned Hilton Head Plantation in the late 70's to the mid-80's, in some cases subdividing over 400 lots a year.

# Hurricane Preparedness

Hurricane season is here again. Although the official hurricane season is from June 1 to November 30, the Atlantic had an early arrival this year with the formations of Tropical Storms Alex in January, Bonnie in May and Colin in June! Tropical Storms Bonnie and Colin resulted in the Island being impacted by heavy rainfall, reminding us that we are very vulnerable to tropical storms and hurricanes. Though hurricanes are a major focus, we need to be prepared for all hazards all the time, not just for hurricanes. Preparedness does not have to be expensive or time-consuming. The important thing is to plan for your family's safety needs. Start by making a list of the important elements of your personal preparedness plan and work on those items one at a time. You don't have to do it all at once. Your list could include:

- Emergency Kit
- Identify Evacuation Destinations
- Important Documents
- Plan For Your Pets
- Communications Plan
- Special Needs and Equipment

The Town's Citizen's Guide to Emergency Preparedness is a great resource to help you prepare and understand the hazards that may impact the Town. The guide is available at all Town facilities and on the Town's website at [www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov](http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov).



## Emergency Kit

An emergency kit should include items you will need if you evacuate and when you return after a hurricane. You should have basic necessities for at least three days. Some items to consider are:

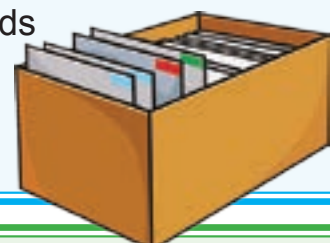
- + One gallon of water per person per day
- + Nonperishable food (consider special dietary needs)
- + Flashlights and a battery-powered or crank radio
- + Chargers for electronic devices and extra batteries
- + Clothing and hygiene supplies
- + Medications and first aid kit
- + Cash



## Important Documents

If you are evacuating, it is a good idea to bring copies of important documents or keep a copy in another location either electronically or with someone you trust. Some important documents to take with you could include:

- ☑ Insurance policies – home, life, auto, and health
- ☑ Vehicle titles and registrations
- ☑ Mortgage or property deeds
- ☑ Recent tax returns
- ☑ Inventory of your home including pictures



## Communications Plan

It is important to keep a physical list of important contacts. If electronic devices fail, you may lose access to important phone numbers in your contact list. Some important numbers to keep in your communication plan are:

- ☎ Out of the area contacts
- ☎ Family physicians
- ☎ Pharmacy – local and in evacuation location
- ☎ Insurance companies – home, life, auto and health
- ☎ Veterinarian
- ☎ Re-entry hotline 1-800-963-5023



## Identify Evacuation Destinations

Do not wait for the mandatory evacuation order from the Governor; leave early!

It is important to have multiple destination options for a hurricane evacuation. Do not make assumptions. Contact the locations where you may stay and gather basic information about the location.

- 📍 Name – hotel, friend, or family
- 📍 Address, written directions and paper map
- 📍 Phone number and email
- 📍 Estimated driving time
- 📍 Estimated cost of the room
- 📍 Accommodation of any special needs or pets



## Plan For Your Pets

Planning for your pets is very similar to planning for yourself. Your pets will have some of the same basic needs. In addition to those basic needs consider:

- 🐾 Food and water
- 🐾 Proof of vaccinations, medical records, photo of your pet with you
- 🐾 Extra leash and collar
- 🐾 Crate, bed, and/or blanket
- 🐾 Certification or documentation for service animals



**Sign-up for the Town's free e-subscription service to receive "Emergency Alerts" via email or text.**

This service will be used in conjunction with our existing website and Citizen Hotline (1-800-963-5023) to provide emergency information. The Town will utilize the "Emergency Alerts" topic of our e-subscription service during an emergency or disaster, particularly in an evacuation or during the recovery.

The Town encourages residents to sign-up for the e-subscription service and link it to their cell phone so that the messages will be received in a timely manner. Visit our Website to sign-up today!

Join the Town's Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/TownofHiltonHeadIslandSC>



Follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/hhiemergency>

## Special Needs or Equipment

Consider all of your needs when preparing for an evacuation. Take into account any special needs or equipment you may have. Some additional things to consider are:

- ♿ A support network to help you in an emergency or evacuation
- ♿ Take the instructions for special medical equipment. If you are unable to operate the equipment, someone else may be able to assist you
- ♿ Information for special equipment – model and serial number, manufacturer's phone number
- ♿ Contact your oxygen supplier about their emergency plans and how you will maintain your supply

## After-the-Storm Contact Information

While out of town, you can obtain updated information regarding Hilton Head Island by calling this toll free number: **1-800-963-5023**. Recorded messages will advise of road conditions, damage estimates, utility restoration, shelter information, re-entry times, and other pertinent information. You may also access this information on the following websites

[www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov](http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov)  
and [www.bcgov.net](http://www.bcgov.net)

# Around Town

## 2016 Beach Renourishment Project

The 2016 Beach Renourishment project is underway. Though the total project construction is expected to last about 5 months, **Our Beach is Open for Business in 2016!** Only 2 percent (approximately 1,000 feet) of the beach will be temporarily restricted at a time, leaving all remaining beach on Hilton Head Island available for use. Because the project is extremely large, construction will take place 24 hours a day in a continuous active 1,000 foot site, and on average, should move along the shoreline at a rate of about 200 to 300 feet per day.

To receive project updates, including daily location updates, an interactive map, and photos:

1. Visit the Town's website at [www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov](http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov).
2. Subscribe to the Town's E-Subscription Service "2016 Beach Renourishment Project" category via email and/or text message notifications. Visit the Town's website to sign up for this free service.
3. Join the Town's Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/TownofHiltonHeadIslandSC>.



Before



Mitchelville Beach Park

After



## Circle to Circle Committee

On February 17, 2015, Town Council created the Circle to Circle Committee under the oversight of the Planning Commission to develop a vision, incorporating community input, for the future of the Coligny Circle to Sea Pines Circle over the next 20 years.

The Circle to Circle Committee held dozens of meetings over the past sixteen months including four community forums held the first week of June. The Committee concluded its efforts and delivered its preliminary report and recommendations to the Planning Commission on June 15, 2016. The Planning Commission recommended the report and recommendations be presented to Town Council at an upcoming meeting. The complete report including details on the recommendations is available on the Town's website at [www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov](http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov).

## Fire Station No. 2

Fire Station No. 2 design is complete and is currently out for bid. This fire station will replace the original building, which was built in the early 1980's. The original station and property has been modified/renovated numerous times through the years. The building is old, inadequate and suffering from chronic water damage, wood rot, and structural weakness.

As part of the Town's initiative to upgrade facilities, a standard design for Town fire stations was developed in the late 1990's. The design includes the ability to withstand some seismic and high wind events and the ability to house additional staff in an extreme emergency. Construction of Fire Station No. 2 will be LEED silver certified. The station will be about 8,500 sq. ft. and will include sleeping facilities for four firefighters, a community meeting and training room, weight room, and three bays for fire apparatus and ambulances. Fire Station No.2 serves Sea Pines.

## Coligny District Redevelopment

The Coligny Redevelopment project is in the final stages of design and permitting. Phase 1 construction is anticipated to begin in September 2016 and will include improvements to Nassau Street, Pope Avenue/Lagoon Road intersection, Lagoon Road extension from Pope Avenue to Tanglewood Drive, and South Forest Beach Drive; new pathways;

and a community park including a destination playground with interactive fountain and a ship-themed play structure, Children's Museum, and event lawn. Visit the Town's website to view the overall schematic park plan.



## Why Purchase Flood Insurance?

If your home is located in a designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), Zone A or V, then federally regulated or insured lenders require you by law to purchase flood insurance as a condition of their loan. Lenders might not require flood insurance for homes outside of SFHAs, but you should still consider it. Floodwaters don't stop at a line on a flood map. It is important to know that flood insurance claims are paid even if a disaster event is not declared by the President. Flood insurance reimburses you for all covered building losses up to \$250,000 for residential occupancies and up to \$500,000 for businesses. Personal property coverage, commonly known as contents coverage, is also available up to \$100,000 for residential occupancies and up to \$500,000 for businesses.

Insuring your possessions is just as important as financially protecting the structure of your home or business. Even a few inches of water can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage. Without flood insurance to cover those losses, your financial security may be at risk. Contents coverage is an important option to consider because it is not automatically included in your standard flood insurance policy. Currently, only 1 in 4 homeowners with a standard flood insurance policy is covered for damage to their contents. However, contents coverage is available to homeowners, business owners, and renters to financially protect belongings from potential flood damage.

It is also important to know that most homeowners' insurance policies typically do not cover floods. And flood insurance is more affordable than you may think! The average cost of a flood insurance policy is about \$600 annually. So whether you are required to purchase flood insurance or not, you should consider financially protecting your home and your personal belongings!

# Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Budget

The combined fiscal year 2016/2017 budgeted expenditures for the General Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Debt Service Fund and Stormwater Utility Fund (Enterprise Fund) is \$106,452,380. This represents an increase of \$18.1 million or 20.5% more than the fiscal year 2015/2016 adopted budget. The increase is primarily due to large capital projects like beach re-nourishment.

## Where the Money Comes From

The Town revenue sources are provided from taxes on real, personal, and vehicle property; business licenses; permits; fees; charges for services; and other miscellaneous revenue collections. Major categories of revenue are described below.

**Property Taxes** are ad valorem taxes collected during the fiscal year on real estate, personal property, and vehicles. This revenue is 18% of the consolidated budget at \$19.0 million.

**Licenses and Franchise Fees** are business licenses; cable, recycling and beach franchise fees providing \$9.4 million for the General Fund representing 9% of the consolidated budget.

**Accommodations Taxes (ATAX) / Beach Preservation Fees and related bond proceeds** are funds derived from taxes on short-term rental, hotels, and motel accommodations. The State mandates a 2% ATAX, and the Town has a 2% Beach Fee and 1% Local ATAX. These fees provide \$9.7 million and represent 9% of the consolidated budget.

**Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and related bond proceeds** funds derive from increased value above the baseline assessment when the TIF District was established. These taxes provide \$36.8 million and represent 34% of the consolidated budget.

**Hospitality Tax (HTAX) and related bond proceeds** are collected from a 2% tax imposed on the gross sales price of prepared meals and beverages. These fees and proceeds provide \$5.4 million and represent 5% of the total budget.

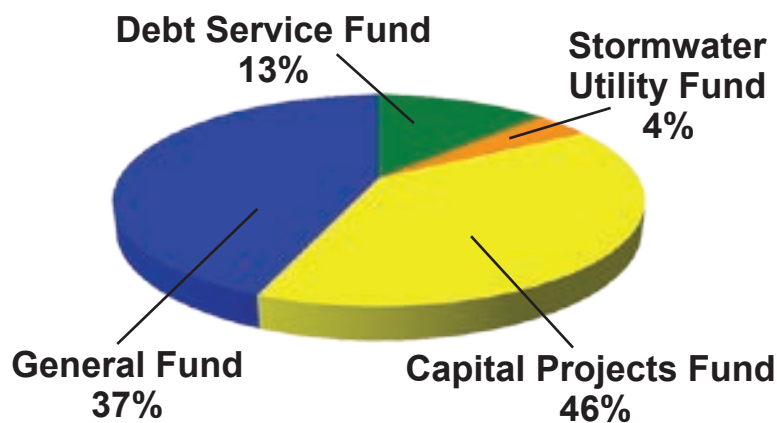
**Stormwater Utility Fees are charged by Beaufort County for management** of the stormwater system within the Town. These fees and proceeds provide \$3.8 million and represent 4% of the total budget.

**General Obligation Bond proceeds** are being used to fund park and sewer service expansion projects. These proceeds provide \$8.3 million and represent 8% of the total budget.

**Other revenues** include impact fees, permit fees, real estate transfer fees, intergovernmental funds and miscellaneous revenue (contributions, municipal fines and fees, emergency medical services, and interest income). Total budgeted revenue from these sources is \$14.1 million or 13% of the total budget.

## Expenditures by Fund

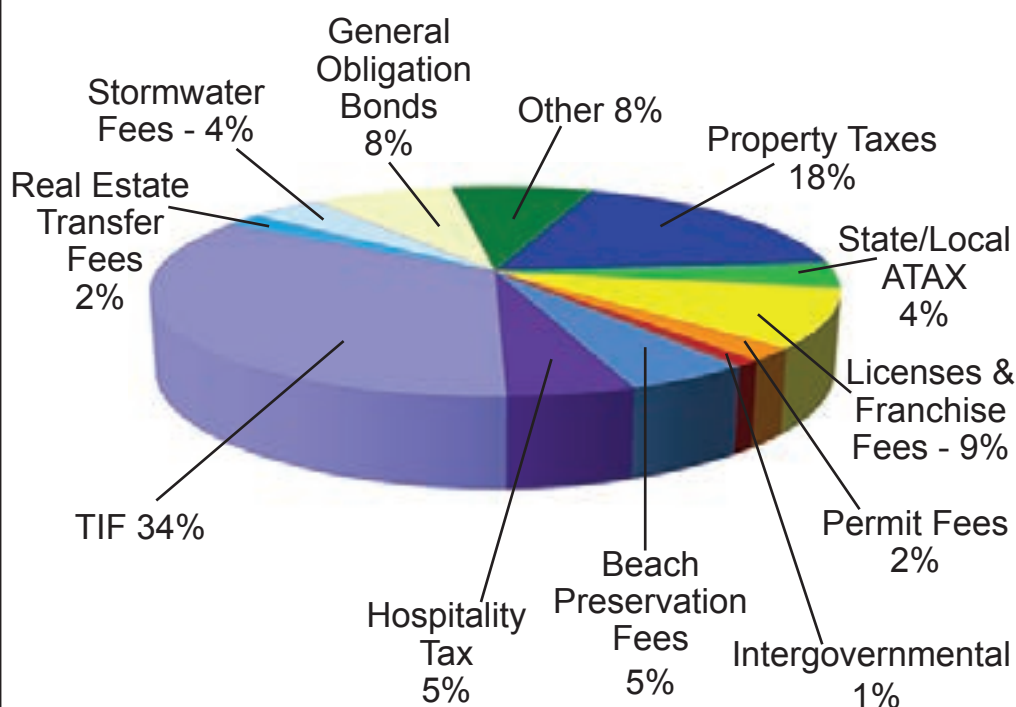
Fiscal Year 2016/2017



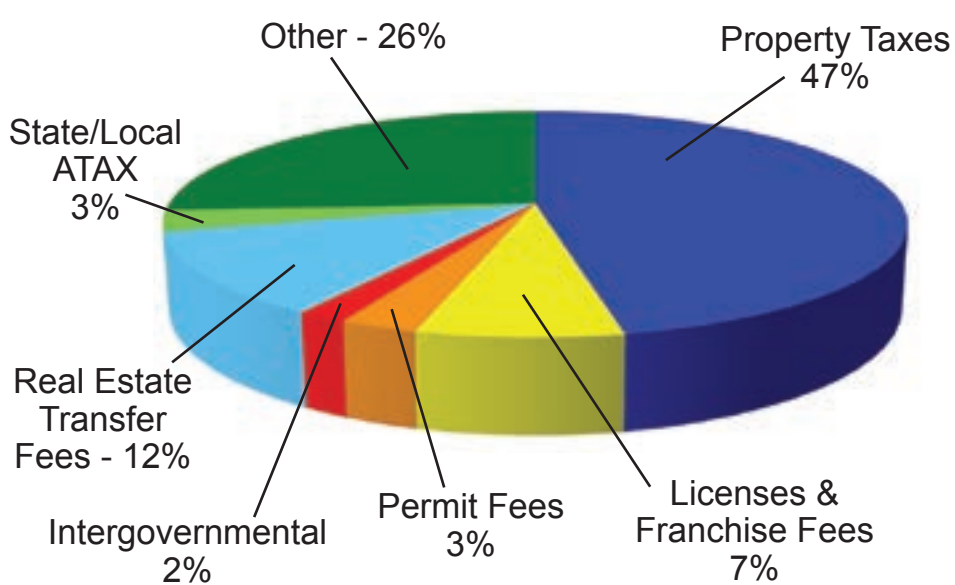
## Consolidated Budget Revenue Sources

The pie charts below highlight the Town's progress in decreasing the reliance on a high percentage of property tax revenue from 47% in fiscal year 1994 as compared to 18% in fiscal year 2017. The increase in funding provided through other sources demonstrates the Town's ability to expand the diversity of its funding sources through the years.

### Fiscal Year 2016/2017



### Fiscal Year 1993/1994



## Where the Money Goes by Program

### Fiscal Year 2016/2017

