

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

Mayor's Note



As you will see on pages 2 and 3 of this quarter's edition of "Our Town," Council has come out of its annual Strategic Planning Workshop with a plan for our future. The workshop was facilitated by Lyle Sumek who is nationally recognized in helping municipal governments plan their future. The workshop was open to the public and attended by local media.

Given the challenging financial times we live in coupled with a town that must evolve to maintain its vibrancy, the workshop took on a different tone this year.

As a result of a tough economy and anticipated reduced revenues, we had to reassess our core businesses and make the difficult but necessary

decision to delay a few major projects.

While existing revenue numbers show only a relatively gradual reduction, we are reasonably anticipating the gradual decline may accelerate. We have a mind-set of being fiscally conservative now rather than waiting until it's too late to react.

We also discussed the necessity of our approach to how government should operate in the future. I never see the town abandoning careful and responsible growth control; however, we should look at our existing policies and laws to facilitate everything that will make our town an active and vibrant community.

We'll be looking at facilitating redevelopment with a variety of tools and reviewing our existing development process. We also will be looking at our zoning schemes and determining what our Planned Unit Development and resort area strategy should be.

We have some pretty heavy lifting ahead on these and other important subjects.

Recently, Island voters overwhelmingly approved a referendum question that allows the Town to borrow up to \$17 million dollars to purchase land. We will not borrow the money unless we identify strategic properties that benefit Islanders. Thank you very much for this vote of support and those we have received in previous land

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acquisition referendums.

In other news, Town Council is in the midst of reviewing a Developer Agreement with the owner of the Mall that would, in essence, allow the Mall to add 40,000 square feet of commercial space for a new movie theatre. We are trying to keep our island vibrant and in order to do this, we need to rethink the way we do business at Town Hall. Our successful efforts at controlling growth include measures that hamper development. We think we can continue to control growth but add flexibility to land management standards that facilitate a contained growth. We will review zoning standards and perhaps consider establishing transitional zoning districts that allow for tired commercial areas to re-invent themselves within basically the same footprint. Council wants Town Hall to be part of the solution by being more involved in making redevelopment happen.

Finally, the Island has seen three very special residents pass away in 2008. Former Mayor Harvey Ewing, John Curry and Helen Cork contributed differently but greatly to our island and we will never forget that their unselfish efforts made our quality of life very good indeed.

Town Manager's Note



Happy New Year to you.

The Town has been busy with improving safety for pedestrians the last year and we have received many compliments as a result. While we would like to be able to address safety issues and resident amenities all at once, money and available staff make this impossible. We have, however,

identified the most pressing roads and adjacent property and constructed pathways for your benefit. Pope Avenue for as long as I can remember was the poster child for a needed pathway. The road is busy enough and when you combine that with an on the road pathway optimal conditions are not present. So what did we do? We built a beautiful off-the-road serpentine pathway that incorporates bridges over water. Pedestrians love it and our new Compass Rose Park has become a popular resting place for walkers and bicyclists. More important, pedestrians aren't mixing within a few feet of vehicles. On Mathews Drive, we just finished a huge road and pathway improvement project. Pedestrians had no safe place to walk along the road. The road was old (it used to be part of U.S. 278) and residential development in the area began to trigger more pedestrian use of the road and adjacent property. The scope of the project was large because it was a road, pathway, drainage, and utility relocation

effort. The cost was high and the construction time long. I hope you agree that we now have a very safe, manageable, and beautifully landscaped road. Finally, a pathway along Palmetto Bay Road has been completed and it too offers a substantially improved pathway for residents and visitors. All in all, you can get around the island more safely and more quickly than ever before.

Staff will soon be following up with Council's directive to create a recycling program for the island. We have studied various recycling methods and we hope to settle on a particular method in the coming months. Our recycling rate on the island is not good compared with state and national numbers. The Town itself has made a few recycling improvements at some of our beach parks and with special events we regulate.

2009 Town Strategic Plan

Our Vision:

“World Class Residential & Resort Community”

World Class Beach
Great Natural Beauty
Well-Planned Community
Pristine Waterways
Vibrant Community

Preserving Our Low Country Character, Feel and Heritage
Exceptional Recreational Opportunities for All
Sustainable Community through Continuous Revitalization
Community Welcomes All
Hilton Head Island: Community Spirit and Pride

Our Core Business:

The Responsibility of Town Government

Regulation of Land Management and Redevelopment to Protect High Standards
Protection of Natural Resources and Scenic Views
Managing Traffic and Pedestrian Safety
Public Safety Services: Meeting Our Community Expectations and Standards
Leisure and Recreational Opportunities for All Residents and Guests

Town Council 2009 Policy Agenda: Targets for Action

Top Priority

Redevelopment Strategy and Direction
Economic Development Strategy and Direction
Dune Accretion and Storm Protection Ordinance
Port Royal Beach Erosion Direction
Update Comprehensive Plan
Comprehensive Rewrite of LMO

High Priority

Light Industrial District (IL) Zoning Review
Rowing and Sailing Center Direction
Mathews Drive Connectivity Direction
PUD Commercial & Resort Area Strategy
Recycling Program and Direction

Moderate Priority

Law Enforcement Center Direction
Dredging Policy and Direction
Recreational Center & Aquatic Facilities Direction
Fire & Rescue Standards of Coverage
Street Name Signs: Mast Arm Mounted Signs

Our Goals: 2014 & Beyond

Sustainable Town - Preserving Our Character
Unique Amenities for Residents and Guests
Top Quality Services, Financially-Sound Town
Effective Regional Transportation System
Clean, Safe, Accessible Waterways
Strengthen Community Spirit and Pride

Management Agenda 2009

Top Priority

Budget: Services and Service Level Priority
Coligny Beach Park Phase 1
Review Development/Redevelopment Process
“Green” Initiatives in Town Operations
PUD Infrastructure Agreements for Storm Water Utility
Management

High Priority

CIP Criteria and Process
Storm Water Utility Fees
All-Hazards Disaster Plan
Shelter Cove Mall Theater Project

Around Town

Hazardous Materials Round-up

On Saturday, November 15, 2008, the Town of Hilton Head Island hosted its first Fall Hazardous Material Round-up at Fire & Rescue Headquarters located on Summit Drive. Due to the success of the Spring Round-up, the Town chose to add the additional date. The Fall Round-up was a huge success, with 775 cars stopping to drop off an estimated 56,000 pounds of hazardous materials including paints, pesticides, old fuel and more. Included in this total were 226 pounds of batteries, 148 fluorescent tubes and bulbs, and approximately 100 printer cartridges.



Honoring Benjamin M. Racusin

On November 5, 2008, Mayor Thomas D. Peebles and the members of Town Council honored the Town's first mayor, Benjamin M. Racusin. A plaque was unveiled at the ceremony for the newly named "Benjamin M. Racusin Town Council Chambers" located at Town Hall. The plaque includes Mayor Racusin's opening quote at the Town of Hilton Head Island's first Town Council Meeting on August 5, 1983:

"We are now a Town united in purpose; and that is to insure the health, wealth and happiness of all the people of Hilton Head Island. It is with humility and singleness of direction that I, together with the newly elected council members, accept the challenges that have been given to us: to establish a sound and effective government, to insure the future well being of this Island, and its residents. We will make mistakes, you can count on that; but we hope the public will bear with us..."



Palmetto Bay Road and Target Road Pathways

Construction is completed on the Palmetto Bay Road and Target Road Pathways. These pathways will enhance and provide vital connectivity to the Town's existing pathway system as well as provide pedestrians and cyclists with a safe travel way through this mostly commercial corridor. A dedicated right turn lane to Target Road where it meets Palmetto Bay Road was included in the pathway construction. This project is being funded by Town TIF funds and a \$200,000 grant from the South Carolina Transportation Enhancement Program Outreach.

