



Town of Hilton Head Island **TOWN MANAGER UPDATE**

An Update from Deputy Town Manager Josh Gruber 10/16/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

Here's an update on what's happening around Town:

Town Online Services Restored

Our online system to process business licenses payment, schedule building inspections online or accept online submittals of permits and plans has been restored. The system was down temporarily due to technical issues that occurred with a third-party vendor. The vendor and IT staff were able to tackle the issues and restore our capabilities. We apologize for the interruption of service and any inconvenience this may have caused. If for any reason you have problems paying business license fees, please email our revenue services department at RS@hiltonheadislandsc.gov or call (843) 341-4677. If you have problems scheduling building inspections or submitting permits or plans, please e-mail CDIC@hiltonheadislandsc.gov or call our Community Development Information Center at (843) 341-4757.

Construction Progress on Fire Rescue Station 2, 65 Lighthouse Road

If you've driven by Fire Rescue Station 2 on Lighthouse Road in Sea Pines, you will see ongoing construction activity. We are excited to see the progress of this Fire Station, which is on track to be complete by spring of 2021. Current work includes finishing the station's masonry block and apparatus bay concrete pad. Framing for the living quarters and bay are also underway and progressing well. Upcoming work include truss installation, roof sheathing, framing completion and electrical and plumbing rough in. Now, we know all of this work sounds very technical but we wanted to give you an update on this stage of construction work. Meanwhile, our firefighters continue to operate out of a temporary office and quarters in Sea Pines Center. Here's a little bit of history behind the original fire station: it was dedicated in 1975 and was the oldest operating fire house among our seven fire rescue stations.

Restrooms at Crossings on the Way to Being Ready When You Gotta Go

Restrooms can say a lot about a park. When you're at a park and you gotta go, you want to go in a downright nice, clean and even pretty bathroom. That's what was lacking at Crossings Park, 4 Haig Point Circle. So, the Town committed \$124,500 to undertake the addition of new restrooms at Crossings. Since mid-July, contractors have finished some plumbing installations, the building pad, masonry block, and site utilities and electrical rough-in. Upcoming work include roof trusses and framing, drywall and paint, plumbing, electrical, and HVAC fixtures. When it's all done, the public will have



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adequate restroom facilities to use and this amenity at Crossings Park will be something to talk about. Work on the restroom should be completed mid-November.

Thank You for Being in the Count One More Time

Thank you to all of our residents who participated in the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau had faced numerous deadlines for completing the census this year due to a number of factors, including legal challenges at the federal level. Nonetheless, the local census enumerators worked to capture local data through door-to-door efforts and others in our community helped promote the importance of the census. The latest appeal led to an abrupt end to census data collection on yesterday or early this morning, depending on time zones. Regardless, we hope to have a great outcome once all the data has been calculated. What we know so far is that 43.4 percent of Island households completed the census online, by phone or by mail. This number will indeed be higher once we have other counts from census workers and follow-up efforts. Again, we thank you for being a part of this decennial census.

Mitchelville Forum to Explore Athletes and Activism, Voting Rights, Disparities in the Criminal Justice System and Anti-Racism

Congratulations to our Friends at the Mitchelville Preservation Project on that \$575K grant from Beaufort County. That will certainly help Mitchelville with its amazing plans for the park. We look forward to the start of work that will further preserve this part of the Island's history and culture.

Each year in the fall, Mitchelville presents a forum. This year's forum is free and will take place virtually over two days – October 21 and 22. The forum will explore historic and contemporary issues in 21st century America, including citizenship, opportunity, freedom and democracy. 2020 has presented several challenges for America. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted schools, businesses, and the lives of millions of citizens. It has changed our interaction with each other and has forced us to connect digitally to function. The deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbury, Breonna Taylor, and others have caused a new introspection on race, racial profiling, and the criminal justice system. The economic downshift has closed long-standing businesses and has negatively impacted the financial standing of the country. As America and the world look to move forward and adjust, Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park wants to spark conversation on how that happens. Pre-registration is required. Visit www.exploremitchelville.org or call 843-255-7301 for more information.

Hilton Head PSD earns EPA WaterSense Excellence Award

Congrats are also in order for Hilton Head Public Service District (PSD), which has earned the 2020 Excellence in Education and Outreach Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program. The award recognizes PSD



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for its efforts to inform and educate customers about water efficiency and environmental sustainability programs.

Grants Available to Help Minority, Small Business and Nonprofits

Gov. Henry McMaster today announced that two new South Carolina CARES Act grant programs, the Minority and Small Business Relief Grant Program and the Nonprofit Relief Grant Program, will begin accepting applications on Monday, October 19, 2020. The programs will provide financial reimbursement to South Carolina's small businesses and nonprofits for COVID-19 related financial or operational impacts.

The Minority and Small Business Relief Grant Program will reimburse qualified recipients from \$2,500 to \$25,000. To qualify, minority and small businesses must employ 25 or fewer employees and be physically located in South Carolina. The Nonprofit Relief Grant Program will reimburse qualified recipients from \$2,500 to \$50,000. To qualify, nonprofits must be designated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization by the Internal Revenue Service, be registered as a public charity with the South Carolina Secretary of State, and be physically located in South Carolina.

A full list of grant eligibility requirements for these grants and the grant applications can be found at <https://accelerate.sc.gov/cares-act/applying-sc-cares-act-funds>. The online application process for both grants will open Monday, Oct. 19, and run through Sunday, Nov. 1. The application will be accessible through accelerate.sc.gov. For help with the application process contact the SC Cares Call Center at 803-670-5170 or by email at SCCares@admin.sc.gov.

COVID-19 Cases in our Community

To find out the latest data about coronavirus cases in our community, visit www.scdhec.gov or the Town's COVID-19 Hub page at hiltonheadislandsc.gov.