



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

An Update from Assistant Town Manager Josh Gruber 5/29/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

The coronavirus pandemic is still in front of us; it has brought out the best in us and, in some instances, behavior not considered good. As guests return to the Island and residents engage in more outdoor activities, let's all put our best foot forward. We're known across the world as America's favorite island and as the best island in the Continental USA. We earned these accolades because of our natural beauty, magnificent views, sandy beaches, pristine environment, array of restaurants, diverse culture, recreation and more.

But the images that have been projected across the media and shared worldwide since Memorial Day paints a different picture of people's disregard for our beach regulations and the wildlife on our Island. All the rules we have in place from no drinking on the beaches to filling holes on the beaches are there to protect you, maintain a family friendly environment for all to enjoy and even help the sea turtle population survive. Beyond the beach, there are state and local laws in place to protect our cultural assets, sustain our environment and provide social distancing - so to speak - between us and roaming alligators.

I'd like to remind residents and visitors of some core values and actions we are striving to achieve in our community: pursuit of excellence, environmental sustainability, economic revitalization and a connected and inclusive community. If you believe in these, then our community can retain its greatness. Along with them are some very simple things you can do to as you enjoy our amenities and our community:

- Please put your garbage in the trash cans on the beach. Leaving cups, beer cans and other trash scattered across our beaches destroys them, creates dangerous situations and takes away from the beauty of our shores.
- Please don't drink on our beaches. Having alcohol on the beach is against the law here.
- Please don't feed the alligators and by no means make a spectacle of this creature or any other animals. There are laws in place to protect them and govern how they are to be handled.
- Please wear a face covering for your own protection and that of others around you. If you choose not to, don't chastise others who protect themselves by wearing one.
- Please practice social distancing and wash your hands.
- Please be kind to others, show respect for people and community, and share positive news. My mother always told me if you don't have anything nice to say,



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don't say it at all. At a time like this, we can all use good news to help us get through this period.

Hilton Head Island is a special place for everyone who lives here and everyone who visits. Let's do better at keeping it this way so we, and our future generations, can enjoy it.

Beach Parking Update

Today, you will notice some changes at Islanders Beach Park at 94 Folly Field Road and Burke's Beach. Islanders Beach will only be accessible to beach parking pass holders. If you do not have a beach parking pass, please do not visit this beach location. Security will be on site at Islanders Beach Park to close the parking lot once it reaches capacity and will only reopen it when it is safe to do so. Burkes Beach visitors must park at the Chaplin Community Park, 11 Cast Net Drive. Metered spaces and on-street parking along Burkes Beach Road is terminated until further notice. Vehicles illegally parked will be towed. Overflow parking is available at Cast Net Court for Burkes Beach visitors and at the USCB Hospitality Campus, 1 Sand Shark Drive, for Coligny Beach Park visitors. Between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Palmetto Breeze will shuttle visitors for free from the campus to Coligny Beach Park.

Town Recreational Parks

Access to all Town recreational parks, including bathrooms, playgrounds and picnic shelters, will be fully restored tomorrow, Saturday, May 30, 2020. Among them are:

- Chaplin Community Park – dog park, tennis courts and recreational fields
- Bristol Sports Arena
- Veterans' Park
- Green Shell Park
- Hilton Head Park
- Cordillo Tennis
- Compass Rose Park

League and event organizers can find interim guidance for re-opening of County, Municipal and School Athletic Fields and resuming youth sports events on the acclerateSC website at <https://governor.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Executive-Orders/Guidelines%20for%20Reopening%20Athletic%20Fields%20and%20Resuming%20Youth%20Sports%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

Practices may resume on May 30, 2020 and games may resume on June 15, 2020. Other special events and organized gatherings are not authorized at this time.



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Staff Returning to Town Hall June 1

On Monday, June 1, nearly all of our staff will be back at Town Hall. We have taken a number of steps for their safety including deep cleaning offices and common spaces. Our staff are required to follow guidelines for wearing masks appropriately, taking their temperatures before heading to their work space and practicing social distance. We are preparing to open Town Hall facilities on a limited basis to the public starting Monday, June 15. We appreciate your patience while we prepare our facilities and finalize protocols for public access.

Business Restoration Survey

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your business? Let us know. Please take a moment to provide us with feedback on our business restoration survey at <https://www.opentownhall.com/8851>

Rowing and Sailing Center at Squire Pope Community Park Playground and Parking Expansion

A playground and parking expansion project is underway at the Town's Rowing and Sailing Center at Squire Pope Community Park. This project is being funded with a portion of the 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation the Town receives on an annual basis from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The parking expansion has been completed and added 34 new parking spaces along the sides of the existing drive aisle in the park. The playground expansion will begin soon and includes installation of new playground equipment in the area adjacent to the existing swing.

South Carolina Hurricane Preparedness Week

Governor Henry McMaster has proclaimed May 31 through June 6 to be South Carolina Hurricane Preparedness Week. Residents, businesses and communities in South Carolina should begin preparations for the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Advanced preparation and planning safeguards lives, protects property and lessens the devastating impacts of tropical storms and hurricanes.

The 20th annual South Carolina Hurricane Guide will be available for download at scemd.org beginning June 1. SCEMD and partner agencies have updated the Guide for the 2020 hurricane season. Printed editions of the Guide will be in all Walgreens stores statewide, at coastal DMV offices and in newspapers from Columbia to the coast beginning June 7.

In addition to the South Carolina Hurricane Guide, visit scemd.org to stay informed during an emergency. SCEMD's website is designed to make it easy to get the information you need before, during and after a major disaster, such as a hurricane. Download the South Carolina Emergency Manager mobile app as your official tool for emergency planning



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and follow the official @SCEMD accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to stay connected.

Heritage Commission Seeks African American Perspective of the Corona Virus

In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic that has so far claimed 470 lives in South Carolina, 52% of those being African American, the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission (SCAAHC) believes it is important to document the impact of the virus through the African American perspective.

The commission, an organization purposed to preserve South Carolina history and culture, has opened a portal called [Black Carolinians Speak: Portraits of a Pandemic](#). African American South Carolinians are invited to share about the personal impact of the pandemic through stories, photography, video, art work, poetry, and other forms of expression. This an opportunity to provide future generations with knowledge as to how people persevered through a time that altered a sense of normalcy. This is especially important for African American citizens of our Town as we seek to continue preserving our local Gullah culture. For more information, visit <https://greenbookofsc.com/speak/>

Keep Up With COVID-19

For the latest update on COVID-19 cases in South Carolina and in Beaufort County, visit SCDHEC.gov.

Count Me In the Census

As our community gets back on track with businesses and other entities reopened, it must also get back on track with the 2020 census. The census informs funding for the services that keep your community safe and prepared. Having dealt with the coronavirus pandemic and past hurricanes, we can't stress enough the importance of completing the census. Currently, 39.7 percent of the households here have self-responded to this year's census compared to 42.9 percent in 2010. We would like to top our 2010 number. You can complete the census by going to www.my2020census.gov, calling 844-330-2020 for English or 844-468-2020 for Spanish, or by filling out the paper form sent by mail.

Ways to Give

For a list of very worthy organizations and initiatives that need your support as they continue to help individuals in our community, visit the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber Commerce at <https://www.hiltonheadchamber.org/covid-19/>