



# Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

## An Update from Assistant Town Manager Josh Gruber 7/23/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

### **COVID-19 Screening Events**

Making sure the public has more access to COVID-19 screenings has become vitally important for our community and region. Some colleges are requiring screenings for new and returning students. Workers need them to ensure they are safe. And other residents are seeking opportunities to be screened to learn whether or not they have the virus. Thanks to several agencies, including our Fire Rescue Division, additional dates for free Drive-thru COVID-19 screenings have been secured for our immediate area. Those screenings will be held from 7 to 11 a.m. on August 5 and September 2 at Hilton Head Island High School, 70 Wilborn Road; and August 19 at Bluffton High School, 12 H.E. McCracken Circle in Bluffton. No appointment is required and no doctor's order is needed for these special events.

As other dates are added, we will share them with you. Please plan accordingly for free screening events. On its website, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (<https://scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-screening-testing-sites>), does maintain a list of other COVID-19 testing sites. In some cases, those tests are free and in other instances, there may be a cost and other requirements associated with the test.

In hosting or participating with entities to organize testing events, DHEC aims to gain a better understanding of the prevalence of COVID-19 among all South Carolinians. This helps to quickly identify hot spots, catch outbreaks before they spread, and indicate where resources are most needed. If you attend a screening event, DHEC advises that before you leave the event, you confirm with the testing staff how you will receive the results.

You can find the latest figures on COVID-19 cases in our community by visiting [SCDHEC.gov](https://scdhec.gov) or our COVID-19 hub page at [www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19](http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19).

### **Parks and Recreation Commission**

Our Parks and Recreation Commission met today. During that meeting, we bid farewell to commissioners Mike Ray and Caroline Rinehart, and thanked them for their years of service. We welcomed new commissioners William Zurilla and Joseph C. Monmonier, and commissioner Ray Kisiah was reappointed to this board. This group of volunteers has contributed a tremendous amount of time and expertise. Today, commissioners reviewed and discussed part one of our Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This review process will continue over the coming weeks. This master plan was initiated in 2019 as a



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Town Council priority. The purpose of the master plan is to evaluate the Town of Hilton Head Island's public parks and recreation system and submit recommendations designed to increase the level of service across the community over the next ten years. Once the plan is completed, it will be sent to Town Council for consideration.

### **Accommodations Tax Fund Use Deadline Extended**

Due to COVID-19, many of our grantees that received accommodations tax grant for calendar year 2020 have run into challenges with spending their funds as appropriated. Grantees have had to cancel events and make other operational decisions that affected their ability to use grant awards. With that in mind, Town Council approved a one-year extension for all 2020 Accommodations Tax grants, enabling the grant recipients the ability to use the 2020 funding through December 31, 2021, if needed.

### **2021 Accommodations Tax Grant Applications and Grant Applicant Workshop**

The Town of Hilton Head Island's grant application for calendar year 2021 accommodations tax (ATAX) grant funds will be available online at 8 a.m., Monday, August 3, at [www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov](http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov).

The Town's Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee will hold a virtual meeting and applicant workshop at 9 a.m., Thursday, August 13, 2020. Details on how to participate in the workshop and submit questions will be provided in the near future.

The 2021 application and grant workshop do not pertain to the Town's business license or ATAX accounts. The deadline to file grant applications is 4 p.m., Friday, September 4, 2020. Applications must be completed online and submitted electronically. Applications will not be accepted after September 4. For more information, contact Cindaia Ervin at (843) 341-4646 or [cindaiae@hiltonheadislandsc.gov](mailto:cindaiae@hiltonheadislandsc.gov).

### **SC Department of Transportation Seeks Comments on Updated Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan – “Drive Our Future”**

The public has the opportunity to comment on an action to approve the Updated Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan (MTP). The MTP – “Drive Our Future” is South Carolina's long-range transportation plan, which is updated approximately every five years to reflect the latest information on travel and growth trends, goals and objectives, safety and security, infrastructure conditions, future deficiencies, and estimated funding as well as the latest federal requirements.

The (MTP) identifies South Carolina's statewide modal transportation needs, forecasts investment levels and estimates annual funding gaps for the next twenty years, while also considering performance and transportation asset management principles. The MTP evaluates various modes of transportation including roadways, ports, bridges, bike/pedestrian, freight, rail, mass transit and intercity bus. The 2040 MTP update



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includes fully integrated modal plans for the interstate, strategic corridors, public transit and human health service coordination, freight, and rail. Upon completion of the 30-day public comment period any substantive comments will be provided to the Commission. A DRAFT of the Updated (MTP), is available for public review and comment until August 20, 2020 online at these links:

English: <https://www.scdot.org/projects/press-releases-statewide-mtp.aspx>

Spanish: <https://www.scdot.org/projects/press-releases-statewide-mtp-sp.aspx>

To assist those who do not have internet access, a hard copy is available for public review and comment at the: Lowcountry Council of Governments (Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton & Jasper), 634 Campground Road, Yemassee, SC 29945; (843)726-5536.