



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Assistant Town Manager Josh Gruber 7/28/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

Why We Choose to Update You Daily or almost daily

COVID-19 caught all of us by surprise. Here at the Town we had many projects and initiatives underway, many of which came to sudden halt until we could get past some critical phases in the pandemic.

Through it all, one of the most important things for us to do was to keep the community updated on community-wide efforts to deal with a public health crisis. We have had good feedback from residents who have appreciated our frequent updates and others who feel we're overdoing it with daily releases of information. This pandemic prompted S.C. Governor McMaster to declare a state of emergency for South Carolina. While we are still under that state of emergency, we feel it's part of our duty to provide you frequent updates to keep you informed on the status of COVID-19 as well as Town projects, services and other community happenings. Yes, some of our updates may be redundant, but they are worth repeating a few times in case someone misses an update. Some updates are based on numerous calls and emails our staff receives regarding certain topics. In some updates, we direct you to useful resources. Plus, when there's good news to share, we want to make sure you know about it right away.

It's not our intent to offend anyone, overwhelm you with information or lose anyone as a valued subscriber to our Town news and alerts. But it is our intent to keep you armed with accurate information so you're in tune with what's happening in Our Town. We hope you'll stay caught up with us daily.

Community Input

For the good of the community, we need your help with a few surveys that are circulating. The information collected will help us and various sponsoring agencies continue to serve the community as a whole and make sure resources are available for individual needs.

SCDHEC COVID-19 Community Engagement Survey

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is conducting a community engagement survey to gather information on how or if you have been affected by COVID-19 and measures you take to protect yourself. The information you provide will help DHEC support COVID-19 response initiatives and outreach efforts across the state. The survey is available in English and Spanish, and can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCCOVID-19>



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

Beaufort County Task Force Seeks Public Input on Walking, Bike Paths

Beaufort County's Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force, on which we participate, is seeking input from the public to help make walking and biking safer and more accessible throughout the County. You can share your input by taking an online survey at <https://www.esurveyspro.com/Survey.aspx?id=1b7b24cd-b470-4363-b56a-23db76462679>. The survey will be open through the end of this month.

Take the 2020 Census and Raise Our Count

Attention Islanders! Help the Town be accurately counted in the 2020 Census. Counting every Islander give us an opportunity to receive our fair share of federal funding every year for schools, infrastructure, healthcare, roads, disaster recovery, emergency readiness for pandemics like COVID-19 and more. Currently, Hilton Head Island's response rate is 40.8 %, which is more than 16 percentage points behind the state response rate of 56.9% and more than 21 percentage points by the national response rate of 62.6 %. It has never been easier to respond to the census on your own, whether by mail, online at www.my2020census.gov, or over the phone (844-330-2020 for English or 844-468-2020 for Spanish). We really need your help, so please take a moment – if you haven't done so already – to take the census. Ask your neighbors, friends and relatives to take it too.

Town Seeks to Fill Firefighter/Paramedic Vacancies

The Town of Hilton Head Island's Fire Rescue Department is looking for some more frontline stars to join its team. The department has an immediate need to fill current vacancies for certified firefighter/paramedics. We will be accepting applications from August 2 through August 22. To apply, visit our website at hiltonheadislandsc.gov and click on "Employment Opportunities" at the top of the page. To learn more about our Fire Rescue Department and its accomplishments, visit <https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/publications/reports/FireRescueAnnualReport.pdf>

COVID-19 Cases and Information

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19) maintains the most up-to-date information related to COVID-19 in South Carolina and in our community. You can also find information on our COVID-19 hub page at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19.