



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

## **An Update from Assistant Town Manager Josh Gruber 8/19/2020**

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

Here's an update of what's happening around Town.

### **Town Acquires Nearly 4.6 Acres of Property Along William Hilton Parkway**

The Town of Hilton Head Island on Tuesday announced the acquisition of two tracts of property totaling 4.58 acres along William Hilton Parkway (U.S. 278) in the Stoney area for \$1.45 million. The Town paid \$975,000 for a 2.65 acre tract at 166 William Hilton Parkway, which is the site of a former marine dealership, and \$475,000 for a 1.93 acre tract at 160 William Hilton Parkway, which is the site of the former Fairfield Square complex. Both are located near Spanish Wells Road and are adjacent to existing Town-owned properties. These sites help us continue building our bank of green space for beautification and curb cut management.

As part of the acquisition, the Town will have to remove some existing buildings and dilapidated structures on the properties. The demolition work that needs to be done accounts for the differences in the prices the Town negotiated for the two tracts.

The Fairfield Square complex has been under a condemnation order by the Town's building official, and investigations have revealed the presence of asbestos in those structures. The reduction in the purchase price reflects the anticipated costs to the Town to properly remove the asbestos and demolish the structures.

Proceeds from prior land sales and real estate transfer fees were used to buy the properties. The Town last purchased property in June 2019 when it acquired a 1.07 acre tract at the corner of William Hilton Parkway and Spanish Wells Road. With today's acquisitions, the Town's inventory of land includes 148 parcels totaling 1,297.61 acres, with a total expenditure of \$177.04 million.

### **Town Council Extends Ordinance on Face Coverings**

The Town Council on Tuesday voted to extend the Town's Ordinance on face coverings. This supersedes the original ordinance that was passed in June. The new Ordinance will be effect for 60 days, with an expiration date of October 17 or the end of the State of Emergency. Hilton Head Island is one of 60 municipalities across the state with a mask ordinance. An analysis by the S.C. Department of Health Environmental shows that in local mask ordinances is helping to slow the spread of the coronavirus.



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We encourage you to continue taking steps to help stop the spread of COVID-19:

- Wearing a mask in public.
- Practicing social distancing.
- Getting tested.
- Avoiding group gatherings.
- Regularly washing your hands.
- Staying home if sick.

As always, the S.C. Department of Health and Environment department maintains data on the latest confirmed and estimated COVID-19 cases by ZIP code for our area on its website at [scdhec.gov](http://scdhec.gov). For Hilton Head Island, those zip codes would be 29928 and 29926. We also share this data on our COVID-19 hub page at [hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19](http://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19).

## **Other Town Council Action**

In case you missed Tuesday's Town Council meeting, other action taken included adoption of an ordinance allowing for meetings and public hearings to be held electronically during this state of emergency. The Council also approved the Mitchelville Master and Business Plan and the Public Art Master Plan, allowing those projects to move forward. The council also passed an Ordinance for a zoning change of Leg O'Mutton allowing for uses more compatible with surrounding land uses and neighborhood character. An example of such use and density that would be allowed is a Wholesale Landscape Nursery and Landscape Contractor's Office with Outside Storage at up to 6,000 square feet per net acre, without any Grinding or Logging for the entire site or residential at 8 units per net acre for the entire site.

## **Breeze Trolley Service to be Suspended Temporarily**

[Palmetto Breeze Transit](#), as of today, has temporarily suspended The Breeze trolley service on Hilton Head Island. The suspension is needed to allow Palmetto Breeze to temporarily reassign the trolley drivers to cover the agency's daily commuter service routes.

According to Palmetto Breeze officials, the service is experiencing a short-term driver shortage because several of their drivers self-quarantined while they await results of COVID-19 testing. Follow their social media channels (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) for the latest information and announcements about the reinstatement of service.

## **Community Foundation of the Lowcountry**

The Community Foundation of the Lowcountry has released guidelines on how local non-profit agencies may apply for funds the Town recently received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Earlier this month, the Town received a \$378,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



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The funds are a part of HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and are designated for public services to benefit low and moderate income residents within the Town. The Town partnered with the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry to establish guidelines on how to disperse funds to organizations that assist our residents with rent, utilities, mortgage, food, transportation, childcare and other needs.

For more information on how to apply for funds, visit [www.cf-lowcountry.org](http://www.cf-lowcountry.org)

### **More SC residents now have access to SC Thrive's rent assistance program**

South Carolina residents who are still struggling to pay rent during the Coronavirus pandemic may find some assistance through [S.C. Thrive](http://www.sc-thrive.org). The organization is now accepting Rental Assistance Program applications from households that previously collected Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) — a change that significantly expands participation eligibility.

Designed to provide emergency rental assistance to South Carolinians facing financial hardships because of the ongoing pandemic, the program was previously not available to applicants also receiving the now-expired \$600 weekly PUA benefit. However, the end of the benefit creates a timely opportunity for those previously rendered ineligible, and SC Thrive recommends that interested applicants take advantage. Eligible households could now receive assistance of up to \$1,500 for rent in a one-time, lump-sum payment made directly to property owners or management companies.