



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

An Update from Assistant Town Manager Josh Gruber 8/4/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

COVID-19 has caused hardships for some families and individuals across our community. Fortunately, the Town is now in a position to provide some relief thanks to a \$378,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

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. Town staff will be partnering 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.

The grant funds are specifically earmarked to address the prevention, preparation, response and recovery efforts related to COVID-19. To receive funds, the Town submitted its 2020 – 2024 Consolidated Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, which HUD accepted last month. Grant agreements between the Town and HUD were issued for the 2020 CDBG regular program year and CDBG coronavirus funds totaling \$378,562.

COVID-19 Screening Event is Wednesday, August 5

There's a free Drive-thru COVID-19 screening event on tomorrow - Wednesday, August 5 - from 7 to 11 a.m. at Hilton Head Island High School, 70 Wilborn Road. This is good opportunity for students who need to be screened as part of college requirements, workers who need to be screened for jobs and for residents who want to know their status. No appointment is required and no doctor's order is needed for this event. Please plan accordingly for free screening events, as there may be a long line or extended wait time.

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) maintains a list of other COVID-19 testing sites on its website at scdhec.gov. In some cases, those tests are free; in other instances, there may be a cost and other requirements associated with the test. 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.

Update on COVID-19 Cases

If you wondering what the latest figures are for COVID-19 cases on Hilton Head Island, please visit DHEC's website at www.scdhec.gov or the Town's COVID-19 hub page at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19. DHEC maintains the latest data on COVID-19 cases across the state and in our community, and we integrate some of that data on our



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website. Along with DHEC, we remind you to continue taking the necessary precautions to stop the spread of the coronavirus: wash your hands, wear your mask and stay six feet apart.

Town Seeks Volunteer Member for Planning Commission

We are seeking to fill an at-large position on our Planning Commission. If you are interested in volunteering for this role, we would welcome your application. The Planning Commission generally meets twice a month to review zoning decisions, street names, public projects, capital improvement projects, and other important topics that impact the future of our Island. Currently, all Town meetings are being held virtually. To learn more about the schedule, duties and responsibilities of the Planning Commission, or to apply, visit the Town's website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov/boards.

The term for the current vacant position ends June 30, 2022. You must be a registered voter in the Town of Hilton Head Island to serve on a Town board or commission. Applications will be accepted through Monday, August 10th.

South Carolina Sales Tax Holiday is this Weekend, August 7-9

School starts next month, but you can start preparing now. Computers, clothes, and school supplies are among a variety of items customers can purchase free of Sales Tax during South Carolina's annual 72-hour Sales Tax Holiday from Friday, August 7, through Sunday, August 9. The South Carolina Department of Revenue (SCDOR) reminds shoppers that eligible items can be purchased online and in-store without paying the state's 6% Sales Tax and any applicable local taxes during South Carolina's Sales Tax Holiday. Learn more at <https://dor.sc.gov/taxfreeweekend>. We are happy to share this information, but do check with your child's school for school supplies lists, which will be useful as you shop this weekend.

Stay Prepared

Hurricane Isaias breezed pass our coastline and spared us of any damage. But it's important to stay prepared through the rest of the hurricane season, which doesn't end until November 30th. Please visit the hurricane safety page on our website (www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov) for tips on the actions and precautions you should take before, during and after an emergency. On this page you will also find our Emergency Preparedness Guide and the South Carolina Hurricane Guide. Both are available in English and Spanish, and can be downloaded.