



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

An Update from Deputy Town Manager Josh Gruber 9/11/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

Here's an update on what's happening around Town:

Today is Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance. On this date 19 years ago, 2,977 innocent men, women and children lost their lives through acts of terror. As a country, we vowed to never forget the lives of these individuals tragically taken from their loved ones. We know their spirits and memories live on in the hearts and minds of their families. We remember the survivors whose lives were forever changed in that moment on September 11. Due to COVID-19, our memorials this year are not the same, but we can still personally pause and reflect through our own moments of silence to honor survivors and remember those whose lives were cut short. Pray for families, survivors and first responders who carry the legacy of loved ones and of this experience forever in their hearts and minds. We, at the Town of Hilton Head Island, join our nation's observance and commemoration of 9/11 by flying the American Flag at half-staff today at all Town facilities.

Wealreadypay.org

On Sunday, we will launch a website, wealreadypay.org, to help our property owners understand the current situation between the Town and Beaufort County regarding the payment of law enforcement services. Beaufort County has passed an ordinance to impose a law enforcement charge and uniform user fee to generate \$4.4 million in surplus revenue for the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office. We feel this fee is unfair and inequitable. Through wealreadypay.org, we hope to help answer many of the questions you may have about this ongoing matter and we hope it will encourage you to take action.

Non-Native Plant to be Removed from Hilton Head Island Beach

The Town of Hilton Head Island's contractor, Southern Palmetto Landscape, will be on the beach with a truck and trailer for three to four days, beginning Monday, September 14, to remove Russian thistle, a non-native plant with invasive tendencies. This plant was reported to the Town as a public safety issue by concerned citizens because of its significant thorns. Clemson University Diagnostic Plant and Pest Clinic positively identified the plant and SCDHEC-OCRM, which has jurisdiction over the active beach, approved its removal. These plants prefer to grow on the open beach because they do not tolerate shade well. Plants will be removed from the flat beach; dunes will not be disturbed.



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Town Council Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 15

Our Town Council will have its regularly scheduled virtual meeting at 4 p.m., Tuesday, September 15th. Due to COVID-19 and in accordance with Emergency Ordinance 2020-17, the council continues to meet in this manner until they are able to gather again for in-person meetings. There are several items on the agenda, which is posted to our website at hiltonheadislandsc.gov. The public is provided with opportunity to comment on agenda items up to four hours prior to the start of the meeting. The [meeting agenda](#) provides information on how you can submit comments using our Open Town Hall portal and how to watch our virtual meetings.

Did you know you now need a vision test to renew your driver's license?

South Carolinians must soon have their vision tested before being able to renew their driver's licenses. Beginning October 1, 2020, drivers must have vision examination results electronically submitted to the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (SCDMV) or have their eyes checked in person at SCDMV branches to be able to renew any type of driver's licenses. Vision tests for first-time licenses and commercial driver's licenses continue to be required.

An in-person screening can be waived if South Carolina-licensed ophthalmologists and optometrists submit drivers' vision examination results to the SCDMV electronically. Only out-of-state eye care professionals can complete the paper version of the Certificate of Vision Examination and provide it to drivers (the exam must have occurred in the past 12 months).

If a customer does not pass the vision screening at an SCDMV branch office, the customer must visit an eye care professional. The eye care professional must submit vision exam results electronically after assessing the customer's vision. After a customer passes the vision exam, the customer will then be able to renew online or must return to an SCDMV branch office. Visit scdmvonline.com for more information.

COVID-19 Cases in Our Community

For the latest figures on the number of cases of COVID-19 on Hilton Head Island, please visit 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 website. Please be mindful of the following safety measures to protect yourself and others from getting or spreading COVID-19:

- Wear a mask in public.
- Distance yourself physically by six feet.



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- Avoid group gatherings.
- Wash your hands often.
- Get tested.
- Stay home if you are sick.

Free COVID-19 Tests Are Available in Our Community

Free COVID-19 drive-thru testing is available at Hilton Head Hospital from 8 a.m. to noon, Monday thru Friday. No appointment or physician order is necessary. Typically, test results will be e-mailed within 72 hours. Participants are asked to have a valid e-mail address available.