



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

An Update from Assistant Town Manager Josh Gruber 9/3/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

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

Hilton Head Island Residents Asked to Participate in Beaufort County Census Day

The Town of Hilton Head Island will be joining Beaufort County, the Town of Bluffton, the City of Beaufort, the Town of Port Royal, the Town of Yemassee and the City of Hardeeville, in a region wide Census Day, Wednesday, September 9, in an effort to increase the 2020 Census response rate for the region.

The deadline for citizens to complete the U. S. Census is September 30th, and it is critical that the Town gets a complete count by that date. As of September 3rd, the response rates are as follows:

- United States, 65.1%
- South Carolina, 59 %
- Beaufort County, 48.9%
- Town of Hilton Head Island, 41.8%

We would truly like to see an uptick in the Hilton Head Island numbers as well as those across the region. As of today, we have 26 more days left, and we need your help to make Hilton Head Island count.

Residents have three options for completing the census:

- Fill out the paper form using blue or black ink. The U.S. Census Bureau send this form to households in March.
- Call 844-330-2020 (English) or 844-468-2020 (Spanish)
- Go to www.my2020census.gov.

Each process is expected to take between 3-10 minutes, depending on how many people live in each household. The Census does not require an ID. The most important aspect of filling out the Census is to record your address correctly. Each resident is reminded the Census is not allowed, by law, to share any personal identifying information with any agency or organization.

Census enumerators have also started visiting households that have not completed the census by mail, phone or online.



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How you can help

- Fill out the Census form if you haven't done so already.
- Publish a reminder in your community organization's (i.e. churches, businesses, property owners' associations) email, newsletter or any other communications, stressing the importance of filling out the Census.
- Give your employees 10 minutes on Wednesday, September 9, to fill out the Census.
- Inspire your neighbors, friends, and family on social media to complete the Census
- Use hashtags #HiltonHeadIslandCounts or #BeaufortCountyCounts in social media posts.
- Forward this email to spread the word. Ensure everyone is counted and represented!
- Call friends and neighbors and remind them about the Census

Palmetto Breeze Trolley Services on Hold a Little While Longer

Palmetto Breeze anticipated starting its Breeze Trolley service again this afternoon, but announced late Wednesday that the service is on hold again due to staff changes resulting from self-quarantined drivers and testing for COVID-19. Palmetto Breeze officials said the trolley service will be operational on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, just in time for the busy Labor Day Weekend.

"We sincerely apologize for this second delay. Rest assured that the safety and health of all Breeze trolley and Palmetto Breeze Transit passengers and employees will always come first, so these steps are necessary to ensure that together we accomplish that objective," said Mary Lou Franzoni, executive director of the Lowcountry Regional Transit Authority, which operates the trolley service and commuter bus service. To stay up-to-date on trolley schedules, follow the Breeze Trolley on Facebook and/or Instagram (@BreezeTrolley).

Gullah-Geechee Land and Cultural Preservation Task Force Update

The Gullah-Geechee Land and Cultural Preservation Task Force identified creating a Historic Neighborhoods Preservation Overlay District as a top priority project. The Overlay District includes recommendations for decreasing the size of required buffers, setbacks, and access, and for increasing height and impervious cover for some areas. Two new uses are proposed, Family Compound and Family Subdivision, which honor the communal living traditions of Native Islanders. Town Staff has been working closely with the Task Force to outline the details of this project. On September 1st, the Task Force made the recommendation to move the Historic Neighborhoods Preservation Overlay District to LMO Committee of Planning Commission which will meet on September 16th.



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Another concern for the Island's Gullah Community is the difficulty some landowners have in paying their taxes. The Beaufort County tax sale for delinquent properties will be held on October 5th. Properties that are in redemption from last year have until October 8th to recover them. Members of the Gullah community and the task force have been reaching out to those who are delinquent regarding these dates and to find ways to assist those who may have difficulty making the payments.

If you need more information about the activities of the Gullah-Geechee Land and Cultural Preservation Task Force, please contact Sheryse DuBose, Our Historic Neighborhoods Preservation Administrator, at sherysed@hiltonheadislandsc.gov.

Congratulations to Our Neighbors in Hampton County

Congratulations to our neighbors in Hampton County. In case you missed yesterday's announcement, Hampton County was chosen as the location for the Agriculture Technology Campus, a joint venture project between Mastronardi, Clear Water Farms, LiDestri Food and Drink and GEM Opportunity Zone Fund. The Agriculture Technology Campus will include greenhouses for locally grown, pesticide-free tomatoes, leafy greens, blueberries, and other produce, a 150,000-square-foot distribution center, and a co-packing facility. This announcement marks one of the largest agriculture investments in South Carolina history. This venture will lead to the creation of more than 1,500 jobs. This is awesome news for Hampton County and for the Lowcountry region.

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.

COVID-19 Cases in Our Community

For the latest figures on the number of 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.

Town Hall Closed on Labor Day

In observance of Labor Day, the Town Administrative buildings will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2020. We will resume our regular hours of operation on Tuesday, September 8. Additionally, the Hilton Head Island Convenience Center will be closed for Labor Day and reopens on Tuesday.

Ways to Give

Visit the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber Commerce at <https://www.hiltonheadchamber.org/covid-19/> for a list of very worthy organizations



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and initiatives that need your support as they continue to help individuals in our community.