



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Deputy Town Manager Josh Gruber 9/8/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

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

Breeze Trolley Services Closing Out 2020 Season Effective Immediately

Palmetto Breeze was hoping to continue operating the Breeze Trolley service this week, but has decided to end the season early. The agency announced today that the service will not be able to continue as planned through the end of the season (scheduled for September 15) due to staff changes resulting from quarantined drivers and testing for COVID-19. As before, the trolley drivers are needed to cover the higher priority Palmetto Breeze commuter routes that serve Hilton Head Island.

Palmetto Breeze executive director Mary Lou Franzoni said “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.”

Palmetto Breeze officials said they certainly did not want to end the trolley season this way, but they encourage everyone to look forward to 2021 trolley season.

Town Suspends Special Event Permits Through November 1st

The Town has currently suspended processing special event permits for events of 500 or more persons and all events on Town-owned properties until November 1, 2020.

Under Governor McMaster's executive order (www.masc.sc/Pages/COVID-19-Executive-Orders.aspx), events on private property are limited to 50% of the location's occupancy or 250 persons, whichever is less. However, if you wish to have an event over 250 persons on private property, you are required to request approval from the South Carolina Department of Commerce at www.sccommerce.com/approval-now-required-250-person-events.

Here are the steps you will need to take for that approval:

- Follow State guidelines, submit site plans and any other details to the [Department of Commerce](http://www.sccommerce.com) for approval.
- Ensure that all food, electrical hook ups, tents and stages are inspected by the Town of Hilton Head Island. For current information, please refer to the Town's



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special events webpage at

<https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/departments/legal/specialevents.cfm>

- Use the [CDC's Readiness and Planning Tool](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/COVID19-events-gatherings-readiness-and-planning-tool.pdf) to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 at Events and Gatherings and promote healthy behaviors, environments and operations that reduce the spread of COVID-19.
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/COVID19-events-gatherings-readiness-and-planning-tool.pdf

Additional COVID-19 guidelines for indoor & outdoor activities can be found at <https://accelerate.sc.gov/guidelines>

Beaufort County Census Day is Tomorrow, September 9

What are you doing tomorrow? How about joining us, Beaufort County, the Town of Bluffton, the City of Beaufort, the Town of Port Royal, the Town of Yemassee and the City of Hardeeville for Beaufort County Census Day and help boost our 2020 Census response rate for the region? You can help us by taking the census if you haven't done so already. September 30th is the deadline for citizens to complete the U.S. Census. We want to make sure you, your family and friends are all counted.

Here's our response rate as of Sept. 3:

- United States, 65.3%
- South Carolina, 59.2%
- Beaufort County, 49.1%
- Town of Hilton Head Island, 41.9%

You have three options for completing the census:

- Fill out the paper form the U.S. Census Bureau sent to your home in March and return it by mail.
- Call 844-330-2020 (English) or 844-468-2020 (Spanish) to complete the census over the phone.
- Go to www.my2020census.gov and complete the census online.

If you've already completed the census, thank you! But there's more you can do to make sure everyone is counted and make our day special – inspire your neighbors, friends, and family on social media to complete the Census, or give them a call and remind them to fill out the census.

Help Local Families and Teachers

Beaufort County Schools started virtual classes today and we certainly hope all goes well as students, parents, teachers and staff progress through the semester. We know you went through this last spring and here you are again with home-based classrooms.



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This way of learning is a big adjustment for families in our community and not everyone has all the resources they need.

The Hilton Head Island MLK Committee and the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry is sponsoring the Student Tech Connect Fund, whose mission is to provide critical technology resources for Lowcountry students, including internet access for students without home connectivity, to ensure that all students have the ability to connect with their teachers and access critical learning resources. The Fund will initially focus on providing internet connections for students as they engage in remote learning during the COVID-19 crisis. The fund accepts donations, and in turn, pays Hargray Communications for the internet bills of families identified by school personnel as needing access. For more information, visit cflowcountry.civicore.com/student-tech-connect-fund or call 843-681-9100.

The Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce sponsors the Project Connect program to get teachers and students classroom supplies for the 2020-21 school year. Your help is needed as there have been over 80 requests for supplies from teachers and learning PODS. To learn how you can donate to this Project Connect, visit hiltonheadisland.org or contact Hannah Horne at hhorne@hiltonheadisland.org.

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