



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Interim Town Manager Josh Gruber 1/29/2021

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

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

Town Council annual workshop begins today

The Hilton Head Island Town Council's annual strategic planning workshop got underway Thursday and wraps up today. This two-day gathering gave council members an opportunity to discuss future goals, share their perspectives and hear updates from Town staff on various projects. Julia Novak of the Novak Consulting Group facilitated the workshop. In future updates, we will share highlights from the workshop and let you know what Town Council's top priorities are for the year.

2021 RBC Heritage Will Be Played with Limited Spectators and Strict COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols in Place

The Heritage Classic Foundation and the PGA Tour has announced that they will be hosting the 53rd annual RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing this year. This event, scheduled for April 12-18 on Hilton Head Island, is an important economic driver for our community and our state. It also generates millions of dollars for charitable causes. Like other major events, the tournament has been impacted by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. As such, strict health and safety protocols will be in place at this event played over the Harbour Town Golf Links. Tournament officials have worked with us, the state and the PGA Tour to develop a plan that includes a limited number of sponsors and fans in open air and socially-distanced settings. Health and safety remain is the number one priority. To keep everyone safe during this reimagined event, the tournament has implemented a number of new protocols including the mandatory use of facial coverings and daily sanitization of all permanent and temporary structures. Visit www.rbcheritage.com for more information and details on event tickets.

Public Input Helps Town Panels with Progress on Ordinances and Projects

We have several meetings taking place virtually next week and your engagement with these committees will help the Town make progress on various ordinances and projects. The public has an opportunity to offer advance feedback on agenda items for the various panels. Agendas for the meetings are posted to our website. You can comment on the items using our Open Town Hall portal, which is accessible from the homepage of our website at hiltonheadislandsc.gov. Among the meetings taking place next week are:

- The Gullah Geechee Land & Cultural Preservation Task Force at 9 a.m. Monday, Feb. 1. Agenda items include a review of progress and next steps for the Historic



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Neighborhoods Overlay District LMO Amendments, a discussion of the next top priority projects, and delinquent property taxes for 2021.

- The Planning Commission at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb 3. Agenda items include a review of Town Council's changes related to Workforce Housing LMO Amendments and an Annual Traffic Report.
- A special Town Council meeting at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 3.
- The Public Planning Committee at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 3. Agenda items include review and recommendation of revisions on the Sea Turtle Protection Ordinance and an update on the Gullah-Geechee overlay.

Free Course on Business Continuity Planning

The Town's Emergency Management Division is partnering with the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce to present a free one-day course on Business Continuity Planning on April 28, 2021. This course will provide the foundation for building a business continuity plan to help your business manage difficult situations or events that impact your business' ability to operate. The course will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Palmera Inn & Suites, 12 Park Lane. Lunch will be provided. Registration for the course is required through the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium website at www.ruraltraining.org. The course number and title is "MGT 381: Business Continuity Planning." A FEMA Student Identification is required and can be obtained at <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>. Registration deadline is 5 p.m., April 14. For more information regarding the course, contact Tom Dunn, Emergency Manager for the Town, at 843-247-3744 or thomasd@hiltonheadislandsc.gov.

South Carolina Public Health Officials Detect Nation's First Known Cases of the COVID-19 Variant Originally Detected in South Africa

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) announced this week the detection of two cases associated with the SARS-CoV-2 variant that first emerged recently in South Africa. These are the first two cases of this variant in the United States. At this point in time, there is no known travel history and no connection between these two cases. Both are adults; one from the Lowcountry and one from the Pee Dee region. To protect their privacy, no further information will be released.

Experts agree that existing vaccines work to protect us from this variant, even if we don't know precisely how effective they are. At this time, there's no evidence to suggest that the B.1.351 variant causes more severe illness. Public health officials urge everyone to continue taking actions to protect themselves against the virus, no matter the strain. These include:

- Wearing our masks.



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- Staying at least six feet apart from others.
- Avoiding large crowds.
- Washing our hands.
- Getting tested often.
- Getting vaccinated.

Visit <https://scdhec.gov/news-releases> for more information.

South Carolina Officials Warn Public to Watch Out for Possible COVID-19 Vaccine-related Scams

South Carolina residents should be aware of scammers targeting COVID-19 vaccine seekers. South Carolina's Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), State Law Enforcement Division, Emergency Management Division, and Department of Consumer Affairs encourage residents to be wary of scammers using the state's COVID-19 vaccination rollout to steal people's private information or their money.

Here's what you need to know to protect yourself and others from scammers:

- State agencies, vaccine providers, and vaccine makers will not contact people and ask for personal information over the phone.
- The only time people should expect to share personal information with an approved vaccine provider is when they make an actual appointment with a real vaccine provider.
- No one should pay or provide personal information to join a vaccine waiting list or be promised early access to the vaccine.
- A list of locations of approved providers currently accepting appointments for the vaccine is available on [DHEC's vax locator map](https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-appointments) at <https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-appointments>.
- If a member of the public is contacted by a potential scam, they should contact local authorities immediately, file a complaint with the [South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs](#), and report fraud to the [Federal Trade Commission](#).

Eligible South Carolinians are encouraged to schedule appointments now. South Carolina is currently in Phase 1a of its vaccine plan, and people currently prioritized to receive the vaccine should continue to schedule appointments with vaccine providers to receive their first and second shots. If you need help finding contact information for vaccine providers near you, use DHEC's vaccine locator map or call DHEC's Care Line at 1-855-472-3432.