



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Town Manager Steve Riley 11/16/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

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

Broad Creek Approved for Shellfish Harvesting

Broad Creek, located in the Town of Hilton Head Island, received an approval rating for water quality based on recent water monitoring conducted by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). Data indicate that the quality of the water is good for shellfish harvesting along all sections of Broad Creek, except for marinas.

The season for wild shellfish (clams, oysters and other molluscan bivalves) harvesting opened on October 1. DHEC, through its Shellfish Sanitation Program, conducts routine bacteriological monitoring of water quality to determine where it is safe to harvest shellfish. The primary goal of the Shellfish Sanitation Program is to ensure that shellfish (oysters, clams, and mussels) and the areas from which they are harvested meet the health and environmental quality standards provided by federal guidelines and state regulations. Since 1998 Broad Creek has seen most of its water quality listing improve from restricted to approved for shellfish harvesting.

Commercial harvesting at Station 20-18 to 20-25 on Broad Creek are still temporarily restricted. Town staff will work with DHEC to continue monitoring the quality of all water bodies throughout the Island. For more information on clam and oyster harvesting areas in Beaufort County, call DHEC's Beaufort Environmental Affairs Office at [843-846-1030](tel:843-846-1030) or visit www.scdhec.gov/shellfish.

PSD Water Quality Laboratory recognized as Laboratory of Excellence

Congratulations to our friends at the Hilton Head Public Service District's (PSD). The PSD Water Quality Laboratory has once again been recognized as a Laboratory of Excellence as part of its annual certification by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). The independent agency that conducts DHEC's certification recognized the PSD lab "achieving 100% acceptable data" in a group of 570 participating labs, according to a statement from the independent agency. The PSD Water Quality Laboratory conducts thousands of tests annually on the quality of our tap water and treated recycled wastewater.

Town Council Meets November 17th

Our Town Council meets at 4 p.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, November 17. This will be a virtual meeting. There are numerous items on the agenda for discussion including:



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- An ordinance reducing the attendance threshold for events requiring a special permit from 500 to 250 attendees.
- A recommendation to consider the realignment of Summit Drive, which is necessary as Beaufort County moves to a decal system for its convenience center.
- A recommendation to prioritize the proposed, accessible covered overlook at Islanders Beach Parkas in our fiscal year 2021 Capital Improvements Program.
- Discussion and consideration of agreement for the Interim Town Manager position between the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, and Joshua A. Gruber

The complete agenda with all items for this meeting is available on our website at hiltonheadislandsc.gov. The meeting will be shared virtually on our website and our Facebook page.

COVID-19 Testing

Free COVID-19 drive-thru testing is available 8 a.m. to noon, Monday thru Friday at Hilton Head Hospital, 25 Hospital Center Blvd. No appointment or doctor's order is needed. The number of COVID-19 cases in Beaufort County and South Carolina are on an upward trajectory, so we want to remind you to take precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19: wash your hands frequently, wear a mask, and maintain social distancing. For more guidelines that you can use, particularly during the holiday season, visit scdhec.gov or cdc.gov.

COVID-19 Cases

Extensive reporting on county-level information, demographics and more about coronavirus cases is available at scdhec.gov/COVID19. The website is updated between 1 p.m.-3 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m.-1 p.m. weekends. You can also find case data on our website at hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19.

COVID-19 Vaccines

There has been much discussion in the media about COVID-19 vaccines. The best information on vaccines is available through official sources such as the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. Visit scdhec.gov/COVID19vaccine for the latest vaccine information.