



Town of Hilton Head Island **NEWS RELEASE**

**An Update from Interim Town Manager Josh Gruber
2/18/2021**

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

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

Town of Hilton Head Island Earns SCAPA Outstanding Award for New 2020-2040 Comprehensive Plan

We have exciting news to share... "Our Plan" is Excellent. Thank you to the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association (SCAPA) for selecting our Town's "2020 to 2040 Comprehensive Plan" as a 2020 Outstanding Planning Project. And, thank you to all of our citizens, stakeholders and Town staff who helped us develop this comprehensive roadmap for the future of Hilton Head Island. We wouldn't be where we are without you.

The Town of Hilton Head Island earned the 2020 Outstanding Planning Project award in the large urban category for its engaging document, "Our Plan: 2020 to 2040 Comprehensive Plan," which sets the blueprint for the Island's future, SCAPA officials announced at the chapter's winter conference this week.

SCAPA planning awards recognize outstanding efforts and achievements that advance the art and science of planning in South Carolina. This award recognizes the contributions of volunteers and Town officials in the compilation of an engaging official document that represents the multidimensional Hilton Head Island community and provides a clear, aspirational direction for the future that will serve the Town for many years.

We are extremely proud to be recognized by our industry professionals and peers for the work our staff and community did to prepare Our Plan. This award belongs to our entire community and we appreciate everyone for their enthusiasm, dedication and input in our planning process. For more information about Our Plan: 2020 to 2040 Comprehensive Plan, visit hiltonheadislandsc.gov

Workforce Housing Incentive A Go

On Tuesday, Town Council took another step toward establishing workforce housing on the Island by adopting a bonus density incentive for the development of workforce housing in certain areas of the island. Properties that are three acres or more in the RM-4 zoning district may qualify to participate in the Workforce Housing Program bonus density incentive. This incentive, effective now, will allow property owners to apply for up to a 100% density bonus based on the amount of workforce housing they provide within their proposed development. For more information, contact Jayme Lopko, Senior Planner, at jaymel@hiltonheadislandsc.gov.



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Mid-Island Tract Open for Visitors

Our mid-island tract by Union Cemetery Road is now open to the public. But we ask that you be careful when visiting as the tract – while substantially neater and accessible – remains undeveloped. Our contractors have wrapped up the removal of dead and fallen trees and underbrush so park visitors can safely access and enjoy existing trails until future park plans for the site is determined. The 103-acre tract, bordered by William Hilton Parkway, Dillion Road and Union Cemetery Road, is the site of the former Planter's Row Golf Course, which the Town purchased in 2013.

In addition to removing trees, the contractors trimmed trees along the existing cart paths, bush hogged overgrown vegetation around the drainage channel and ponds, and placed split rail fencing around the property in the more open areas of the tract, connecting it to the existing cart path system so it is safe for users. A small temporary parking lot with space for 20 to 25 vehicles is located at the property's Union Cemetery Road entrance. We did leave some portions of the property untouched - approximately 10 acres to serve as bird and wildlife habitats, and five acres around the existing stormwater ponds to serve as riparian habitat.

Gullah Artists Create Social Distance Markers for Taste of Gullah Event on February 20

How will you stay socially distant at this weekend's Taste of Gullah event? Follow unique and creative social distance markers designed by local Gullah artists Lisa Rivers, Tony Burns, Beverly Baynes, and Shanese Bostick. The event, a part of Hilton Head Island's Gullah Celebration, happens noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, February 20 at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina. Most of the Gullah Celebration events have occurred virtually. But at Taste of Gullah, you'll have an opportunity to be outside and enjoy Gullah cuisine, artists and other vendors. Organizers are taking extra precautions to help protect visitors. Our Office of Cultural Affairs got in on the effort and hired authentic Gullah artists to design original useful markers to help keep people physically apart while enjoying the event.

Maintenance Work on Pathway and Pump Station Scheduled for Monday, February 22

The Town has a couple of maintenance projects that will be get underway on Monday, February 22, and we urge the public to be careful in areas where crews will be working. Repair work will be underway on small portions of the pathway along Pope Avenue. Temporary pathway closures are expected in the immediate vicinity of the work. Pathway users are asked to exercise caution near the work zones. Work is expected to be completed within one week from the start date. For more information, contact the Town's Facilities Management Office at 843-342-4580.

Also, the Town will be performing maintenance to the Jarvis Creek Stormwater Pump Station along Nature's Way. The work will require a single lane closure between 7 a.m.



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and 5 p.m., and is expected to take about one week to complete. The Town recommends avoiding unnecessary travel along Nature's Way during this time. For more information, contact Erik Ladd, Stormwater Operations and Maintenance Administrator, at erikl@hiltonheadislandsc.gov or 843-341-4775.

Join our Award-Winning Fire Rescue Department

The Town of Hilton Head Island's Fire Rescue Department is looking for some more frontline stars to join its team. The department has an immediate need to fill current vacancies for firefighters. The online application period will be open from Monday, February 22 through Sunday, March 21. To apply, visit our website at hiltonheadislandsc.gov and click on "Employment Opportunities" at the top of the page. To learn more about our award-winning Fire Rescue Department and its accomplishments, visit <https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/publications/reports/FireRescueAnnualReport.pdf>

Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue provides fire suppression, ALS transport - emergency medical services (EMS), hazardous materials and technical rescue services to a community of approximately 37,000 full-time residents and over 2 million visitors annually. Applicants must be 18 years old at the time of hire, have a high school diploma or GED, have a valid driver's license, and be in good physical health as determined by a medical examination. Additional qualifications that may be obtained after hire.

COVID-19 Drive-thru Testing Encouraged

Testing for COVID-19 remains a critical step in South Carolina's ongoing fight against the coronavirus. Officials with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control said although thousands of residents across the state are getting vaccinated daily, it will be several months before there's enough vaccine manufactured and available for everyone. Therefore, they encourage citizens to continue to get tested regularly for COVID-19 so they don't aren't unknowingly infected and spreading the virus. COVID-19 drive-thru testing is available 8 a.m. to noon at Hilton Head Hospital (25 Hospital Center Blvd. on Hilton Head Island) and Coastal Carolina Hospital (1000 Medical Center Drive in Hardeeville). The test is free. No appointment or doctor referral is needed. For more information, visit hiltonheadregional.com

DHEC Offers Centralized Phone Number, Email for Locating Delayed COVID-19 Test Results

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is making it easier for residents to track down any delayed COVID-19 test results with a single centralized phone number and email address. Residents can call or email if they haven't received their test result within 72 hours of getting tested but shouldn't call or email sooner than 72 hours.



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While COVID-19 testing has never been easier or more accessible, there are some instances where, due to various reasons, an individual may not receive his or her test result within the typical 72 hours. Instead of contacting a specific testing provider or regional DHEC public health department, anyone who hasn't received their test result within 72 hours of being tested can call DHEC's Care Line at [1-855-472-3432](tel:1-855-472-3432) or email acc-testing-customerservice@dhec.sc.gov. The Care Line will route callers to a testing team that can look up your test result in our secure database, regardless of whether you were tested at a DHEC-sponsored testing location or a non-DHEC partner testing site.

Before you call or email DHEC to receive your test result, make sure to:
Wait the recommended time frame provided by your testing site provider before calling or emailing DHEC (usually 72 hours)

Have specific information available:

- Your first and last name
- Your date of birth
- Location where you were tested
- Date you were tested

If your test result is positive, whether you feel ill or not, it's critical that you follow the recommended quarantine and isolation precautions so you don't infect others.

Town of Hilton Head Island COVID-19 Hub Page

hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19

Our COVID-19 Hub page includes links to information DHEC has compiled about COVID-19 cases, vaccines, the state's vaccine distribution plan, and the vaccine locator map. You can also find information on community resources.

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