



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Interim Deputy Town Manager Angie Stone 3/12/2021

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

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

It's been a year since South Carolina faced suspected cases of COVID-19 in our state and since we embarked on our journey to keep you informed during this unprecedented global pandemic. We agree with everyone in saying it's been a challenging time, but we remain hopeful as we have come through months of testing, mandates, and now vaccine phases. We thank everyone for taking actions to help end this pandemic. We are hearing good reports from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. Assistant State Epidemiologist, Dr. Jane Kelly, shared this update with us this week:

- Cases, hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19 continue to decrease -- good news!
- South Carolina is now in Phase 1b. If you are age 55 and older, or have a medical condition that increases your risk of severe COVID-19, or are a frontline worker with increased exposure to COVID-19, you are eligible for vaccination. Check the DHEC website at [scdhec.gov/vaxlocator](https://www.scdhec.gov/vaxlocator) for details or call DHEC's COVID-19 Vaccine Information Line at 1-866-365-8110 for help.
- CDC has new recommendations for people who are fully vaccinated (meaning two weeks after your 2nd dose of Pfizer or Moderna, or two weeks after the single dose Janssen vaccine).
 1. You can visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing in private settings.
 2. You can visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
 3. If you are fully vaccinated, you do not need to quarantine if you have been exposed to COVID-19 and have no symptoms.
 4. You should NOT visit with someone unvaccinated at low risk if they live with another person who is unvaccinated at high risk (e.g., because of a medical condition).
 5. Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0308-vaccinated-guidelines.html> to learn more.



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- Remember, if you are in a public place, not a private gathering, even if you are fully vaccinated, please continue to protect others: wear your mask, keep your distance, and avoid large gatherings. We are all in this together.

Volunteers Needed for Vaccination Clinic

The Medical Committee of the Greater Island Council of Hilton Head Island and Bluffton is seeking volunteers to assist with the vaccination efforts of enrolled providers in the coming weeks and months. Volunteers will assist by:

- Registering patients. Computer ability necessary.
- Administering vaccines.
- Helping with traffic flow.
- Monitoring people post-vaccination.

Please complete the form at <http://bit.ly/VaccinationVolunteerForm> if you are interested. You will be contacted as volunteer slots become available.

Hilton Head Hospital and Coastal Carolina Hospital COVID-19 Testing Schedule

Hilton Head Hospital and Coastal Carolina Hospital offer drive-thru COVID-19 testing on from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Testing is completed with or without a physician's order and at no charge to participants.

Town of Hilton Head Island COVID-19 Hub Page

Our COVID-19 Hub page at hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19 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.

Repair and Maintenance Projects Happening Around Town Next Week

Repair work to the pathway along Point Comfort Road is expected to be completed next week on Monday.

Next week, contractors will make repairs to the pathway along William Hilton Parkway (U.S.278) between Beach City Road and Automobile Place, and on portions of Gumtree Road. Expect temporary pathway closures in the immediate vicinity of the work. Pathway users should exercise caution near the work zones. Work is expected to be completed within one week from the start date.

The Adventure Playground at Low Country Celebration Park will be closed temporarily from March 17 through March 21. Contractors will be on site to make necessary repairs throughout the playground area. Thus, it will be necessary to limit public access and pedestrian traffic in this area of the park while work is underway.



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Be Involved: Apply Now to Serve on a Town Board or Committee

Serving on a committee for the Town of Hilton Head Island is an opportunity to use your time and talents in public service to your community. Citizens are encouraged to apply for upcoming vacancies on several Town boards and commissions. We are seeking citizens to serve and contribute their expertise on the following:

- **Accommodations Tax (ATAX) Advisory Committee** - Reviews applications from local nonprofits seeking ATAX grant funding and recommends grant allocations to Town Council. Needed: a member with expertise in the lodging and hospitality industry.
- **Board of Zoning Appeals** – Hears and decides appeals concerning planning or zoning decisions made by staff or variance requests pertaining to requirements of the Land Management Ordinance (LMO). Needed: an at-large member.
- **Design Review Board** - Reviews, approves, and makes recommendations on exterior design decisions in designated corridors. Needed: graphic artists, architects, landscape architects or other design professionals, and at-large members.
- **Planning Commission** - Reviews and makes recommendations to the Town Council regarding land use, public projects, traffic plans, zoning, and amendments to the LMO. Needed: architects, landscape architects, and at-large members.

Interested? Please visit hiltonheadislandsc.gov/boards to review qualifications and responsibilities, and to apply online. Applications are currently being accepted through March 21.

Fire Rescue Expands Geocache Activity

Fire Rescue has gone live with its seventh geocache at Fire Station 5 at 20 Whooping Crane Way. Not familiar with geocaching? It's a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a certain set of coordinates and then attempt to find the hidden geocache container. It's a great family activity for all ages. Fire Rescue published its first geocache in 2017 at its headquarters at 40 Summit Drive and now have caches at Station 1 (70 Cordillo Parkway), Station 2 (65 Lighthouse Road; will resume once the new station is completed), Station 4 (400 Squire Pope Road), Station 5 (20 Whooping Crane Way), Station 6 (12 Dalmatian Lane) and Station 7 (1001 Marshland Road). All geocaches deliver a fire or life safety message and have a take away item for the participants. To learn more, go to <https://www.geocaching.com/play>.



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2021 Business License Renewal Period is Open

The 2021 business license renewal period for the Town of Hilton Head Island is open. If your license is not renewed by April 30 deadline, you will begin accruing a 5% penalty on the unpaid amount for each month or a portion thereof after the due date until paid. Additionally, delinquent businesses are subject to a \$1,087.50 municipal summons. Business license renewal forms were mailed in January. Any business that did not receive a renewal application should contact Revenue Services at Town Hall at 843-341-4677. Most business owners with a valid 2020 business license and no change to their name or address are eligible to renew their business license on-line. To access this service, go to the Town's website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov and select the Online Services tab.

Daylight Savings Time: It's Time to Spring Forward Already

Daylight Saving Time (DST) begins on Sunday, March 14. Officially the time changes at 2 a.m. but set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night to avoid being late for activities on Sunday. And while you're at it, be sure to change your smoke alarm batteries and replace smoke alarms that are more than 10 years old. Over time, smoke alarm sensors can lose sensitivity. After 10 years, there is a 30% probability of failure that becomes greater as time goes on. The test button on a smoke detector only confirms that the battery is working, not the smoke sensor. Check the underside of your smoke alarm for the manufacturer date. If there is no date, it is most likely over 10 years old. Don't wait – check the date!