



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Town Manager Steve Riley 4/21/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders,

I wanted to give you a brief update on actions our Town Council took today.

Public Beach Accesses and Parks

Town council voted unanimously to keep our public beach access points and Town-owned parks closed through April 30. Council will revisit the issue again at its next meeting on April 28th.

Wear Masks

Town Council also passed a resolution encouraging everyone to wear masks in retail stores and to follow other measures Governor Henry McMaster recommended in his orders issued for businesses on Monday. This is to help protect you from getting the coronavirus or from spreading the virus. You can visit the [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for instructions on how to make and properly wear a mask.

Retail Businesses

Businesses that have been given the green light to reopen under Governor McMaster's latest order include:

- Furniture and home-furnishings stores
- Clothing, shoe, and clothing-accessory stores
- Jewelry, luggage, and leather goods stores
- Department stores, with the exception of hardware and home-improvement stores
- Sporting goods stores
- Book, craft, and music stores
- Flea markets
- Florists and flower stores

Those business must adhere to strict social distancing requirements, operating at 20% occupancy or five (5) customers per 1,000 square feet, whichever is less. In addition, businesses must not knowingly allow customers to congregate within six feet of one another, excluding families, and follow relevant CDC and DHEC guidelines.

Business Assistance

As business begin to re-open, owners may find they need some assistance. I recommend you contact the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce for resources available now to small businesses.



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Burn Ban Lifted

The South Carolina Forestry Commission lifted the statewide burning ban today. However, we will notify you of when the Town will resume its normal burning schedule.

Palmetto Electric

Palmetto Electric Cooperative extended temporary suspension of disconnects for non-payment on ALL accounts, including Advance Pay, at least through May 1. Late fees on ALL accounts will also be waived. Palmetto Electric encourages all members, including Advance Pay, to continue to make payments, as they are able. All members are still responsible for their electric use. Additionally, because of the hardships that so many members are currently facing, Palmetto Electric made the decision to return all retired Capital Credits early, by the end of April 2020.

Support Charities

For a list of charities you can support, visit websites for United Way of the Lowcountry, Community Foundation of the Lowcountry and the Hilton Head Island Bluffton Chamber of Commerce. These entities maintain lists of community nonprofits and special funds that you may contribute to.

Need Help?

If you need assistance, I just want to remind of the all the resources available in our community. Visit hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19 and click on community resources for agencies providing help to residents in the community.

Celebrate Earth Day

Tomorrow – April 22nd - is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. As we focus on protecting ourselves from the coronavirus, this is a great time to reflect on saving the environment in which we live and breathe. We should still feel blessed that we have an amazing environment and that we live in a beautiful place.

In honor of Earth Day, we joined Governor Henry McMaster's "Power Plant SC" initiative to plant one million trees in South Carolina. Today, we planted two live oaks at Barker Field Extension and six loblolly pines and three live at Hilton Head Park. The trees will provide more shade at these locations. Thank you to Southern Palmetto Landscape of Ridgeland for donating both the beautiful trees and the labor to plant them. Remember, when you plant a tree, it provides natural services such as cleaning our air and water, absorbing rain water to help prevent flooding, preventing soil erosion and providing wildlife habitat for generations to come.



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What can you do to celebrate Earth Day?

- Check out our Culture HHI Facebook tomorrow for details on backyard birding.
- Connect with Coastal Discovery Museum via Facebook for live streams from their naturalists.
- Complete the Census online, by phone or by mail. It's something everyone can do to make a difference for the next 10 years. Visit my2020census.gov or call 1-844-330-2020 (English) or 1-844-468-2020 (Spanish).

Community Heroes

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations for community heroes. Beginning tomorrow on our Facebook page, we'll be giving a shout out to awesome Islanders and Lowcountry residents who have helped our community weather this COVID-19 crisis.