



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Town Manager Steve Riley 4/22/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders,

Community Heroes

Whenever crises happens, there are extraordinary acts of kindness and people who emerge in our community. We want to take a moment to recognize our awesome Islanders and Lowcountry residents who have helped our community weather this COVID-19 crisis. Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations for community heroes and you may continue to do so. We're still accepting submissions at culturehhi.org.

Today, I'm proud to honor and give a shout out to Islander Matt Bauman, who teaches at Hilton Head Island School for Creative Arts. Four individuals nominated Matt for the incredible job he is doing keeping students and fellow Islanders occupied with fitness activities at home. He is sharing his fitness routines and calendars on social media to keep students physically and mentally engaged. Thank you Matt. We appreciate your creativity and enthusiasm.

Read more about Matt on our dedicated COVID19 hub page at hiltonheadislandsc.gov. We'll announce another hero tomorrow.

Earth Day

Today is the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. We are blessed to live in a beautiful place with an amazing environment. I urge you to continue social distancing and wear your masks. While COVID19 data from the state may suggest some decline of virus cases, we still have a ways to go before we can let down our guards. We want you to be able to enjoy our Island, but let's please move cautiously. In time, we hope to have full access to our parks and beaches, businesses, schools, nonprofit services and events without threat.

In honor of Earth Day, we joined Governor Henry McMaster's "Power Plant SC" initiative to plant one million trees in South Carolina. We put two live oaks at Barker Field Extension and six loblolly pines and three live oaks at Hilton Head Park. Thanks to Southern Palmetto Landscape of Ridgeland for donating both the beautiful trees and the labor to plant them. Trees naturally clean our air and water, absorb rain water to help prevent flooding, prevent soil erosion and provide wildlife habitat for generations to come.



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Wear Masks

Town Council passed a resolution this week encouraging everyone to wear masks in retail stores and to follow other measures Governor McMaster recommended businesses implement for public safety. Do this to protect yourself from getting the coronavirus and from spreading the virus to others. Visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for instructions on how to make and properly wear a mask.

Schools Closed for Remainder of School Year

Governor Henry McMaster and S.C. Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman announced today that schools will be closed through the end of the school year. Please continue supporting parents, teachers and students. Thank you to Hargray, Spectrum and other businesses that have contributed resources so our students can learn in their home environments. Governor McMaster and Ms. Spearman mentioned high school graduations in their remarks. I am sure our local high schools are already thinking of ways to carry out this tradition to honor students. We will support those events if we can.

Need Help?

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

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.

Keeping Up With COVID-19

For the latest update on cases of COVID-19 in South Carolina and in Beaufort County, visit S.C. Department of Health & Environmental Control's website at [SCDHEC.gov](https://www.scdhec.gov).

Town Projects:

Lowcountry Celebration Park: We are about half way through construction on our Lowcountry Celebration Park, with completion anticipated the first of September. Buildings rising up on the site include the band pavilion, the Sandbox Children's Museum



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and restrooms. In the near future, we hope to bring you a virtual tour of this new park and some of its other cool features.

Shelter Cove Intersection Improvement: Our contractor has completed 65 percent of the work on the intersection improvement project for five intersections / median crossovers: King Neptune & Queens Folly, the cross over at Shelter Cove Lane at Kroger Fuel Station, Shelter Cove Lane formerly Mall Blvd, the cross over at Whole Foods, and Shelter Cove Lane by the Sheriff's Department. Two new signalized crosswalks will be added and two un-signalized crosswalks will be removed as part this project. Crews are currently placing asphalt base and build up for new lanes along William Hilton Parkway and installing new signal masts and arms. Improvements will make this area safer for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

Sea Pines Fire Station: We're also making progress on construction of the new fire station at 65 Lighthouse Road in Sea Pines to replace the old fire station built in 1976. We started replacing and upgrading fire rescue facilities in the mid-1990s. This is the last station that will undergo replacement as part of that initiative. The old station was demolished early this month. Civil and site work for the new station is now underway. We expect to have a new station in May 2021.