



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Town Manager Steve Riley 5/1/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders,

Happy May!

Public access points for Islander's Beach and Coligny Beach opened today for Island residents and property owners with beach passes. I hope you enjoy the opportunity to get some fresh air as you walk, run or ride bikes on the beach. Today is also the start of sea turtle nesting season. We have guidance on our [website](#) on how you can help protect sea turtles. Please check it out.

Answers to Your Questions About Our Beaches and Parks

You can find a list of common questions and answers about our beaches and parks in the Frequently Asked Questions section of our COVID19 hub page at hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19.

Parks

Next week on **Thursday, May 7**, we will reopen Jarvis Creek Park and Crossings Park (no team sports will be allowed here). Restrooms will reopen, but all playgrounds, recreational equipment and picnic shelters will remain closed.

Recovering Post COVID-19

Like other entities in our community, we are working on our recovery plan to increase capabilities at Town Hall and other Town facilities. Shawn Colin, our Director of Community Development, is serving as Recovery Manager for our efforts. He is leading our team that is developing the strategies we'll use to help our community rebound. Our efforts on business restoration will be supplemented by that of the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce, which is developing a Path Forward Readiness Plan for businesses. At the Town level, our team is finalizing our plan and will share this resource with the public once it's complete.

Tree Trimming Project

From 7 to 9 a.m., Sunday, May 3, crews will be trimming low tree limbs hanging over U.S. 278 (Bus) in the vicinity of Kroger. Westbound lanes will be temporarily closed. After the trimming, drivers will have a better view of the new traffic signal being installed.

Main Street Project

On Monday, May 4, contractors will start resurfacing and making curb repairs on Exchange and Main streets between Whooping Crane Way and Hospital Center



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Boulevard. Work will take place mostly between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. and is expected to be completed by the end of May. Cut-through traffic may be re-routed to William Hilton Parkway at times. Those destined for addresses within the work zone will be allowed through the area. Avoid the construction area during this time if you can.

2020 Census

As of April 29th, we had a self-response rate of 32.6 percent. Those are households that have responded online, by phone or by mail. We need that number to be higher. There will be parties again soon, and family gatherings. There will be parades and sporting events and concerts. To help our communities when they come back together after the COVID-19 pandemic, I'm asking you to please respond to the 2020 Census now. Spend a few minutes online today to impact the next 10 years of funding on healthcare, infrastructure, and education. We all see how important these are today. So please go to 2020Census.gov and respond today to make America's tomorrow brighter.

Keeping Up With COVID-19

For the latest update on COVID-19 cases in South Carolina and in Beaufort County, visit SCDHEC.gov. We've received questions from Island residents about the availability of coronavirus testing in our community. You can call Hilton Head Hospital's hotline at 843-682-7348 to find about testing.

Free Virtual Tax Preparation from Lowcountry VITA:

New Deadline for 2019 Returns is July 15, 2020. Through this IRS-approved, 100% secure virtual process, VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) will bring their free tax preparation services directly to you, while in the safety of your own home! Through a combination of a secure teleconferencing web portal, and over the telephone, they are here to help prepare and file your tax return for free! For more information and to make an appointment, visit: www.VitaLowcountry.org, or call 843-321-9071 or email lowcountryvitacoalition@gmail.com.

Community Heroes

Food insecurity is something many in our community are experiencing as a result of COVID-19. Several individuals stepped up to the plate to make sure people in our community didn't have to worry about where their next meal would come from. JR and Leslie Richardson, owners of both FISH Casual Coastal Seafood and Coligny Plaza, and Lee Lucier, COO of The Richardson Group, shared a common mission to feed families throughout the community. Likewise, Rev. Dr. Nannette Pierson, the force behind the Sandalwood Community Food Pantry, made sure she and her volunteers could safely meet increased demand for food. Thanks to these awesome heroes, families in the community had access to food. Check out their stories in the Community Heroes section of our COVID19 hub page at hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19.



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Hilton Head Island High School Be the Light Event for Seniors

Hilton Head Island High School's Class of 2020 will be celebrated tonight as part of the Be the Light national movement. Our Fire Rescue Division will be part of this event at the high school campus. At 8:20 p.m. lights at the community stadium will be turned on for 20 minutes in honor of this class. On behalf of the Town of Hilton Head Island, I congratulate these high school seniors for their accomplishments. We wish you the best.

Public Service Recognition Week

Sunday, May 3 kicks off the start of Public Service Recognition Week – a time when the nation celebrates 36 years of honoring public servants and connecting citizens with their government. As always, I am proud of the men and women with whom I work and can't express enough how much I appreciate their hard work and dedication. As we navigate through these uncertain times, it becomes even more evident how important each of them is, not only to our Town government, but to the success of Hilton Head Island's overall wellbeing. On behalf of our community and the Town of Hilton Head Island, I am sending them a heartfelt THANK YOU!

Support A Charity

Support local charities so they can continue providing resources to those in need. They need our help.