



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Town Manager Steve Riley 6/3/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

The Coronavirus pandemic caused many events around Town to be cancelled or postponed until a later date. During the summer months, we tend to see our fair share of festivals, tournaments and other activities that may not occur this year. Even fall events are going by the wayside. Just last week, Concours d'Elegance organizers cancelled its 10-day motoring festival for 2020. We have had some calls about event permits the Town issues and just about events in general.

We have cancelled or rescinded permits for events through July 6th. We have an internal team that is in the process of evaluating the situation and developing a plan to address special events beyond July 6th and determine if/when/how they can resume.

In the meantime, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and accelerateSC are consistent in recommending any event or gathering over 250 people be cancelled. In addition, events of any size (10 or more persons) should take into account proper planning and mitigation measures recommended by the CDC, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), and accelerateSC. (<https://accelerate.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/GuidelinesforReopeningMassGatherings.pdf>).

Town Budget for FY2021 moves forward to second reading

Town Council indicated it plans to move forward with the budget for second reading on June 16th. The \$75.98 million budget is \$3.17 million less than FY 2020 with no increases in tax rates or fees. Within the lower budget parameters, the Town has identified \$4 million in capital spending to defer and defers normal employee merit raises until collections have demonstrated adequacy to provide for the budgeted spending. Town Council also approved the Designated Marketing Organization (DMO) marketing plan and budget for FY2021. This action gives the green light to the professionals who lead our Island's branding and marketing outreach initiatives for another year.

Your COVID 19 Experiences for the Record

During the COVID-19 experience, we all have had a myriad of experiences.

Our Records Department, which houses all of our historical information, and our Office of Cultural Affairs have partnered on a project to capture the Hilton Head Island community's experiences during the historic COVID-19 pandemic. Your answers will be preserved in the Town's archives as part of our COVID-19 collection. You can complete our survey at



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<https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/opentownhall/> We also encourage you to share artwork, photographs, poetry, writing samples, or other creative work you've done during the pandemic. Please visit <https://culturehhi.org/portfolio/covid-19-survey/> and complete the form to submit your information. You can answer the survey, submit creative samples there, or do both!

Heritage Commission Seeks African American Perspective of the Corona Virus

In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic that has so far claimed 470 lives in South Carolina, 52% of those being African American, the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission (SCAAHC) believes it is important to document the impact of the virus through the African American perspective.

The commission, an organization purposed to preserve South Carolina history and culture, has opened a portal called [Black Carolinians Speak: Portraits of a Pandemic](https://greenbookofsc.com/speak/). African American South Carolinians are invited to share about the personal impact of the pandemic through stories, photography, video, art work, poetry, and other forms of expression. This an opportunity to provide future generations with knowledge as to how people persevered through a time that altered a sense of normalcy. This is especially important for African American citizens of our Town as we seek to continue preserving our local Gullah culture. For more information, visit <https://greenbookofsc.com/speak/>

Keep Up With COVID-19

For the latest update on COVID-19 cases in South Carolina and in Beaufort County, and mobile testing locations, visit [SCDHEC.gov](https://scdhec.gov).

SCNDR Programs and Events

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources continues to monitor COVID-19. In accordance with directives issued by Gov. Henry McMaster, DHEC and CDC, the department has canceled, postponed or closed several programs and events. All in-person hunter and boater education classes are canceled through June 15. SCDNR urges all customers to utilize online resources for the [purchase of hunting and fishing licenses](#), as well as renewal of boat registrations. At this time, COVID-19 has not impacted season dates or regulations of upcoming hunting or fishing seasons.

Ways to Give

For a list of very worthy organizations and initiatives that need your support as they continue to help individuals in our community, visit the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber Commerce at <https://www.hiltonheadchamber.org/covid-19/>