



# Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

## An Update from Town Manager Steve Riley 6/9/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

We owe a huge thank you to businesses and donors in our community. With your support, we have weathered the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to do so. Like other businesses, the Town, especially our Fire & Rescue, needed a lot of supplies to respond to the pandemic. So many residents and businesses responded and donated face masks, gloves, wipes, sanitizer, food and other items. Many did so anonymously. Your contribution reflects that type of community we are: a giving one. We want to publicly thank everyone who supported us and continues to support us. You are the ones that make our community strong!

Ace Academy	Gloves, Respirators & Face Masks
Janice Agnew	Face Masks
All Saints Episcopal Church	Homemade Face Masks
Bad Biscuit	Breakfast Biscuits for Fire & Rescue
Beaufort County School District	Disinfectant Wipes
Dr. Andrew Binamira/OneCare Clinic	Thermometer and Gloves
Brighten Builders	Particulate Respirators
Broad Creek Marina	Face Masks
Catch 22 Restaurant	Dinner for Fire & Rescue
Conny Corsetto	Face Masks
First Presbyterian Church	Homemade Face Masks
Hilton Head Preparatory School	Disinfectant Wipes
Hilton Head Distillery	Hand Sanitizer
Hilton Head Hospital	Meals for Fire & Rescue, Homemade Masks
Hilton Head Rotary/Safety Town	Homemade Face Masks
Housekeeping Services	Linens & Laundering Services for Fire Stations
Island Academy	Sanitizer and Goody Baskets
Rick Lawson	Homemade Masks
Lowes Corporation	3M Replacement Cartridges
Joe & Jeanne Maguire	Surgical Masks
Marriott	Sheets, Towels & Linens for Fire Stations
Mellow Mushroom	Meals for Fire & Rescue
Merrill Lynch	Dust Masks
Linda McGurn	Homemade Face Masks
The Murphy Family	Dust Masks
Palmetto Hall Security	Surgical Masks
Palmetto Quilt Guild	Homemade Face Masks



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Pops Hilton Head Island  
ServPro  
Spinnaker Rentals  
Michael Waters  
3D Verkstan

Popsicles for Fire & Rescue  
Cleaning Agent  
Villas Assistance, Bleach and Gloves  
Lunch for Fire & Rescue  
Face Shields

## **Community Heroes**

There are still many folks in our community who did wonderful things for the community during the COVID-19 crisis. I want to mention a few persons we heard about recently. When art galleries shut down during the pandemic, longtime Islander and artist Amos Hummell turned his front yard in Squiresgate into a very cool outdoor gallery. Since late March, Amos has been putting one of his paintings on an easel in his front yard almost every day for neighbors and other passersby to enjoy. Thanks, Amos, for sharing your wonderful artwork.

I also want to shout out to Islanders Frank and Lauren Sheridan, who take pride in keeping our Island clean. On their Sunday morning walks across the Cross Island Parkway, they pick up trash that has been discarded there. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan for helping to keep our community clean.

Their stories will be added to the Community Heroes page of our COVID-19 Hub at <https://covid-19-hiltonhead.hub.arcgis.com/pages/heros>

## **Business License Renewal Deadline is Approaching**

Our Business license renewal due date of June 20<sup>th</sup> is coming up soon. We expect a large volume of renewals over the next two weeks. Avoid the lines and renew by mail or on-line. You may also drop off your renewal forms and payments in the mailbox at the main entrance of Town Hall. When Town Hall reopens on June 15<sup>th</sup>, the Business License office will be available by appointment only. This allows us to have appropriate social distancing for everyone's safety. Business License personnel are available by phone at 843-341-4677 during normal office hours for your questions.

## **Accommodations Tax**

The annual Accommodations Tax grant process is starting soon. The ATAX committee will convene in July to establish a calendar for the annual grant process. The grant applications are expected to be available in August with an expected due date in September. The ATAX committee is charged with evaluating the grant requests and making recommendations to Town Council. The evaluation process is normally in the fall with a recommendation to Town Council in November and an expected Town Council vote in December.



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## **HAWK Traffic Signal**

Our new HAWK traffic signal on South Forest Beach Drive near Coligny Beach Park became active in April. With more people traveling in this area, we want to remind you of this traffic signal. It is specifically designed for pedestrian crossings and directs motor vehicles to stop for pedestrians to cross. The signal operates when pedestrians push a button and receive a walking symbol, triggering a series of warning lights and instructions for pedestrians and motorists.

## **Beach Signs for Social Distancing and Other Regulations**

We continue to urge you to practice social distancing to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus, even during your trip to the beach. When you visit one of our seven beach parks, you will be greeted with signs encouraging social distancing and wearing masks. This is for your protection. We also have installed signs to educate you about our rules regarding shovels, holes and items left on the beach overnight. These signs have been placed directly below the existing rule signs at our beach parks and are also being installed on the other 120 rules sign locations.

As a reminder, here are the new rules now in effect:

- Only small plastic shovels are allowed.
- Holes dug on the beach should be less than a foot deep and must be filled in before you leave the beach.
- All personal property that you bring with you must be removed by sunset.

## **Keep Up With COVID-19 Precautions and Cases**

Along with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, I want to remind you that you still need to be vigilant about COVID-19 as you return to your workplaces and participate in activities that might involve crowds. There is still a significant risk of being exposed to the COVID-19 virus in a public setting in any community. To prevent the further spread of COVID-19, everyone should take following precautions:

- Maintain social distancing by staying at least 6 feet away from others
- Wear a cloth mask that covers your nose and mouth while in public
- Avoid touching frequently touched items
- Regularly wash your hands
- Monitor for symptoms and stay home when sick

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



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## **Your COVID 19 Experiences for the Record**

Our Records Department and our Office of Cultural Affairs seek to capture our community's experiences during the 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 <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 or do both!

## **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/> These organizations are assisting with rent, food and other needs.