



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Town Manager Steve Riley 7/27/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

As we continue to deal with COVID-19, we know there are some businesses that are still struggling and we hear your concerns. We want to do what we can to help support you and make it easier for you to operate in the midst of this pandemic. In response to requests from the business community, we are once again relaxing the temporary sign regulations through Monday, September 7, 2020. Temporary signs will be allowed without a permit; however, the following guidelines should be followed:

- each business is permitted to have one sign per street frontage
- each sign should be no larger than 18" x 24"
- each sign must be located on the same site as the business

Banners (no larger than 24" x 48") will also be permitted to be located on buildings during this same time period.

If you need other useful resources, please check out the business resource section of the COVID-19 Hub on our website at [hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID 19](http://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19), or visit accelerate.sc.gov.

COVID-19 Cases and Information

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19) maintains the most up-to-date information related to COVID-19 in South Carolina and in our community. If you have general questions about COVID-19, you can call The DHEC Care Line (1-855-472-3432) between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily for answers. You can also find information on our COVID-19 hub page at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19.

Be Careful While Driving and Riding in Golf Carts

I was reading a recent news article of a Fripp Island resident who lost her life, after she fell from a golf cart in which she was riding on the roadway and suffered a blunt head trauma. Fripp Island is 56 miles northeast of Hilton Head Island (about 1 ½ hours drive), so not too far away from us. We have not had an incident of this type happen on Hilton Head Island, but this is a good opportunity to remind you to be safe while operating or riding in a golf cart.

State law (<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t56c002.php>) allows licensed drivers to operate golf carts on roadways during daylight hours and at much slower speeds than other transportation.



Town of Hilton Head Island **TOWN MANAGER UPDATE**

On Hilton Head Island, though, we prohibit the operation of golf carts on our pathways and trails (<https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/ourisland/pathways.cfm?menuheader=5>). This happens to be one of our most violated regulations. Too often we see golf carts traveling on pathways, which can be very dangerous. Our pathways and trails are used for many forms of recreation so we try to keep them safe for everyone.

In addition to golf carts, the following are also not permitted on pathways: cars, trucks, tractors, or any other motorized vehicles; motorcycles, motor-assisted bicycles such as mopeds, motor scooters, lawn mowers, all-terrain vehicles, go-carts, or any other similar, small motorized vehicles; horses or any other large animals; and surreys and other types of carriages. Emergency vehicles, authorized maintenance vehicles, or electric-powered wheelchairs for the handicapped; and small pets such as dogs and cats on a leash are allowed on the pathway.

Community Services and Public Safety Committee

Our Town Council Community Services and Public Safety Committee met this morning and approved recommendations for our Public Art Master Plan, which will be implemented through our Office of Cultural Affairs, and the Mitchelville Master Plan and Business Plan. These plans will now be sent to the full Town Council for approval.

The newly drafted Public Art Masterplan for the Island includes proposed policy and initiatives for both our site-based permanent large scale sculpture collection and temporary creative placemaking initiatives such as last year's lantern parade. Be sure to follow CultureHHI on Facebook or sign up on our e-subscription service to receive regular updates on how the initiatives in the plan, once approved, will be carried out.

The Master Plan and Business Plan for the Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park (HMFP) share's Mitchelville's vision for preserving the historic site, a portion of which is now a beautiful park; commemorating freedmen's heritage by including an appropriate memorial for the site; reconstructing (on the basis of evidence) Mitchelville's significant structures and creating state-of-the-art technological and media platforms for exhibiting and interpreting the history and story of its freedom pioneers. We'll learn more as their plans evolve.

Both of these plans are a part of the committee's meeting agenda packet, available at <https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/boards/boardagendas.cfm?DetailID=COMSERV>

Accommodations Tax Fund Use Deadline Extended

Many of our grantees that received accommodations tax grant for calendar year 2020 have more time to spend their funds, due to COVID-19. Council recently approved a one-



Town of Hilton Head Island **TOWN MANAGER UPDATE**

year extension for all 2020 Accommodations Tax grants, giving grant recipients the ability to use the 2020 funding through December 31, 2021, if needed.

2021 Accommodations Tax Grant Applications and Grant Applicant Workshop

It will soon be time again to apply for the 2021 cycle of accommodations tax grants. Our grant application for calendar year 2021 accommodations tax (ATAX) grant funds will be available online at 8 a.m., Monday, August 3, at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov.

The Town's Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee will hold a virtual meeting and applicant workshop at 9 a.m., Thursday, August 13, 2020. Details on how to participate in the workshop and submit questions will be provided in the near future.

The 2021 application and grant workshop do not pertain to the Town's business license or ATAX accounts. The deadline to file grant applications is 4 p.m., Friday, September 4, 2020. Applications must be completed online and submitted electronically. Applications will not be accepted after September 4. For more information, contact Cindaia Ervin at (843) 341-4646 or cindaiae@hiltonheadislandsc.gov.