



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Town Manager Steve Riley 7/31/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

Navigating through hurricanes is no easy feat. But the lessons we've learned from Hurricane Mathew and others that followed helped us to become resilient. Our hurricane preparedness and disaster resilience has earned us the designation as a #HurricaneStrong community. The designation is awarded by the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, aka FLASH, a national hurricane resilience initiative to save lives and homes through collaboration with leading organizations in the disaster safety movement. The Town's engaged leadership and essential staff in the Emergency Operations Center as well as high performing Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) and CRS rating contributed to the designation.

Speaking of #HurricaneStrong, the Town continues to monitor and prepare for Hurricane Isaias. The current forecast has Hurricane Isaias arriving off the South Carolina coast Sunday evening into Monday. While the forecast has Isaias remaining off the coast, we are still in the forecast cone and impacts to Hilton Head Island should be expected. Continue to follow us on social media for updates and make sure you are signed up on our e-subscription service to receive emergency alerts.

It is important to have emergency plans in place and supplies ready as weather forecasts can change quickly. Please visit the hurricane safety page on our website for tips on the actions and precautions you should take before, during and after an emergency.

August Happenings

We're moving forward into August and there's a lot scheduled to happen over the course of this month, weather permitting. Take out your calendars and save the dates for the activities I'm sharing in today's update. If there are changes or cancellations, we will let you know as soon as we know.

August 2: Town Seeks to Fill Firefighter/Paramedic Vacancies

Starting August 2, we're accepting applications to fill current vacancies for certified firefighter/paramedics in our Fire Rescue Department. Interested individuals can apply through August 22. Visit our website at hiltonheadislandsc.gov and click on "Employment Opportunities" at the top of the page. To learn more about our award-winning Fire Rescue Department and its accomplishments, visit <https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/publications/reports/FireRescueAnnualReport.pdf>



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August 4-7: New Playground Equipment Being Installed at Rowing and Sailing Center at Squire Pope Community Park

From Tuesday, August 4 through Friday, August 7, the playground and pavilion at the Rowing and Sailing Center at Squire Pope Community Park will be closed for installation of additional playground equipment. Ten parking spaces in front of the restroom building will be unavailable for use. Other parking spaces at the facility will be open for park visitors.

August 3: 2021 Accommodations Tax Grant Applications

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. You can start working on this application. We will have virtual workshop for applicants at 9 a.m., Thursday, August 13, 2020. More details will be forthcoming.

August 5: COVID-19 Screening Event

We have a free Drive-thru COVID-19 screening event coming up on Wednesday, August 5 from 7 to 11 a.m. at Hilton Head Island High School, 70 Wilborn Road. This is good opportunity for students who need to be screened as part of college requirements, workers who need to be screened for jobs and for residents who want to know their status. No appointment is required and no doctor's order is needed for this event. Please plan accordingly for free screening events, as there may be a long line or wait.

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control maintains a list of other COVID-19 testing sites on its website at scdhec.gov. In some cases, those tests are free; in other instances, there may be a cost and other requirements associated with the test. If you attend a screening event, DHEC advises that before you leave the event, you confirm with the testing staff how you will receive the results.

Information on COVID-19 cases in South Carolina and in our community may be found on DHEC's website and on our COVID-19 hub page at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19.

August 7-9: Start Shopping Now for the New School Year

School starts next month, but you can start preparing. Computers, clothes, and school supplies are among a variety of items customers can purchase free of Sales Tax during South Carolina's annual 72-hour Sales Tax Holiday from Friday, August 7, through Sunday, August 9.

The South Carolina Department of Revenue (SCDOR) reminds shoppers that eligible items can be purchased online and in-store without paying the state's 6% Sales Tax and any applicable local taxes during South Carolina's Sales Tax Holiday. Learn more at <https://dor.sc.gov/taxfreeweekend>



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August 9: National Book Lovers Day.

Did you know about this annual observance for book lovers? Join bibliophiles in their celebration of literature by reading a good book. Our local public library is still closed due to COVID-19, but you can still get that book you're craving to read by using the library's curbside service from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. Visit www.beaufortcountylibrary.org/curbside for information on how to request and pick up books

August 10: Fifteen Day Public Comment Period Starts for 2019 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER)

We've prepared a draft of our 2019 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assess progress in carrying out our one year action plan for the HUD funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program. The public has 15 days, from Monday, August 20 through Tuesday, August 25, to review and comment on the report. It will be available on our website at: <https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/> or via appointment at Town of Hilton Head Island town hall beginning **Monday, August 10, 2020**. Written comments on the 2019 CAPER are encouraged and may be submitted via the website link, or email to marcyb@hiltonheadislandsc.gov or by mail to Marcy Benson, Senior Grants Administrator, Town of Hilton Head Island Community Development Department, 1 Town Center Court, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928.

August 12 & 17: Safe at Home Program

Fire Rescue is offering the Safe at Home program in a virtual format on August 12th and August 17th. Please call or email the Fire & Life Safety Educator at 843-682-5141 or cindas@hiltonheadislandsc.gov. Students learn how to practice safe habits, how to prevent unsafe situations and what to do when faced with dangers such as power failures or weather emergencies.

All of August: Town of Hilton Head and water utilities encourage residents to 'Take the Pledge' for water conservation

The Town of Hilton Head, Hilton Head PSD, South Island PSD and Broad Creek PSD are working together to encourage residents to take the Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water pledge this summer at mywaterpledge.com.

During the month of August, the 9th Annual Mayor's Challenge for Water asks communities throughout the United States to make small changes that better manage our water resources and improve the health of our ocean, lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands. This is a good time to remember to comply with our ordinances that limit irrigation to two days a week and to use a working rain sensor on all irrigation systems.



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This year, the National Mayor's Challenge for Water campaign offers residents a chance to win \$3,000 toward home utility bills, home irrigation makeovers, environmentally friendly cleaning products, and hundreds of dollars more in eco-friendly prizes. Additionally, residents can nominate a deserving charity in their city to receive a 2020 new-generation Toyota Highlander Hybrid XLE. Cities with the most residents that make pledges qualify for over \$50,000 in prize drawings.

The Wyland Foundation (www.wylandfoundation.org) is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, protecting, and preserving the world's ocean, waterways, and marine life.