



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Town Manager Steve Riley 7/8/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

For your safety and the safety of others, please wear your masks. As our number of coronavirus cases continues to spike, we're encouraging everyone to take all the necessary precautions including washing your hands and physically distancing yourself from others. We have received a number of questions about types of masks that can be worn and circumstances where they may or may not be worn.

Our Ordinance mandates masks to be worn in commercial establishments. I advise you to check out our list of Frequently Asked Questions on our COVID-19 hub page at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19. If you have a question about masks as it pertains to our Ordinance, you can email it to us at communications@hiltonheadislandsc.gov and will do our best to get it answered.

The number of COVID-19 cases in our community continue to rise. You can find the latest figures on these cases on our hub page or at SCDHEC.gov.

Hilton Head Island's First Town Manager Carey Smith Passes Away

It is with sadness that I relay that the Town's very first Town Manager, Carey Smith, passed away on July 5th at age 77.

Carey was a native South Carolinian who served in local government for over 40 years. He was the Assistant Manager in Spartanburg before serving as City Manager in Dillon, North Augusta and Myrtle Beach. He came to Hilton Head Island in 1983. He served the Town for 5 years, putting many programs and policies in place that, with some modest changes, remain today. After leaving Hilton Head Island he served as City Manager in the Florida communities of Tarpon Springs and Daytona Beach.

Carey returned to South Carolina in 2002 to become the City Manager for Rock Hill, which is when I got the opportunity to meet him and hear his stories of the early days of Hilton Head Island. Carey and his wife Joan maintained many friendships on Hilton Head Island, including with our first Mayor, Ben Racusin and his wife Helen. They visited the Island many times over the years. Following his retirement in 2010, he served at times as an Acting Manager for communities that were searching for a new Manager. He performed this role twice for Hardeeville; presenting additional opportunities to talk about the Island and our individual experiences. Carey is survived by his wife Joan and two sons as well as numerous grandchildren.



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Carey served as President of the South Carolina City and County Management Association (SCCCMA) in 1977 and received their Lifetime Achievement Award upon his retirement. He was active in the International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) and the National League of Cities and received numerous recommendations and awards.

State Infrastructure Bank Awards \$120 Million Grant

On Tuesday, the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank approved a \$120 million grant that will be used toward the U.S. 278 Corridor Improvement Project. We, along with Beaufort County, applied for the grant in 2019 to support the project. The U.S. 278 Corridor project represents one of the most important safety improvement and infrastructure development projects that will likely take place on the Island in the next 20 to 30 years.

The corridor project proposes improvements to or replacement of the Karl Bowers Bridge and J. Wilton Graves Bridge connecting Hilton Head Island to the mainland, adjoining roadwork from Moss Creek Drive to Spanish Wells Road on Hilton Head Island, and other multimodal transportation improvements. In November 2018, Beaufort County voters approved a 1 cent sales tax to generate \$80 million for the project, expected to cost around \$272 million. Thus far, the tax has generated \$35.6 million. Additional funds would be generated from federal and local support.

Our plan was to leverage the local funds raised by the institution of the penny sales tax increase to obtain matching grant funds at the State level. The grant will not need to be repaid as long as it is used to complete the corridor project. In order to come up with the entire project budget it was necessary to utilize funding from S.C. Department of Transportation, Beaufort County and the Town through the sales tax, and then funds from the state infrastructure bank.

The next step is for South Carolina Joint Bond Review Committee to approve the funding request and sign an intergovernmental memorandum of agreement with the State Infrastructure Bank that the U.S. 278 Corridor Project will be fully funded

Coligny Area and Beach Access Parking Study [Open Town Hall HHI Survey](#)

The Town of Hilton Head Island has engaged Walker Consultants to develop a strategic plan that will enable the Town to best meet the needs of its residents in the Coligny Beach Area and its public beach access parking areas.

As part of this study, Walker Consultants would like to hear from you, a valuable stakeholder in this process. We want to learn more about the parking and mobility patterns of current residents, business owners, employees, and visitors, with a goal toward understanding attitudes defined by parking and mobility-related issues. Please take a



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moment to share your opinions on our survey, which is accessible on our website at <https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/opentownhall/>.

The survey will take about five to seven minutes to complete. We realize that your parking and mobility choices may change from day to day, however we are asking that you tell us about your experiences on a typical day. The survey will close just before midnight on Sunday, July 19th.

Inclusive of the Coligny Beach Area, the public beach access parking areas considered as part of this study include the following:

- Alder Lane Beach Access (2 Woodward Avenue)
- Burkes Beach (60 Burkes Beach Road)
- Coligny Beach Park Access (102 Pope Avenue)
- Driessen Beach Park (64 Bradley Beach Road)
- Fish Haul Beach Park/Barker Field Expansion (124 Mitchelville Road)
- Folly Field Beach Park (55 Starfish Road)
- Islanders Beach Park (94 Folly Field Road)

The 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season

We are in the midst of 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Please be aware and prepare your plans just in case you need to activate them. You can visit the hurricane page on our website, which contains a wealth of information on planning and preparation. With the coronavirus pandemic still looming, it is extremely important to know how you will evacuate and have your plans in order. Also, make sure you are signed up with our e-subscription service to receive emergency alerts from the Town of Hilton Head Island.

Stay Up-to-Date With Town Government

Visit our website at hiltonheadislandsc.gov and sign up for our e-subscription service. On the sign-up page, choose topics you are most interested in receiving information about. If you have already signed up for this service, we encourage you to go to your subscription page and update your selections. This is something you will need to do because as a self-service portal we do not have access to privacy information to update the service for you.

Ways to Give

Our local organizations need your support. We still have people in our community who need help. 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 www.hiltonheadchamber.org/covid-19/. These organizations are assisting with rent, food and other needs.