



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

## **An Update from Town Manager Steve Riley 8/17/2020**

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

Here's an update of what's happening around Town.

### **New Playground Equipment Installed at Squire Pope Community Park**

Youngsters can have more fun on our expanded playground at the Rowing and Sailing Center at Squire Pope Community Park. Last Friday, contractors finished installing additional playground equipment. They included 13 log-, pine cone- and rock-shaped climbing structures. This brings some added features so families have more to enjoy while visiting the park.

### **Candidates for Municipal General Elections for the Town of Hilton Head Island**

The candidacy filing period for individuals interested in running for Town Council during the next Municipal General Election closed at noon today. We have six persons vying to represent Wards 1, 3 and 6. You can check out the elections page on our website at <https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/council/elections.cfm> to see who is hoping to represent citizens living in those wards.

### **Town Council Meets on Tuesday, August 18**

Our Town Council will have its regularly scheduled virtual meeting at 4 p.m., tomorrow, Tuesday, August 18. Here are some agenda items our citizens can look forward to for this meeting:

- Craig Winn, a Project Engineer with the S.C. Department of Transportation, will update us on the U.S. 278 Corridor Project.
- Ray Kisiah, Chairman of our Parks & Recreation Commission, will give an update.
- Town Council will consider extension of current ordinances requiring face coverings and holding meetings electronically.
- There are several items for consideration under new business including a resolution for park planning, programming, funding and implementation; an ordinance for electronic meetings, and recommendations for approval of the Mitchelville Master and Business Plan and the Public Art Master Plan.

There are several other items on the agenda, which is posted to our website. We like to inform you early about the meeting so you have time to comment on the agenda items.



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The meeting agenda provides information on how to submit comments using our Open Town Hall portal and how to watch our virtual meetings.

## **USCB Students are Back on Campus This Week**

It's Sand Shark Welcome Week and we join USCB in welcoming students back to campus. Students are moving into their dorms, participating in welcome activities and getting ready to start classes at campuses in Hilton Head Island, Bluffton and Beaufort. I'm sure they will have a different learning environment this year due to COVID-19, but USCB leaders have assured our community that the university is taking all necessary precautions to protect students, faculty and administration. We wish them all a safe and successful year.

## **S.C. DHEC Releases Data Showing Areas Where Wearing Masks Is Working**

Besides Hilton Head Island, where else in South Carolina do you have to wear a mask? There are 10 counties and 60 municipalities across the state with a mask ordinance. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division has a regularly updated map showing the counties and municipalities that currently have mask requirements in place, which is available on its home page of [scemd.org](http://scemd.org).

According to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), these are the locations where wearing masks is having some positive impact. DHEC's analysis of local mask ordinances show they are helping to slow the spread of COVID-19:

- Nearly 40 percent of residents, or approximately 2,000,000 South Carolinians, reside in jurisdictions that have local mask requirements in place.
- When comparing the jurisdictions that have mask requirements in place to those that don't, **the jurisdictions with mask requirements have shown a 46.3 percent greater decrease in the total number of cases** during the four weeks after the requirements were implemented.
- Those **jurisdictions with mask requirements in place have seen an overall decrease of 15.1 percent of total cases** for the four weeks after the requirements were implemented compared to before the requirements were in place. This is an overall decrease of 34.6 cases per 100,000 people from before the mask requirements to after.
- During the same time frame, those **jurisdictions without mask requirements have experienced an overall increase in total cases of 30.4 percent**, as well as an average increase of 24.1 cases per 100,000 people when compared to jurisdictions with a mask requirement in place.



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Thank you to everyone for helping our community to slow down the spread of COVID-19.

## **COVID Update for Our Community**

We join health experts in reminding you of the steps you can take to stop the spread of COVID-19:

- Wearing a mask in public.
- Practicing social distancing.
- Getting tested.
- Avoiding group gatherings.
- Regularly washing your hands.
- Staying home if sick.

As always, the S.C. Department of Health and Environment department maintains data on the latest confirmed and estimated COVID-19 cases by ZIP code for our area on its website at [scdhec.gov](http://scdhec.gov). For Hilton Head Island, those zip codes would be 29928 and 29926. We also share this data on our COVID-19 hub page at [hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19](http://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19).

## **Ways to Give**

Some schools have started classes and many of our local organizations are preparing to help students and families. They need your support to continue providing assistance with rent, food, school supplies and more. For a list of very worthy organizations and initiatives that need your support, visit the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber Commerce at [www.hiltonheadchamber.org/covid-19/](http://www.hiltonheadchamber.org/covid-19/) .