

## Spring Message to Residents from Town Administrator Benke

Thursday, April 18, 2019

Good morning Island residents,

With the weekend almost here, I wanted to take this early opportunity to pass along a few pieces of information that you may find helpful.

1. While the spring weather has been extremely nice this week, conditions are likely to take a turn for the worse as early as Friday morning. The cold front approaching from the west causes a line of strong thunderstorms to move across the State toward Charleston County. Storm cells will intensify as the front mixes with the warm moist air along the coast. Offshore, winds could reach 30 knots gusting to 45 knots with seas building to 8 feet. As the weather moves out and away to the east, clouds and scattered thundershowers will likely hang around for Saturday. Sunday is expected to be very nice. For Friday and Saturday, be sure to secure the plants on your deck or other loose objects that might cause damage; likewise, it may be prudent not to venture offshore until Sunday.
2. In the coming weeks boardwalk repairs will begin at Station 26 Street before moving to Station 25 Street. While the contractor is working the paths will be closed to the public. Please make plans to use an alternate beach access path.
3. During the first week of May the South Carolina Department of Transportation is expected to be on the Island taking care of its infrastructure. The Department has been provided with a list of low shoulders, pot holes and ditch maintenance. If you are experiencing any issues near your home please send me an email in order to add the matter to the Department work list.
4. Walking along the beach you may notice a large number of jellyfish left by the falling tide. The cannonball jellyfish (*Stomolophus meleagris*) are often pushed ashore this time of year with the prevailing wind and currents of spring. Like most all jellyfish, the cannonball secretes a toxin from its nematocyst as a defense mechanism or as a means to capture food. While cannonball jellyfish are mostly harmless to humans, direct contact with a nematocyst can cause pain, redness and irritation. In the next few weeks sea surface conditions will change again and the jellyfish will begin to disappear from the beach. In the meanwhile, those left by the tide will serve as food for migrating shorebirds.
5. Although the snowbirds seem to have completed their northern migration, warm weather weekend traffic will intensify very soon. Just as a reminder for your trips to the mainland, please note the bridge schedule which is codified by Federal statute 33 CRF 117 Subpart B:
  - Monday through Friday between 7am to 9am and 4pm to 6pm the bridge will not open for recreational watercraft but must open for military, commercial or distressed watercraft
  - Monday through Friday outside of the restricted hours the bridge opens for all watercraft on demand
  - Saturday, Sunday or Federal holidays between 9am and 7pm the bridge will open on the hour only for recreational watercraft but on demand for military, commercial or distressed watercraft
  - Saturday, Sunday or Federal holidays after 7pm and prior to 9am the bridge will open on demand for all watercraft

6. The Farmers' Market is held every Thursday at Stith Park from 4pm to 7pm April through June. Be sure to visit the market and support your local vendors.
7. In November 2018, Town Council codified Ordinance 2018-06 under Section 14-36 of the law which prohibits the use of single-use plastic bags, straws, polystyrene coolers and polystyrene food containers or cups on the beach (RC-1 Zoning District). Moving into the beach season, law enforcement will be present to enforce the ordinance. In addition to a public outreach program inclusive of signage and media blitz, it is anticipated that officers will begin with friendly reminders to the public. Please help spread the word to visitors you may encounter on the beach that in an effort to maintain a pristine environment and protect the sea life, plastic and Styrofoam products are prohibited.
8. Several years ago, Island resident Paul Vannatta organized an "Adopt-a-Beach Path" program. Volunteers adopt a specific beach access path and offer to regularly remove trash and maintain the signage. If you have an interest in serving as a beach path volunteer you may contact either Paul directly at [paul\\_vannatta@ml.com](mailto:paul_vannatta@ml.com) or me at Town Hall. Volunteer service is always appreciated.
9. Town Hall will be closing on Friday April 19, 2019 at Noon in observance of the religious holidays of Passover and Easter. The Police and Fire Departments will be fully staffed over the weekend. **Should you need assistance:**
  - A. In the event of an emergency always dial **9-1-1**
  - B. For non-emergency Police, Fire or Water and Sewer Department assistance contact the Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch Center non-emergency telephone at 843-743-7200.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need any assistance.

Kind regards,  
Andy

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**"Populus Felix in Urbe Felici"**