



# THE Seabrooker

VOL 23 • ISSUE 7 • JULY, 2020

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## Re-Openings



**FROM**  
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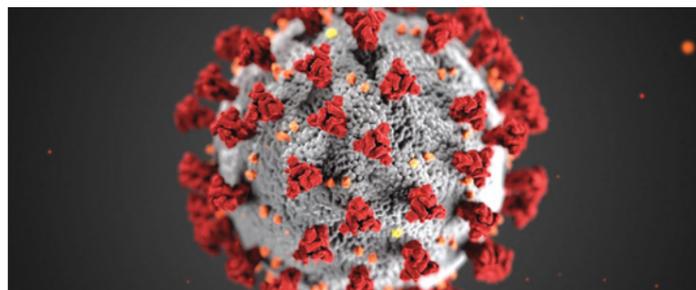
John Gregg

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a State of Emergency was declared to exist within the Town as of March 17 and Executive Order 2020-01 was issued on March 26 to prohibit gatherings of more than ten people and require that persons in groups of ten or fewer practice social distancing. Since then the Town issued two Emergency Ordinances and seven additional Executive Orders. In the same span of time, Governor McMaster declared a statewide State of Emergency (March 13) and issued thirty-two Executive Orders to respond to the ongoing spread of COVID-19 in South Carolina. The Governor's Orders expressly recognized the objective of encouraging social distancing and expressly provided for enforcement of state law authorizing law enforcement officers to disperse gatherings of three or more persons if determined to pose a threat to public health. The Governor's order having the broadest impact on residents of the Town was his "home or work" Order prohibiting movement outside one's residence except to engage in "essential businesses" or "essential activities". All of the foregoing governmental interventions were directed to "flattening the curve" of spread of COVID-19 to reduce the potential for overwhelming resources that would be required to

care for the seriously ill. The mandatory restrictions of those interventions were not made effective indefinitely, in some instances being subject to particular end dates and, in other instances, subject to the duration of an associated State of Emergency unless expressly extended. Modest relaxation of restrictions began in the middle of April and continued into early May.

As of April 2, data disseminated by South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control ("SCDHEC") reflected the rate of confirmed positive tests for infection, i.e., the ratio of the number of confirmed positive results to the number of tests performed (at the time a total of 7,477) was twenty-two per cent (22%). By the middle of May, SCDHEC data showed the rate of confirmed positive tests for infection was below five per cent (5%) of more than 109,000 tests performed. As of April 2, projected peak hospital beds required for COVID-19 was expected to exceed 3,000 on April 28. By April 30, SCDHEC data reflected the peak use of hospital beds had occurred on April 10 at less than 500 beds.

By the middle of May, most governmental interventions had been repealed or had expired. The remaining governmental interventions in effect in the Town included restrictions on gatherings of people within the Town under Executive Order 2020-01 and officially sanctioned guidelines for safe "reopening" of certain businesses, including restaurants resuming on-premises indoor dining, close contact service businesses such as hair salons and nail salons, and commercial swimming pools. The relaxation of governmental inter-



vention at the State and local level was undertaken in light of experience with the rate of confirmed cases of infection resulting in illness requiring hospitalization, increased testing for infection and the preceding encouraging trends in the utilization of hospital resources for COVID-19 patients. With relaxation of interventions and increased interaction among people in the state, there were, by the second week of June, increased occurrences of infection. SCDHEC reported the rate of confirmed positive tests for infection was over fourteen per cent (14%). As of June 15, SCDHEC data reflected more than 500 hospital beds were needed for COVID-19 patients and projected continuing need for about the same number of hospital beds for COVID-19 patients through early October. SCDHEC data concerning use of hospital resources were understood to illustrate the effectiveness of the statewide governmental interventions that had been put in place and a reduced expectation of unmanageable demand on hospital resources. With the issuance of an Order 11 June further relaxing restrictions on "non-essential businesses", the Governor affirmed he did not contemplate re-imposition of restrictions on businesses and activities within the State. Nor is the Town currently considering imposing new restrictions on businesses and

activities within the Town.

As of the time of this writing, the Town has not been notified by any public health agency of confirmation of COVID-19 infection of any resident of Seabrook Island. While SCDHEC has commenced reporting results of testing for the presence of coronavirus anti-bodies, results of that testing are not recognized as confirmative of COVID-19 infection. Persons who have positive tests for the presence of coronavirus anti-bodies and who have symptoms of infection are encouraged to be tested for COVID-19 infection. While recently reported increases of the rate of COVID-19 infection is certainly concerning for our residents, the recent SCDHEC data show the highest rates of new infections occur in extended care and detention facilities. SCDHEC, in conjunction with other public health organizations, issued a statement on June 9 emphasizing that social distancing and use of masks in confined spaces remained the most effective practices for reducing the spread of COVID-19. Residents are encouraged to continue to protect themselves through social distancing and protect others through use of masks in public spaces. Our residents are best served by deliberate efforts to exercise their individual responsibility to protect themselves and others.▲

## Seabrook Island:

### "A Great Place to Live, Work, and Play"

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While the Eastern Seaboard offers an exhaustive list of communities to call home, Seabrook Island's vibrant, diverse lifestyle distinguishes it as a singular destination. A private, welcoming oceanfront community located just miles from historic Charles-

ton, S.C., Seabrook attracts residents from all over the world with its commitment to healthy, meaningful living, superb amenities, and responsible planning that protects the barrier island's significant natural assets.

This sublime list of qualities starts

with the almost three miles of serene, unspoiled beaches and breeze-swept dunes. Endless amenities blend seamlessly with the stunning natural environment, starting with the Seabrook Island Clubhouse, perched overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and North

Edisto River. Thirty-six holes of championship golf on two challenging and uniquely different Audubon-certified courses offer uncrowded playing conditions set among spectacular ocean, marsh, and maritime forest surroundings.

Outdoor dining, shimmering pools, and plenty of space for basking in the sun are available at the impressive Beach Club and pool complex. A full-service, 22-acre Equestrian Center includes 42 stalls, miles of trails, and one of the only beach rides on the East Coast. Ranked a "Top 25 U.S. Resort" by Tennis Magazine, the Racquet Club sports 15 Har-Tru courts, two pickleball courts, and a clubhouse with pro shop. The Lakehouse community center offers a state-of-the-art health and fitness facility, indoor and outdoor pools, and more. The magnificent Atlantic Ballroom, along with the Carolina, Deveaux, Cooper rooms, and Ocean Terrace, offer idyllic settings for receptions and special events, wedding ceremonies, or corporate retreats. Fabulous shopping, dining, and entertainment options are available for members and guests to enjoy.

A deliberate sense of community creates the feeling that you're exactly where you should be—an island paradise.▲

# THE Seabrooker

Please send correspondence to: [TheSeabrooker@yahoo.com](mailto:TheSeabrooker@yahoo.com)

"Communication is the beginning of understanding." The Seabrooker will report regularly on Island happenings, as well as newsworthy events that affect property owners and residents. As Seabrooker volunteers with a common objective, we are committed to securing the facts and reporting to you in a forthright, honest and unbiased manner.

Red Ballentine, (1924-2006) Fred Bernstein (1924-2010) Co-Founders

**Editor** Michael Morris | **Publisher** Bernstein Lash Marketing | **Advertising & Layout** Teri B. Lash

THIS MONTH'S SEABROOKER VOLUNTEERS

ARTICLE & PHOTO CREDITS

Faye Albritton	John Gregg	Dale & Patti Leibach	Kathleen Radenbough
Joleen Ardaiole	Emily Horn	Links Magazine	Jerry Reves, MD
Joanne Fagan	Bob Leggett	Reagan Passantino	Sybil Ryan
David Garvey PhD			Ralph Secoy

### CONTACTING THE SEABROOKER

Please send correspondence and inquiries regarding editorials to

[TheSeabrooker@yahoo.com](mailto:TheSeabrooker@yahoo.com) or call 843.408.3707

The entry deadline for all items is the 15th of the month. Please limit Cap'n Sams letters to 400 words. Photos should be in high resolution (5"x7" at 200 dpi or more).

**FOR ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT**  
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## DEATH NOTICES

Death notices include basic information about the deceased: the person's name, age, occupation, date of death and place of death information. Notifications can be sent to [theseabrooker@yahoo.com](mailto:theseabrooker@yahoo.com).



**Richard Russell Bissett (Russ)**, 88, of Seabrook Island, passed away on May 26, 2020 in Mt. Pleasant, SC. He was born in Bayonne, New Jersey on September 21, 1931. He was the son of William F. and Helen M. Bissett.

He was an avid sports fan and participant. He lettered in four sports at Upsala College in East Orange, New Jersey, where he met his wife of 68 years, Shirley.

In his junior year he signed a baseball bonus contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers and played three years in the minor leagues, before leaving in 1954. Russ worked for the International Nickel Company in their Sales Department and progressed in the company from assignments in Bay-

onne, NJ, New York City, Pittsburgh, PA, and finally in the US headquarters facility in Huntington, WV. He retired in 1987 as Vice President of Marketing and took up residence on Seabrook Island.

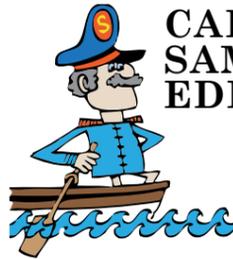
Russ is survived by his wife Shirley Ann and two daughters: Jane Beth Curley and Debra Ann Bissett Ayres; his grandchildren, Michael Thomas Ayres, Catherine Jane Ayres Fiscus, Christopher James Russell Curley, and Alexander William Michael Curley; his great-grandchildren, Quinn Aaron Fiscus, Lola Eden Fiscus, Zoe Olivia Ayres and the expected great-grandson Curley in July 2020.

Expressions of sympathy may be viewed or made at [www.jhenrystuhr.com](http://www.jhenrystuhr.com). In lieu of flowers donations may be sent to:

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# THE Seabrooker



## CAP'N SAM EDISTO



Dear Cap'n Sam,

Last week I sent many Seabrookers an email thanking you for supporting our collective effort to encourage the POA's regulation for the safe use of e-bikes on our pedestrian pathways inside the Gate. I acknowledged that our appeals were not successful, and informed you I was cutting short our effort before coming to the ending I envisioned. I know that this was discouraging to all of us.

However, also last week the Town Council had a virtual meeting and one of the items discussed was ebikes and their safety on the roads and paths that

fall under the jurisdiction of the Town. Well, I would like to let you know that the Town has not finished its assessment of the introduction of the bikes on its roads and paths. From discussion during the meeting, I understand that the town will be retaining a traffic engineer and is also consulting with its outside attorney to look into what can be done both practically and legally to make the path from the gate to Freshfields as safe for users as is reasonably practical. I hope they will look at various alternatives such as eliminating blind spots, introducing speed bumps and mirrors at dangerous curves. All of

these suggestions we have raised previously. I am certain that these two experts can offer other safety measures.

In any event, I am proud that the Town's staff continues to work the issue, and I and all of the Seabrook residents should thank the Town Administrator, the Mayor, and the Public Safety Commissioner, and the other Town staff for their continued effort.▲

Carmine

### CORRECTION

Dear Cap'n Sam,

I'm enjoying the June Issue especially "What am I" on page 17. However the answers are not listed at the bottom of page 16 as stated. Where can the answers be found? ▲

Thanks,  
Valerie Doane

REPLY: The answers were actually on the bottom of the last page, which in June's issue was page 20. Our typical issues are 16 pages, thus the error. ▲



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## Town of Seabrook Island

### 2020 Public Shredding Events

**NEW DATE!** Spring Shredding Event

**Fri. July 17, 2020**  
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
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2001 Seabrook Island Road

Fall Shredding Event

**Fri. October 23, 2020**  
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
Seabrook Island Town Hall  
2001 Seabrook Island Road

**Both events are FREE and open to the public.**

**Shredding services provided by:**



**GLASS HALF FULL**  
*Perspectives*  
BOB LEGGETT



To maintain my reputation as a master of the obvious statement, let me start with "Wow! What a rally!" Now all we have to do is determine if it will be validated by the resolution of the pandemic and a solid economic recovery ... or if both take another nasty turn for the worse.

The COVID-19 pandemic is not over. While hospitals have not been overrun thus far, the impact of the reopening of the economy is not known. So far, there is no effective treatment for the coronavirus and widespread application of a not-yet-discovered vaccine may be months or years in the future. The future path of the pandemic remains unclear.

Economic validation of the stock market rally does not require a V-shaped GDP recovery, but it does require continued optimism that the pandemic will be in the rearview mirror in 2021. I hope that is the case, but employment woes could still dampen consumer spending. The economic Glass was clearly emptied by the shutdown, but recent data is moving in the right direction. That is, it's still very bad but is improving from the historically negative levels hit this Spring.

Likewise, the stock market Glass went from apparently overflowing at the February all-time highs to empty just a few weeks later in March. However, rather than gradually improving from that "very bad" level, stocks staged one of the strongest rallies ever seen over the past three months.

There's nothing like a powerful stock market gain against very weak economic data to spotlight the differences between types of investors. Per-



spectives on the markets can reasonably differ between younger investors saving for retirement many years in the future, retiree investors who are gradually spending down their investment assets, and speculative traders playing market momentum. Knowing which group you are in is a key to longer term investment success.

Readership of this column may largely consist of retired folks with fairly substantial investment portfolios. They have a positive net worth (assets greater than debts) and typically have well-diversified holdings, including stocks, bonds, real estate, commodities, precious metals or even a bit of cryptocurrency. Asset allocation strategies will range from aggressive to very conservative.

Many are fortunate enough to have sufficient retirement income from pensions, Social Security, and/or annuities to fund their lifestyle. They may employ a more aggressive strategy because they can take a very long term perspective based on the robust historic returns from stocks and believe that an empty or half-full Glass will eventually be replenished.

Others need or desire more conservative investment portfolios that generate income to meet expenses, thus postponing portfolio liquidation. Such investors are likely to agree with Will Rogers, who is quoted as saying "It's not the return ON my money that I care about, it's the return OF my money!" Sadly, folks in this category have been ill-served by the Federal Reserve's policies that suppress interest rates across the yield curve. They are forced to take more risk by owning lower quality

bonds or dividend-paying stocks. They should always assume the Glass is half-full (at best) to protect themselves.

Younger investors in the asset accumulation phase should try to contribute as much as possible to retirement savings vehicles such as 401(k) and IRA accounts. Unless they have significant investment expertise, they should probably adopt a diversified asset allocation and stick to it, rather than attempting to trade in and out of stocks. If history is a guide, the ups and downs of financial assets will net out to good growth over the longer term.

As for the speculative trader, I have no comment other than trading risk-on momentum is a two-edged sword. Only extremely well-disciplined traders win over time and it's unlikely they are day trading fractional shares at Robinhood Financial.

In summary, I believe the recent pace of the stock market rally is unsustainable. However, in the absence of renewed shutdown mandates (or widespread decisions to self-isolate), the economic outlook should continue improving, lessening the risk of another fear-driven plunge in stocks. As always, take my Glass Half Full position with a grain of salt, as your investor profile may call for a stance that the Glass will eventually be recognized as overflowing - or empty. Stay well!▲

**IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES**  
*The opinions voiced in this commentary on current economics and markets are my own and not the opinions or positions of any entities or organizations with which I may be affiliated or associated. This column is for general enjoyment and not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual or institution.*



20th Anniversary  
**SIGSC Gala Cancelled**

As you are aware, Seabrook Island Green Space Conservancy postponed our 20th Anniversary Gala in March to a date in October 2020. In our June Board of Directors meeting we voted unanimously to cancel the 2020 Gala primarily because it is impossible to maintain social distancing during a large event. This was not an easy decision to make, but the health of our guests and ourselves must be our first priority. We expect to schedule an event in 2021 to celebrate our 21st year, and we hope to see you there.

Our ticket holders, sponsors and donors have been notified of the cancellation and given directions on the options for actions they may take with the funds or donated items.

If you have not received any com-

munication from a Board Member, please contact Lucy Hoover [lucyhoover@gmail.com](mailto:lucyhoover@gmail.com).

Our mission is to preserve and enhance the natural environment on Seabrook Island through acquisition of land and land easements, through education on environmental topics, and through advocacy of conservation issues. SIGSC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Federal Tax ID# is 57-1090055

On behalf of our Board, our community, and the natural environment that we so enjoy, thank you for your continued support of the Seabrook Island Green Space Conservancy. ▲

Sincerely,  
The Board of Directors  
Seabrook Island Green Space Conservancy

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# South Carolina Venomous Snakes

Warmer weather in South Carolina means more people are active outdoors. It also means certain animals are more active, including snakes. Thus, chances are greater of human and snake encounters, often leading to questions about whether or not a snake is dangerous to people or pets. Most times, they're not, according to Will Dillman, herpetologist for the S.C. Dept. of Natural Resources.

Of the 38 snake species that call South Carolina home, only six are venomous, according to Dillman.

"In general encountering snakes is rare, and encountering a venomous snake is even more rare," Dillman says. And being bitten by one of those venomous snakes is extremely rare, according to Dillman. "A lot of bites occur once people have seen a snake, and choose to engage with it further by moving it somewhere, for example," says Dillman.

Dillman warns people who see snakes not to disturb them. "If you don't interact with it, your chances of getting bitten are extremely low," Dillman says.

As a means of protecting yourself and your property this time of year while outdoors, Dillman says it's best to keep yards and shrubbery mowed and trimmed short, and to wear gloves, boots, and long pants when working outside.

## SOUTH CAROLINA'S VENOMOUS SNAKES

Five of the six venomous snake species in South Carolina are pit vipers, which means they have distinct triangle-shaped heads, and the pupils in their eyes are vertical like a cat's eye.

Find information below from SCDNR and the University of Georgia about each species, including their appearance and size, their habitat and range, and more.



### Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake

Eastern diamondback rattlesnakes are South Carolina's largest venomous snake. Adults are typically 3-5 feet long, but sometimes grow to more than 6 feet, and can weigh up to 10 pounds. The largest ever recorded was 8 feet long.

Diamondbacks are named for the

dark brown-to-black "diamond" pattern that runs along the snakes' backs. They also have distinctive "masks" of black coloring around their eyes. Their overall body color varies from light tan to dark olive.

The snakes are typically found only in the outer coastal plain region of the state.

Allendale, Bamberg, Orangeburg, Manning, Florence and other places along U.S. Hwy. 301 are good geographic reference points for where the snakes' range ends, but they are found less frequently farther inland.

Diamondbacks typically live in pine forests in the inland part of their range. Closer to the coast, they dwell in maritime forests, in grassy sand dunes and along the edges of marsh and swamp. They are most abundant in coastal areas.

Eastern diamondbacks aren't listed as endangered or threatened, but are in major decline across much of their traditional range. They are thought to have been completely eradicated in North Carolina.



### Canebrake (Timber) Rattlesnake

Another large species of rattlesnake, canebrakes typically reach 3-5 feet long, with the largest ever recorded being more than 6 feet.

Canebrake rattlers come in a variety of colors, including pale shades of pink, orange and yellow, as well as tan. They have distinctive black, zig-zagging "chevron" bands running across the length of their bodies, and a rust or dark brown colored stripe running down their backs. Their tails are black. Timber rattlesnakes are considered the same species as canebrakes, but are distinctive in that they're only found in the mountains, and have darker coloring, sometimes ranging from gray to almost black. They do not have the stripe running down their backs. Canebrake and timber rattlers are found throughout the state in a variety of habitats, including wetlands. They are most common in rural areas.



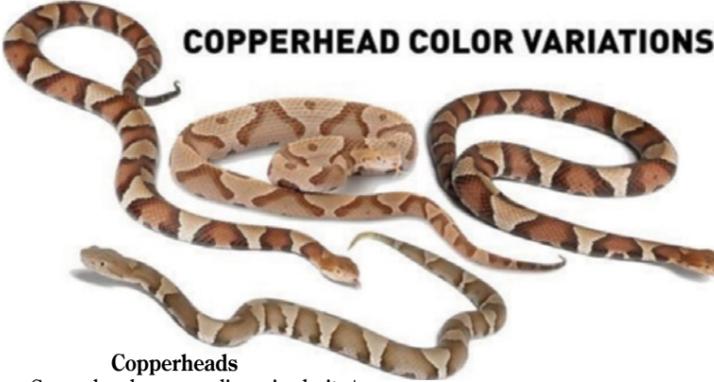
### Dusky Pigmy Rattlesnake

As evidenced by its name, the pigmy rattlesnake is a small rattlesnake species that rarely reaches a foot in length, with two feet being its maximum size. Because they are so small, sometimes people cannot hear them rattle.

Two subspecies, the Carolina pigmy and the dusky pigmy, are found throughout South Carolina, except in the mountains.

The Carolina pigmy rattler can be gray, tan, or lavender, while the dusky pigmy ranges from bluish gray to nearly black. Both subspecies have a row of well-defined black spots running along their backs down the length of their bodies.

Pigmy rattlers are found in numerous habitats, both near water and in dry areas.



## COPPERHEAD COLOR VARIATIONS

### Copperheads

Copperheads are medium-sized pit vipers, usually ranging from 2-3.5 feet long. Their bodies are often gray or tan in color, sometimes varying between pale shades of orange and brown.

These snakes are identifiable by the rows of hourglass shaped bands across their backs. The bands range from black to brown to a deep rust color.

Copperheads thrive in a variety of habitats from the mountains to the coast, and are even common in suburban and urban settings.

Copperhead venom is not very potent and deaths from copperhead bites are exceedingly rare.

If people see a venomous snake in an urban or suburban area, it's most likely going to be a copperhead, says Dillman.



### Cottonmouth (Water Moccasin)

Cottonmouths, which are also known as water moccasins, are typically 3-4 feet long, but have been known to grow to more than 5 feet.

The water moccasin comes in a variety of colors, ranging from dingy pale yellow to olive drab on the lighter side, to deep brown, olive, or nearly black on the darker side. They have irregular dark bands across their backs running down the length of their body.



### Coral Snake

The coral snake is the only venomous South Carolina snake that is not a pit viper, so it can't be identified as venomous by its head or eye pupil shape. Instead, coral snakes can be identified by the vivid red, yellow and black color bands on their bodies.

Other non-venomous snakes, such as the scarlet kingsnake, have similar patterns, but coral snakes can be differentiated by how the colors are arranged.

With coral snakes, the red bands will always have smaller yellow bands on either side, and the red bands will never be connected to black bands.

As the old saying goes: "Red touching yellow will kill a fellow / Red touching black is safe to Jack."

Coral snakes are very uncommon, Dillman says, but can be found from the coast to the midlands in habitats with sandy soils. They spend much of their time underground, and are secretive.

Dillman adds that coral snakes when encountered usually will try quickly to escape.

"It's very difficult to get bitten by a coral snake unless you're handling it," Dillman says. ▲

Sources:  
• Snakes of South Carolina & Georgia: Savannah River Ecology Laboratory University of Georgia  
• S.C. Dept. of Natural Resources Venomous Snakes Guide

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## Jestine's Kitchen closes after 24 years in downtown Charleston



Dana Berlin St, owner of local favorite **Jestine's Kitchen** (251 Meeting St.), has announced the restaurant's **permanent closure**.

Dana opened the southern food restaurant on February 6, 1996, naming it after her lifelong house-keeper and her caretaker, Jestine Matthews.

Jestine was born in the Lowcountry in 1885 to a Native American mother and a father who was the son of a freed slave. While she doesn't recollect exactly where she was born, she claims her first memories of her childhood home were on Rosebank Plantation on Wadmalaw Island.

In the early 1900s, Jestine moved to Charleston and began working as a housekeeper. In 1928, she was hired by Aleck Berlin and his wife, who were expecting a child - Shera Lee Berlin. Jestine quickly befriended the small family, and went on to play a major role in Dana's life, who was Shera

Lee's only child.

Dana opened Jestine's Kitchen to honor her beloved caretaker and friend, wanting to share Jestine's style of home cooked meals and the warm atmosphere she provided the family throughout the years. She gathered friends and members of Jestine's family to create the menu and get their approval.

Almost two years after the restaurant's opening, Jestine died on Dec. 18, 1997 at the age of 112. While she is greatly missed, her legacy has lived on through Dana, Jestine's Kitchen, the restaurant staff + the community that gathers daily to converse and dine.

On its closing day, many came to celebrate the legacy that the restaurant has made in Charleston, including Dana's niece Helen and both local and traveling regulars. People came to celebrate, reminiscence + order their

favorite dishes one last time.

While Dana would have hoped for a longer run, she took pride in the fact that Jestine's was one of the longest standing culinary staples in Charleston. With the quick onset of the recent pandemic, the restaurant was unable to stay afloat despite a valiant effort from Dana and her team, who she praised in her farewell letter.

Dana and her staff always took good care of folks whether they were visitors or locals, whether they needed a meal, a smile, or a story about Jestine, and whether or not they were paying customers. Dana and the managers often sent people who were down on their luck out the door with a hearty meal on the house. Their heart was to serve people well and celebrate Jestine's legacy, which they accomplished in admirably serving the Lowcountry for over two decades.▲

Source: CHStoday

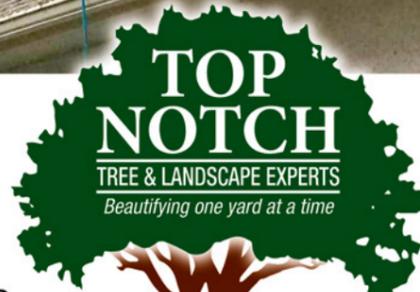


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## HEALTHY AGING

Jerry Reves, MD

### Skin as We Age: What is Normal and Abnormal?



There are two things that happen to skin as we age. One is the normal changes that aging produces called “chronological aging” (just as other organs in our body are altered by age) and the other is the result of exposure to the sun called “photoaging.” Both fall into normal processing since, as we get older, we accumulate more sun exposure as we experience more time on earth.

#### Normal Skin Changes of Age

Age causes our skin to become thinner, drier, less resilient, less efficient in heat exchange, and discolored. Wrinkles are a result of the change in the matrix of the collagen in the skin and are a normal response to both chronological and photoaging. The skin keeps its barrier protection intact, but when injured with a cut or bruise does not heal as quickly. Photoaging tends to produce similar changes to the skin as chronological aging, but if one has more sun exposure then the normal aging of the skin is accelerated – meaning the more sun exposure the more advanced the skin aging process. Both are cumulative processes so the longer we live and the more we are in the sun, the more age-related changes we can expect in our skin.

The color changes along with the formation of wrinkles are the most prominent and observable changes to the skin. The varieties of mottled pigmentation from age and sun exposure include actinic lentiginos or “age spots” (see Figure 1) and the skin condition called seborrheic keratosis. The actinic lentiginos are harmless and do not become cancerous. The lesions of seborrheic keratosis are not harbingers of cancer but are sometimes difficult to distinguish from skin cancers.

Because of skin changes that occur with aging, the older we are the less we are able to perspire through the skin. This diminution of our ability to cool off in hot weather as efficiently as when we were young renders us more vulnerable to heat effects. This is why the older we are the more careful we must be in conditions of high heat and humidity.

#### Skin Cancer and Its Prevention – The Latest Information

Skin cancer is diagnosed in almost 9,500 people in the U.S. every day making it easily the most common form of cancer. There are two types of skin cancer because the cancers derive from either melanocytes or epidermal cells. The non-melanoma cancers represent 95% of skin cancers, but it is **melanoma** that is considered the more invasive and fatal type. Each year in the U.S. nearly 200,000 new cases of melanoma are detected, half of them of the invasive variety. Excision of the entire cancer can be done in many cases, but in advanced disease immunotherapy and targeted drug therapy are used. Radiation can also be used.

The predominant types of epidermal cell cancers are **basal cell** and **squamous cell**. Basal cell is the more common of these two cancers. The usual treatment for non-melanoma cancer is simple excision or Mohs microsurgery (where repeated excisions are done until microscopic examination shows a clear, safe margin.) The American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) (<https://www.aad.org/media/stats/conditions/skin-cancer>) reports that three million Americans have non-melanoma cancers and that women and older people are experiencing a higher incidence than men and younger Americans. Melanoma affects more women earlier in life than men but by age 80 the incidence of melanoma in men is three times higher than in women.



Right arm of 76 y.o. male exposed to sun much of his life. Note wrinkles and thin, dry appearance of skin with several “age spots.”

#### Prevention

The cause of the majority of cancers is the environment and what is meant by the environment is exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation – from the sun or tanning booths. Since it has been established that the root cause of skin cancer, both melanoma and non-melanoma types, is exposure to ultraviolet light, then the prevention strategy is to avoid exposure to it.

Limiting exposure to UV light is not that straight-forward. The data seem to show that the most important time when limited exposure is most helpful in preventing skin cancer later in life is up to adolescence. If you experienced five or more blistering sunburns between ages 15 and 20, your risk of non-melanoma cancer is increased 68% and of melanoma 80%! Unfortunately, it is a well known scientific fact that we cannot relive our first 20 years. Thus those of us in our older years can only remind all parents of young children to keep them covered and lathered up with sunscreen.

#### Specific Recommendations

There is good scientific evidence that, as we age, we should be mindful of exposure to the sun and do everything possible to avoid the root cause of skin cancer – namely, prevent unnecessary exposure to UV light. There are three major strategies to achieve this goal: 1) **avoid sun** between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.; 2) **cover the body** with long pants, long sleeves, and hat when out in the sun at all times; and 3) **use sunscreen** – equal to or greater than 30 SPF.

Understandably, it may be impossible

– even undesirable – never to be out in the sun during the peak sun hours mentioned above. After all, exercise during that time often requires sun exposure and exercise has enormous health benefits that could trump the UV exposure. Nevertheless, it is best to plan as much as possible to limit time out in the sun between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

If one is going to be out at any time remember to stay in the shade if possible and the more covered one is with protective clothing the better. Also remember that sand, water, and even snow are highly reflective and any skin not covered in these settings is being exposed to the reflected UV rays as well as those from above. Be mindful of this when sitting under an umbrella on the beach. Likewise, UV light penetrates clouds and thus UV exposure and sun damage are occurring even on a cloudy day.

Finally, the last line of protection and actually the least effective is the use of sunscreen.



Example of the label of a common sunscreen manufactured by Neutrogena. Note that the label specifies that the sunscreen is Broad Spectrum with SPF rating of 100+ and that it is water resistant (80 minutes).

#### Sunscreen

All sunscreens are not alike and the most important thing for you to decide is which one you like and will use as directed. The **Sun Protection Factor (SPF) number** on sunscreen is a measure of how much UVB protection the chemical produces. All the SPF number really means is that the higher the number the more protection, but the thing to really pay attention to is in the sunscreen label. The better sunscreen products will state in the **Directions** portion of the label when the sunscreen should be reapplied. Reapplication of sunscreen should be as recommended by the manufacturer, and always after swimming or significant perspiration as when playing a sport.

**Broad spectrum** sunscreens will afford more protection against UV. It is best to use a broad spectrum sunscreen to protect the skin from wrinkling and developing aging spots.

**Water resistant** means that the sunscreen is protective up to 40 minutes while swimming or sweating. Very water resistant means the protection lasts up to 80 minutes. These descriptions will be on the label of the sunscreen (see Figure 2).

The sunscreens use chemicals to cause the protection. There are two classes of chemical protection, **organic** and **inorganic**. The organic compounds absorb the UV light and actually create slight heat in doing so. Inorganic compounds use elements like titanium or zinc to reflect the UV light and these tend to be less irritating to the skin.

Finally, sunscreens come as **creams, lotions, and sprays**. Many burn when in the eye. There is no best form of application or type of preparation. What counts most is that all areas of the exposed skin are covered no matter what the form of protection. Ears and hands are sometimes shortchanged when sunscreens are applied. It is crucially important that all exposed skin – no matter where – be evenly and well covered when the sunscreen is applied **10 to 15 minutes** before going out into the sun.

#### The Bottom Line

Like the rest of our body, skin will change as we age. Exposure to UV light of the sun hastens normal skin changes and causes cancer. It is up to each of us to protect ourselves from the harmful effects of the sun's UV light when outdoors. Protect the vulnerable skin by seeking shade, covering skin with clothing, and using a broad spectrum sunscreen that is equal to or greater than 30 SPF as directed on the label. This ounce of protection will avoid a pound of cure at the dermatologic surgeon's office.▲

# Seabrooker Volunteers in Asti, Italy

## One Italian Hospital's Response to the Covid Crisis



Morning rounds (from L to R - Dr. Rabino, Dr. Ghiselli, 2 staff nurses, and Andrea Tabliabue, a nurse pulmonary specialist)



Monitored 8-bed Covid Intermediate Care Area managed by the ED staff



David Garvey, PhD, MD, FACEP  
Emergency Medicine Physician

In late March I became aware of a field hospital that was being constructed in Bergamo, Italy by an elite Italian rescue organization, the Associazione Nazionale Alpini (ANA). Bergamo at that time was the epicenter of the Covid-19 pandemic. I contacted the Medical Director of the organization, Dr. Federica De Giuli, and was accepted as a volunteer to work for the ANA at the field hospital. My trip to Bergamo was arranged to coincide with the opening of the hospital in early April, and I purchased a one-way ticket to Italy, not knowing when I would be able to return to the United States due to the imposed travel restrictions. By the time I arrived in Italy the operations of the field hospital had changed hands. The ANA was no longer in control of the facility and my contract was null and void. I was not made aware of any of these changes until the day I arrived in Italy while driving from Rome to Bergamo. Instead of just returning home I decided to contact an old acquaintance, Dr. Gianluca Ghiselli, who I first met 25 years ago while in Italy teaching ACLS and PALS courses. Dr. Ghiselli invited me to come visit his hospital in Asti about 2 hours southwest of Bergamo by car.

Asti is a small city of approximately 75,000 people located in the foothills of the Alps in the Piemonte region of northwestern Italy. The major healthcare facility in and around Asti is Cardinal Massaia Hospital (Figure 1) which has approximately 500 beds, and an Emergency Department (ED) that sees about 55,000 patients per year. Dr. Ghiselli is the Medical Director of the ED. In the face of this Covid pandemic, Dr. Ghiselli along with other key managers, especially Dr. Alessandro Bianchi (Chief of Intensive Care), Dr. Tiziana Ferraris (Chief Medical Officer) and Dr. Katia Moffa (Chief Nursing Officer) transformed Cardinal Massaia Hospital into one of the most organized and effective battlegrounds in the world to fight the effects of the Covid-19 virus.

The Cardinal Massaia Covid-19 story begins in early February when a

large group of nursing home residents traveled from Asti to the neighboring region of Liguria on a retreat. While visiting Liguria 40 of the residents contracted the Corona virus. The infected residents were quarantined in Liguria and a few hospitalized in the capital city of Genoa, while arrangements were being made to have all the residents returned to Asti. At that time, Cardinal Massaia Hospital had yet to see any Covid-positive patients. During the 10-day interim period, Cardinal Massaia Hospital shut down operations as usual, and switched to disaster preparedness mode. Drs. Ghiselli, Ferraris, Bianchi and Moffa worked with the hospital administration to prepare the hospital to receive its first batch of Corona patients. The ability to prepare was a blessing, and in stark contrast to the fate that consumed their neighbor to the east, the Lombardia region, where swarms of Covid patients presented unexpectedly to Papa Giovanni XXIII Hospital in Bergamo with the disastrous consequences that followed.

At Cardinal Massaia Hospital the preparations began in the ED. A large tent was erected in the parking lot to serve as a pre-triage area (Figure 2). All emergency patients must pass through this area before being allowed to enter the hospital. Through the pre-screening process patients are designated as "suspect" or "clean" for Covid-19 infection. The "suspect" patients are sent to a designated area adjacent to the ED for further evaluation. The space chosen was used for medical education and training but adapted to serve as a secondary screening area by adding beds, exam chairs, oxygen supply, lab and imaging equipment, etc. All patients sent to this area are tested for the virus by nasal swab and must wait approximately 2 hours for the results to return. Some of the more symptomatic patients undergo lab tests, chest ultrasound and/or chest X-ray. Based on the results the patients are either sent home for supervised self-quarantine or admitted to the hospital. The ED itself was divided into 2 areas: "hot" for Covid-19 positive or suspected patients; and "cold" for patients with various other problems. The "hot" area consists of 12 treatment beds (Figure 3), plus 8 telemetry beds. The telemetry area was the Chest Pain Observation Unit which was converted into an Intermediate Care Area (Figure 4) for Covid-19 in-patients (i.e. step-down from the ICU or step-up from the floor); it is managed and staffed by the ED. The "hot" and "cold" areas of the ED have completely separate physician and nurse staffing who do not comele during shifts.

On the in-patient side of Cardinal Massaia Hospital, 200 of the 500 beds were designated solely for Covid-19

patients which encompassed 5 floors. These patients are cared for by variety of medical specialties, primarily internal medicine, but I even came across an orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Andrea Rabino, who volunteered to work on the Covid ward. Dr. Rabino's father was one of the original 40 nursing home patients and was the first Covid-related death at Cardinal Massaia Hospital. There are 22 designated ICU beds for critical, ventilator-dependent Covid patients. The ICU is managed by Dr. Bianchi and his team of Critical Care specialists. Drs. Ghiselli and Bianchi co-manage all the Covid-positive in-patients. They do daily rounds on all the Covid floors, discuss the progress of each patient, and jointly decide on a treatment plan for each and every patient (Figure 5). They work in close collaboration with the hospital administration through Dr. Ferraris and Dr. Moffa with whom they meet daily.

From the initial nursing home patients in February to the time I left Asti in mid-April, Cardinal Massaia Hospital had seen well over 1,000 Covid patients through the ED. Between March 15 and April 15 alone 867 Covid patients were evaluated in the ED; 449 were admitted, 9 died in the ED, and the remainder were discharged home under supervised quarantine. A social worker calls each discharged patient every 48-72 hours to check on their condition. Then, after 14 days of quarantine, each patient is scheduled to return to the hospital for drive-through re-testing. After 2 negative tests in a row 48-72 hours apart, the patient is released from quarantine and deemed noninfective. Total Covid admissions through April were at 772 patients. The 200 designated "Covid" in-patient beds are always at or near full capacity, as are the other 300 "clean" in-patient beds. The hospital remained open and operational during this catastrophe.

Covid-positive or suspected patients seem to more frequently present to the ED in groups. For example, on Good Friday, 13 nursing home patients were sent to the ED for evaluation; 9 were admitted, 2 were discharged back to the nursing home, and 2 were in such extremis that they expired in the ED. On Easter Sunday another 8 nursing home patients arrived (Figure 6). Currently the hospital is at a steady state (i.e. plateau) where the number of admissions approximates the number of discharges and deaths. The hospital, however, is preparing for a second wave of patients. The expanded testing throughout the region is finding a remarkably high percentage of positive tests. Most worrisome is that some nursing homes in the area have over 90% of their residents and staff testing positive for Covid-19. Also, the Piemonte region is beginning to relax its stay at home and social distancing restrictions and reopen some busi-

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### EXCHANGE CLUB NEWS

## THANK YOU from the Exchange Club of Kiawah-Seabrook

We have been very gratified by the community support for the Exchange Club of Kiawah-Seabrook Foundation's Hunger Project. We initiated the Hunger Project in April as the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic was becoming clear. Thanks to donations from Exchange Club members, area communities and funds available from the Exchange Club Foundation, we have reached our original \$50,000 fundraising goal.

Sadly, the battle against hunger is not over. A large proportion of the residents of Johns Island and Wadmalaw Island have a hard time getting enough good food to stay active and healthy in the best of times, and with the advent of the Coronavirus, that challenge has become insurmountable to some. It is now obvious that this unfortunate situation will continue for the foreseeable future.

John Carpenter and David Cruse, chairs of the Exchange Club's Hunger and Health committees, have worked closely with local charitable organizations to understand each program and its planned utilization of donated funds. We are also in regular contact with other organizations feeding the hungry, and are prepared to assist them if asked. Through July, we have approved Hunger Project disbursements of nearly \$40,000.

Organizations receiving funding thus far include Hebron Zion Food Pantry and Senior Citizen Outreach, Rev. Patty Gordon Churches, St. James Bethel, Amor Kitchen, Our Lady of Mercy, and Meals on Monday. They are very appreciative of the community's support as seen from the thank-you notes we have received in the past few weeks:

"Thank you for your continued support of our program. With your generosity we are able to continue to grow

our Mission even through challenging times." *Amor Kitchen*

"During this pandemic, we are blessed and grateful that your donation enables us to continue to serve our Senior Citizens. As well, we are purchasing additional food items for the Food Pantry to serve our clients. Your continued love and support are greatly appreciated." *Hebron Zion*

"Your support and partnership is crucial during this time. Thank you!" *Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach*

In addition to these the Exchange Club is in regular contact with many other organizations feeding the hungry and are prepared to help them too should they need it.

These and additional worthy organizations will continue to require funding assistance as the pandemic wears on. We expect to receive requests for at least another \$40,000 in coming months, and we can only meet those needs through further donations to the Hunger Project. 100% of all Hunger Project donations to the Exchange Club Foundation will be sent to the organizations working to alleviate hunger on our islands.

Any assistance that you can provide will help. Contributions can be made to the Exchange Club Foundation by check or through PayPal at the Exchange Club website (<https://www.ks-exchangeclub.com/club-grants/>). Checks should be made out to The ECKS Foundation and mailed to 130 Gardeners Circle PMB - J, Johns Island, SC 29455. Please include the phrase "Hunger Project" on the face of your check.

Please consider a generous donation to this critical effort to help us win this battle.

Thank you.▲

nesses. We all hope that the second wave does not come. To date only 9 of the medical and nursing staff in the ED have tested positive for Covid-19, and only 2 of these became symptomatic. This is remarkable given the volume and acuity of the Corona patients cared for by this incredibly dedicated staff.

Personal protective equipment, disinfectant supplies and hand cleaner are abundant and being used meticulously throughout the hospital. Ventilators and CPAP units are also readily available and in constant use. Best practice pharmaceuticals based on current data have been used on all symptomatic patients. A typical drug regimen for a Corona patient may include hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin, an antiviral agent such as remdesivir, a low molecular weight heparin, an immunosuppressant like tocilizumab and possibly other antibiotics, steroids and other medications based on the patient's condition and response to therapy. The medical staff realized early that this disease has different stages in its effect on the

human body; the destructive effects of the virus itself, and the adverse effects of the autoimmune response trying to fight off the virus. Suffice is to say that Cardinal Massaia Hospital had and still has a full armament of medical weapons at the disposal of the medical and nursing staff to fight this virus. Each day as I walked through the ED and Covid wards I was constantly aware of the stark contrast between Cardinal Massaia Hospital and hospitals where I work and my friends and colleagues work in the United States where our Covid-response supplies are relatively scarce and strictly rationed. I also found myself comparing the efficiency and organization of the Cardinal Massaia experience to how hospitals in the United States some with much fewer Covid patients responded to and are coping with the effects of this pandemic. To all the employees and volunteers at Cardinal Massaia Hospital you have my deepest respect for what you do and what you have accomplished. Hopefully, this Covid crisis will soon be over, and I look forward to returning to your beautiful city in much happier times.▲

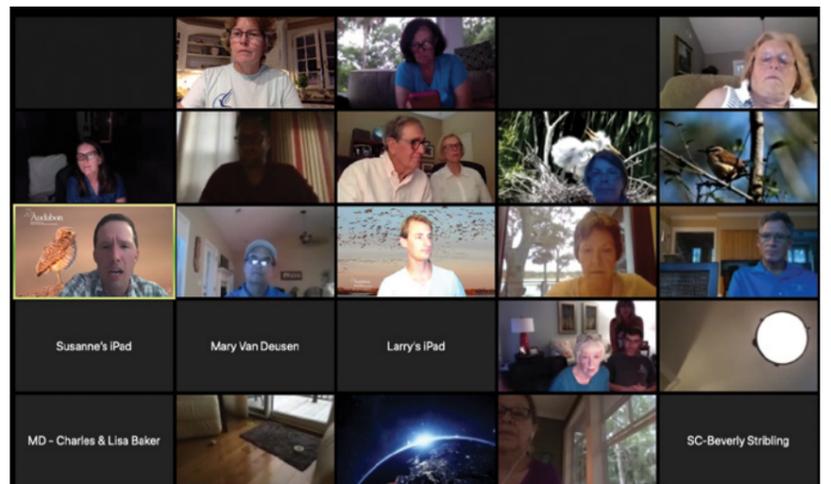
# BIRDWATCHING AMONG A PANDEMIC



Great Horned Owl - PHOTO BY DEAN MORR



2 Cornell Lab FeederWatch Cam at Sapsucker Woods



SIBs Virtual Evening Event on Zoom

Birdwatching can be a solitary hobby, as you certainly don't need a birding group to compile a list of every bird you locate during a year. However, on Seabrook Island, birding activities and programs held before the pandemic had become quite the social events. The more activities, the merrier! The more participants, the merrier!

## March 2020

Then came a contagious virus that changed socializing as we knew it and, sadly, the Seabrook Island Birders had to cancel all programs and activities. Fortunately, the birds were still here. Bird watching didn't have to stop. With everything closed and cancelled, there was actually more time to take advantage of the many resources available online about birds and birding.

## Social Media

As it turned out, birdwatching didn't have to be solitary. Many photos were shared and questions asked using social media. Our neighborhood social media app *Nextdoor* alerted neighbors about the nesting Bald Eagle and Great Horned Owl on the golf course along with the Ospreys near the amenities office. In all cases, there were successful fledglings. With the help of the *Nextdoor* readers, birds were identified from cell phone photos. Our local photographers got to use this platform to share some amazing photos of the many birds found at the beach, in the marsh, on the golf course, and in our backyards. Though not as personal and local, *Facebook* offers another way to connect with birders in Charleston, in all of South Carolina, in your home state, and beyond. Photos and experiences can be shared, questions can be answered, and information disseminated. If you use *Facebook*, check out Audubon South Carolina, Charleston Audubon & Natural History Society, Birding in South Carolina, Carolina Bird Photo Sharing Group, Beidler Forest Audubon Center & Sanctuary, and of course Seabrook Island Birders. Engaging in this type of social media is for everyone. You don't have to partici-

pate, just enjoy the photos and learn from the questions asked and information given.

## Webcams

Webcams have become a popular way to observe nature. Remember April the giraffe in 2017? Even without orders to shelter in place many people were checking the webcam in her zoo stall hoping to witness the birth of her baby. It was a wonderful distraction from everyday life that year. The webcam is a virtual window and "Bird Cams" are that window for birds living, feeding, and nesting all over the world. These webcams offer views that even the best binoculars could not give you. As people were asked to stay at home, bird nesting season was beginning and the Cornell Lab Bird Cams were set up all over the world for anyone to access and follow a multitude of different birds nesting. These cams are always accessible by going to [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org) and searching for Bird Cams. You can even engage with other followers by checking out their comments or adding your own. If you want something local, access the Kiawah Island bird feeder cam at their town hall at [kiawahisland.org](http://kiawahisland.org). Lots of birds common to our area and some surprise visitors can be seen on a variety of different feeders.

## Bird Watching While Social Distancing

While everyone was not comfortable with this, there were times this spring when a few of us would go out birding. Spring migration for birders is like receiving gifts daily for a few weeks. For this short period you have an opportunity to view birds traveling through the area that you would not normally see. Unless you are an experienced birder, identifying a bird is always easier when you have more than one brain to access, especially if the bird is not common to your area. So occasionally two or three of us would bike and bird around Seabrook Island keeping the appropriate distance apart when on and off our bikes.

It gave us outdoor time, a minimal amount of exercise, some social interaction, and that needed extra help in identifying those migrating warblers and shorebirds.

For those not interested in any contact, there were updates through text messaging and the Google Group for SIB that kept us updated on what was being seen at our feeders and nearby. A good example was when a Rose-breasted Grosbeak was spotted at a feeder and verified with a poor quality grainy cell phone photo through text. Over the next couple weeks others were spotting this beautiful bird and luckily many of us got to see one during the birds' short stopover. Through Google Groups, members were alerted of the arrival of birds like the Great Crested Flycatcher and the Summer Tanager.

## Meetings and Activities Resume

Even though large groups are still not allowed to flock together, the Seabrook Island Birders have been able to resume their executive committee meetings and some activities through Zoom. You will have to provide your own popcorn, but the movie matinees are back via Zoom. Also, SIB's first Virtual Evening Program was held and well attended on June the 3rd. The program was on nesting and presented by two of SIB's friends from Audubon South Carolina. For a schedule of what's to come virtually or, hopefully soon, in person keep checking our website at [seabrookisland.org](http://seabrookisland.org).

## Getting Back To Normal

Even as our country struggles to get back to normal some of us may need to keep our distance for a while longer. During the past few months we have adapted to a new cautious way of living and adding some new activities that incorporate social distancing might spark a whole new hobby. The Seabrook Island Birders, through our website, SIB posts, and Facebook are trying to entertain and inform and

SIB always welcomes the opportunity to teach anyone about birds and birding. Join our group, follow our posts, or contact us through our email

[seabrookislandbirders@gmail.com](mailto:seabrookislandbirders@gmail.com) with any questions.

**Stay Safe Everyone!▲**

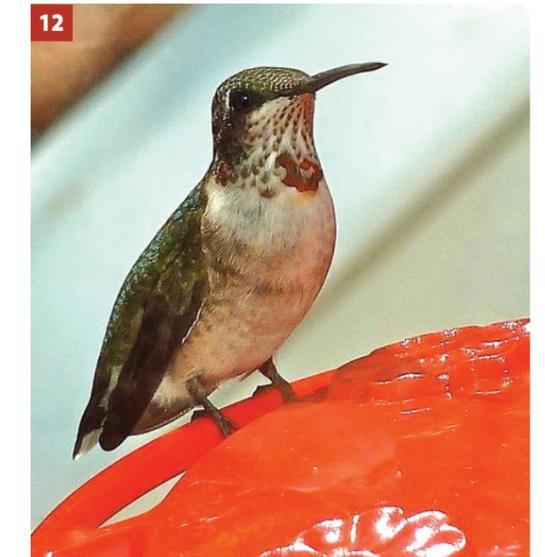
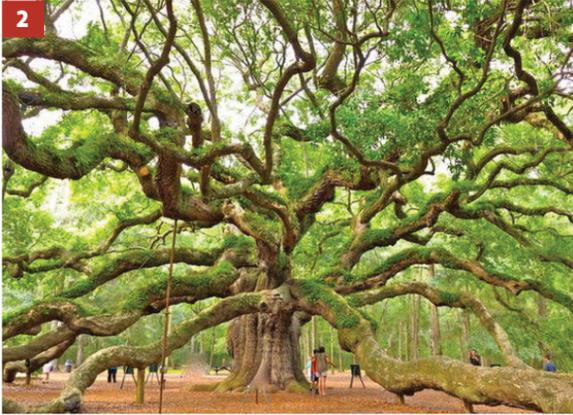
*Joleen Ardiaiolo*



Rose-breasted Grosbeak - (PHOTO BY ED KONRAD)



Social Distancing while Birding on Bikes (PHOTO BY JOLEEN ARDIAIOLO)



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## TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

**Emergency Town Council Meeting  
May 26, 2020**

**MINUTES** - After the pledge of allegiance, Mayor Gregg called the May 26, 2020, Town Council meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Councilmembers Crane, Finke, Fox and Goldstein, Town Administrator Cronin and Town Clerk Allbritton attended the meeting. The Town Clerk confirmed that the meeting was properly posted, and the requirements of the SC Freedom of Information Act were met. Because of COVID-19 requirements, individuals could dial in and listen by phone or watch live video on the Town's YouTube page.

**Minutes:** The following minutes were unanimously approved as written:

- Ways & Means Committee Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2020
- Town Council Emergency Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2020
- Town Council Emergency Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2020
- Town Council Emergency Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2020
- Town Council Emergency Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2020
- Ways & Means Committee Minutes of May 12, 2020

**Financials:** Because of Town Council meeting cancellations in March and April, Mayor Gregg reported on the February, March and April financials. He reported that the total fund balance for the period ending February 29, 2020 was \$5,081,813; a total of \$5,199,833 for the period ending March 31, 2020 and \$5,220,762 for the period ending April 30, 2020. Total unrestricted revenue for February was \$41,651; the total was \$186,304 for March and \$117,539 for April. Unrestricted revenue for the year, as of April 30, was \$394,213 or about 29.6% of the 2020 annual budget. Expenditures for February totaled \$91,005; a total of \$72,078 for March and \$60,889 for April. Expenditures for the year as of April 30, totaled \$266,133, or 19.1% of the 2020 annual budget. The excess of revenues over expenditures was \$56,649 for the month of April and \$120,080 for the year through the month of April.

**Citizens/Guests Presentations, Comments:** Town Administrator Cronin reported that he had received two comments relating to items on the agenda:

- A resident, Carmine Degennaro, had two requests. One pertained to limiting the speed for any type bicycle on any path in the Town's jurisdiction to a speed equal to, but not exceeding, the width of the path. The comment suggested painting the speed limit on the pathway to avoid using signs. The second comment, indicated that there were 3-4 blind spots on the pathway between the security gate and Freshfields and he asked if vegetation could be cut back and possibly use mirrors at blind spots to let individuals know that someone was coming in the opposite direction. Mr. Degennaro mentioned that there had been an unreported incident near Freshfields. Councilman Crane stated that he would address the pathway in his report later in the meeting.
- Another comment was received from David Thompson regarding the crosswalk near Seabrook Island Road and Landfall Way. After reviewing various options, he questioned why any of the options were being considered. He asked if there had been any accidents or issues related to the crosswalk. Mr. Thompson stated that he felt, unless there is appropriate enforcement, restriping, adding signage, etc. will not make any difference to drivers that already disregard existing traffic rules and he questioned why the Town would spend \$6,000 to \$25,000 for something that would make no difference. He stated that it seems those funds would be better invested elsewhere, like enforcement of our current traffic rules on Seabrook Island Road.

**Reports of Standing Committees, Commissions, Boards:**

**Public Safety Committee** - Councilman Crane reported that, due to the restrictions resulting from the Coronavirus, there have been no meetings of the

Public Safety Committee since March 9.

The Disaster Recovery Council (DRC) held a virtual meeting on May 7, with 21 participants, to review the Town's response to the pandemic and steps for reopening. The purpose was, in part, to identify changes and/or updates to the Town's Comprehensive Emergency Plan (CEP) Pandemic Response Plan. Scott Cave, the Town's consultant, prepared a summary of the meeting and it has been distributed to Council for review. The Public Safety Committee will take up issues and recommendations in that report at their June meeting.

In response to one of the public comments, Councilman Crane reported that some sections along the pathway that runs in front of Town Hall to Freshfields Village are being reviewed for safety reasons to see if any steps should be taken to lessen the possibility of accidents. Video and pictures have been taken and will be reviewed by the Public Safety Committee at their next meeting. Town Administrator Cronin stated that the Town would be limited to trimming whatever grows over the pathway as the Town's easement is the width of the pathway. If anything is done outside the easement, the Town would have to obtain permission from the appropriate property owner. He also commented that the SC Uniform Traffic Code regulates any type of vehicular traffic, including bicycles; and, if the Town were to adopt some type of speed limit on the pathway, he thinks this would have to be enforced by the Sheriff's Department. Previously, the Sheriff's Department has refused to enforce a Town ordinance unless the County also has the same ordinance. Mayor Gregg asked the Town Administrator to verify with the Town Attorney that the Sheriff's Department would have to enforce the speed limit on the pathway. Town Administrator Cronin stated that a comment had come in on the Town's YouTube page suggesting painting signage on the asphalt to warn about blocked views on the pathway. This option can be considered when improvements to safety on the pathway are being reviewed.

**Public Relations/Communications**

- Pat Fox - Councilwoman Fox commented that Town Administrator Cronin has been doing an excellent job with communicating the events of the last several months by using Tidelines, the website and other means. Mayor Gregg agreed that the Town Administrator had been doing an exceptional job putting out the Town's Public Information Statements to keep residents informed.

**Special Projects/Beach Administration** - Barry Goldstein - No Report

**Beach Administration/Community and Government Relations** - Councilwoman Finke - Councilwoman Finke stated that, before COVID-19, a reception and educational training session had been planned with Lauren Rust, Lowcountry Marine Mammal Network, regarding the Dolphin Education Program, but it had to be cancelled. Ms. Rust had indicated that she was going to try to get in touch with volunteers that had worked with her last year to help her keep the program going until it is possible to train other volunteers.

**Ways & Means** - John Gregg - The Mayor reported that the following topics from the March and May Ways & Means Committee meeting:

- **COVID-19 Response** - On March 6, 2020, the Town participating in conference calls organized by the Charleston County Emergency Management Division. Since then, the Town has participated in those conference calls through May. Numerous County organizations and agencies participate in the calls so that the calls help keep the Town informed as to the COVID-19 response in Charleston County. In emergency meetings in April, Council adopted and amended Emergency Ordinance 2020-01 imposing restrictions on local businesses and other activities within the Town, including short-term rentals. During the May Ways and Means Committee meeting, members of Council expressed their preference to allow restrictions on short-term rentals to expire on May 15. At that meeting, it was also noted that, due to the continuing social distancing requirement, the following Town events have been cancelled:
  - o the Town's July fireworks
  - o the earthquake scenario disaster exercise of May 27 with the Charleston County EMD
  - o the Disaster Awareness Day that is jointly sponsored by Seabrook Island and Kiawah
- **Regulation of Short-Term Rentals** - In March, Council had established an ad hoc committee to determine if the Town should attempt to regulate short-term rentals. Through the

month of May, there has been no report on activity for this committee.

- **Town's Request for Public Assistance in Respect of Hurricane Dorian** - FEMA approved funding for cost of debris removal and the Town received a check for \$4,797.56 which is FEMA's share (75%). The Town is unaware as to whether the State legislature will approve funding of the remaining 25%.
- **Inspection by SC DHEC of the Town's Temporary Debris Storage & Reduction Site** - The debris storage and reduction site at the Equestrian Center was inspected on May 13 and approved for use by the Town.
- **Electric Pedal-Assist Bicycles** - Since adoption of SC Code Sec. 56-535-20 regulating electric-assist bicycles and bicycles with helper motors, Ordinance 2020-05, allowing operation of such bicycles within the Town, will not be needed. The Town Administrator has recommended that Council table this ordinance and it is on the agenda for the May Town Council meeting for action.
- **Cessation of Distribution of Charleston County Accommodations Tax Funds for the Current Year and Fiscal Year 2021** - County Councilwoman Honeycutt has notified the Town that, due to budgetary constraints, there will be no County Accommodations Tax distributions to municipalities for the remainder of Charleston County's fiscal year 2020, July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, and their entire 2021 fiscal year (July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021). The Town had budgeted \$50,000 for this calendar year for County Accommodations Tax revenue and the money was to be used for Beach Patrol. It is expected that Council will convene for a working session soon to consider budget amendments necessitated by revenue shortfall from this as well as other sources.
- **Bicycle/Pedestrian Pathway** - Work on the Town's pathway began on February 19. Repairs were made and the pathway reopened in April. A small section on the crosswalk to the Marina was not completed at that time but all work has now been completed.
- **Follow-up Inquiry from SIPOA Safety & Security Committee** - Due to an inquiry from the POA Safety & Security Committee, the Town Administrator consulted a traffic engineer for recommendations to improve safety at the crosswalk near Seabrook Island Road and Landfall Way. Recommended traffic calming measures are on the agenda for approval by Council at the May Town Council meeting.
- **Planning Commission** - No Report
- **Board of Zoning Appeals** - No Report
- **Reports of Ad Hoc Committees:**
  - Development Standards Ordinance Advisory Group** - Councilman Crane, Chairman, reported that the DSO Advisory Group has not met since February 28 due to restrictions related to the Coronavirus. A meeting could be held in the next few weeks. The date and format options are being discussed with the Town's consultant, Paul LeBlanc.
  - Regulation of Short-Term Rentals Committee** - Councilwoman Finke said that she had nothing to report at this time.
- **Reports of Town Officers:**
  - Mayor** -
    - MUSC Anti-Body Testing for Seabrook Island - Some Seabrook Island residents had inquired about the possibility of the Town entering an arrangement for antibody testing with MUSC, as Kiawah had done. On May 22, members of Council participated in a video conference with representatives of MUSC, who made a brief presentation of their "Business2Business" program to provide services to employers for safe resumption of operations during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It was estimated that approximately 1,400 individuals from Seabrook Island would participate and it would probably require three days to do the testing. Mayor Gregg stated that he is not confident as to how the results of the antibody testing would change what the Town has been doing in response to COVID-19. When the Mayor asked for opinions from Council, Councilman Crane said he had nothing to add to what the Mayor had said. Councilwoman Finke said that she had asked the MUSC representatives what the benefit would be to Seabrook Island if the Town went forward with testing their residents and what was the benefit of knowing if an individual tested positive. She indicated that they did not have any good answers to the two questions. The cost, if it

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# KIDS on Seabrook

Kids on Seabrook love reading. Who doesn't? And since we need some entertainment during the summer, it's a perfect time to lay on the beach tucked up with a good story. What's that? You don't have a book to read? That just won't do. Don't worry, the seabrook kids will help you find some of the books kids on the island enjoyed so you can try them out! Who knows, you might like reading one of them.

One great children's book series is *Word Bird! Word Bird!* is a series where a young bird and their friends discover how to make new words and learn about reading and writing.

*It's Okay to be Different* is a children's book written by Todd Parr. This book is

filled with brightly colored images and is a great book to read focusing on acceptance.

Anderson Horn, a rising sixth grader on the island, has loved reading *Land of Stories* by Chris Colfer. It is about two kids getting trapped in a fairytale world. Another book he enjoyed and recommends to fourth, fifth, and sixth graders is *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin. This is a murder mystery about finding out who killed Mr. Westing, and this book reminds Anderson of the board game *Clue*.

Reagan, who is in seventh grade on the island, enjoyed reading *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper. The story follows Melody, a girl who cannot walk or speak and communicates in different ways. She is determined to show others she is more than a girl with cerebral palsy and just as smart as them. Another book she likes is *Dry* by Neal Shusterman. When a California drought gets serious, a young teen



must make tough decisions to get herself and her family through these tough times and survive the heat.

Emily Horn, a rising senior in high school, recommends one of her favorites is *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. This book shines light on a perspective in World War II we do not hear much about

in history class: the women's perspective. This book demonstrates that women contributed, helped, and suffered in the war as much as the men did, and often without medals or recognition. With the current protests and riots, *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas may provide teens a deeper understanding of the injustice facing the

black community.

We hope you enjoy these book recommendations and have a great July! Please contact [kidsonseabrook@gmail.com](mailto:kidsonseabrook@gmail.com), if you and your family are considering moving to Seabrook, or if you simply want to share your favorite book! ▲

Emily Horn

## TOWN MINUTES

Continued from page 10

took three days to test the residents, would be \$15,000. The people being tested would have to have Medicare or insurance to pay for the test or the Town would be responsible for payment. With the Town in a budget crisis, Councilwoman Finke stated that she does not think the Town should spend money for this since residents, if they want, can go to an MUSC site, either downtown or to the Citadel Mall, and be tested. Councilwoman Finke also said that MUSC did not have an answer for how reliable their test was. Councilwoman Fox said she felt much the same as Councilwoman Finke in that she does not see how the testing would benefit the Town. Councilman Goldstein felt there was little benefit to the Town for the testing; but, if it was done as a convenience to the residents and there was a fee collected, it might make sense. The Mayor remarked that there did not seem to be sufficient support from Councilmembers to go forward with the MUSC program being offered and he would relay that to the MUSC representative.

• **Emergency Ordinance** – Mayor Gregg commented that later in the meeting Council will be asked to consider Emergency Ordinance 2020-02 to address restrictions adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Town's Emergency Ordinance 2020-01 will expire at the end of May and it is appropriate for Council to consider how it wants to go forward with restrictions that are appropriate in response to COVID-19.

• **FY2020 Budget Amendment** – The Mayor also commented that Council is contemplating having a Budget Work Session to consider budget amendments that are being undertaken because of reductions in revenue to the Town resulting from COVID-19.

**Town Administrator/Zoning Administrator** – Joe Cronin

• **Request to Approve Traffic Calming Options for the Intersection of Seabrook Island Road and Landfall Way** – After a request from SIPOA Safety and Security Committee, the Town Administrator asked the Town's transportation consultant to give recommendations for options for alleviating safety concerns in the area of the crosswalk at Landfall Way and Seabrook Island Road. At the March Ways & Means Committee meeting, Council looked at four different levels with different costs associated with each. Council seemed to favor the Level 1 option which would be in the range of \$6,000 to \$12,000. This Level would include:

- o Re-Apply Crosswalk Paint
- o Add In-Road Yield Sign
- o Add Yield Paint Markings and Signs
- o Relocate 15 mph Sign (Approximately 150' East of Town Hall Driveway)
- o Add Reduced Speed Ahead Sign (Approximately 450' East of Town Hall)

Councilman Crane made a motion to approve the Level 1 improvements for the crosswalk. Councilwoman Finke seconded the motion. Council seemed to agree that some of the same changes should be done at the crosswalk by the Marina, such as the crosswalk paint, in-road yield sign and new paint markings and signage.

Councilwoman Finke also suggested getting a price for painting something on the pathway at the "blind" corner. Councilman Crane amended his original motion to include the work to be done at the Marina Crosswalk. Councilwoman Finke seconded the motion. Councilman Crane said that he thought the Town needed more of a plan for the pathway before going ahead with painting anything on the pathway. Councilwoman Finke further amended the motion to make the Level 1 improvements for the crosswalk in the Landfall Way area and the same at the Marina Crosswalk, except for the 15 mph sign and reduced speed ahead sign, at a cost not to exceed \$15,000. Councilwoman Fox seconded the motion. The Town Administrator said that he would get estimates on the painting on the pathway at the blind corner, if possible, but he did not want to hold up the work at the crosswalks if that would cause a delay or be over the maximum amount approved. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

• **Resolutions 2020-14 through 2020-16** – Town Administrator Cronin explained that these Resolutions would appoint and commission Charles Cross, Jacob Frederick and Robbie McDowell, who are members of the Beach Patrol, as Code Enforcement Officers for the Town for the remainder of beach patrol season. Councilman Crane made a motion to approve the Resolutions for the appointment of the three additional individuals from the Beach Patrol as Code Enforcement Officers for the Town. Councilwoman Finke seconded the motion and the vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

• **Beach Patrol Update** – The Town Administrator commented that the Beach Patrol has been active for about 8 weeks. They have issued 161 warnings, mostly for leash, glass and dune violations. They have not issued any ordinance summons yet but have had one call to the Sheriff's Department. He also commented that the Sheriff's Department deputies were on the beach during Memorial Day weekend, supplementing the Beach Patrol, from Saturday through Monday, May 23-25, 2020. The Beach Patrol have also been emptying the trash cans the Town installed on the beach. Beach Patrol season is currently in its second phase with four individuals and two vehicles on the beach from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. with overlapping shifts. A comment was received on the website about the signs on the beach, but the Town Administrator stated that the sign is in the right location, but it might need to be turned slightly. The Town Administrator reported that he has some new COVID-19 signs to put at the boardwalks reminding everyone about social distancing and not being in groups of 10 or more people. Councilwoman Finke asked if he could put some of the signs at the security gate as well.

• **Status of Upcoming Public Hearings (June 23, 2020)** – The Town Administrator stated that first reading was held at the February Town Council meeting on two rezoning ordinances – 2561 High Hammock Road and 3062 Seabrook Island Road. The Public Hearing was advertised as being held prior to the March Town Council meeting but all March and April Town

meetings were cancelled due to COVID-19. These Public Hearings have been advertised for June 23, just prior to the Town Council meeting, and comments can be made on the website, emailed to the Town Administrator, brought by the Town Hall or sent by mail. Any comments will be read and entered into the record.

• **Cancellation of Events and Activities due to COVID-19** – The Town Administrator reported that Disaster Awareness Day, Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration and Kick It at Bohicket for 2020 have been cancelled.

• **Budgetary Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic & Request for Budget Workshop** – The Town Administrator stated that he would like for Council to meet in the next week or so for a workshop to look at the specifics on income sources that might be affected by the Pandemic and ways that the Town can mitigate the lost revenue by deferring or cancelling certain expenditures in the 2020 budget. The Town Administrator estimates that the Town's General Fund Budget will be impacted by approximately \$133,500 (10% reduction in the General Fund). The following decreases are also expected in the Town's Restricted Revenue Accounts:

- o A decrease of approximately 40% for State Accommodations Tax due to having a six-week period with no check-ins or rentals on Seabrook Island.
- o No County Accommodation Tax will be received by the Town during 2020 nor the first half of 2021. The Town had budgeted \$50,000 for Beach Patrol from County Accommodations Tax in 2020.
- o A decrease of \$2,000 (40%) in Alcohol Tax is expected because two restaurants at Bohicket Marina have gone out of business.

In total, the Town Administrator estimates that the Town is looking at a budgetary impact of just over \$250,000 for the remainder of 2020. The Town has already collected most of their business licenses revenue for 2020 but business license income will be impacted in 2021 because most businesses pay on the previous year's income.

**Town Council Members** – See Above **Utility Commission**: Chairperson Annie Smith-Jones reported that net income for the month of April was a loss of \$16,324. Revenue from Impact/Connection fees saw an increase; however, no irrigation was billed during the month. Annual Availability Fees and Hydrant Fees were billed in April. Expenses were up approximately \$36,000 from budget including \$13,000 for sewer repair. After adjusting for Bond Principal and Interest and Capital Expenditures of \$9,950, April showed a net loss of \$20,856. On a year to date basis, there is a surplus of \$31,450 over budget. The Balance Sheet shows available Cash totals \$2,609,642. The audit for the Seabrook Island Utility Commission is on schedule.

Wastewater plant performance complied with all permit parameters. Wastewater flows for the month averaged 422,000 gallons per day, with the average of the past 12 months of 390,000 gallons per day. SIUC delivered 20,291,604 gallons of water for the month compared to 16,267,434 gallons for the same period last year.

W.K. Dickson submitted a contract for

services for the Emergency Generators FEMA Grant. SIUC is in negotiation to get the pricing to come in line with FEMA grant funding for engineering. The Edmunds GovTech contract for the new financial/utility software application has been signed by SIUC's Chairperson, Annie Smith-Jones.

Governor Henry McMaster has rescinded his request to refrain from the utility company's service cutoffs. SIUC is addressing 36 past due accounts.

**Petitions Received, Referred or Disposed of:** None

**Emergency Ordinances:**

• **Emergency Ordinance 2020-02:** An Emergency Ordinance to extend requirements related to social distancing and group congregations; to modify the requirements for certain businesses; to extend the prohibition on temporary use permits; to extend the expiration date for active building permits; and other matters related thereto. Town Administrator Cronin stated that, under State law, the Town's previous Emergency Ordinance that was adopted April 1st would expire on the 61st day following adoption; and, if a new ordinance has not been adopted, all provisions of the ordinance would expire on May 31st. Emergency Ordinance 2020-02, which has been distributed to Council, is intended to replace Emergency Ordinance 2020-01. The various sections of Ordinance 2020-02 provide:

- o Section 1 adopts, rescinds or modifies the provisions of the Mayor's Executive Orders due to Executive Orders issued by the Governor.
- o Section 2 deals with resumption of indoor dining by restaurants based on the Governor's Executive Order 2020-34 and references guidelines for their reopening.
- o Section 3 deals with modification of non-essential business closures. Certain entertainment venues and facilities and spectator sports shall not be open to the public but any businesses, not identified in this section, can reopen but have restrictions as far as number of customers allowed and other guidelines.
- o Section 4 deals with short-term rentals and states that restrictions on rentals and check-ins within the Town expired on May 15, 2020 and are no longer in force.
- o Section 5 deals with provisions related to Town meetings. Town meetings will be held but conducted to maintain social distancing by those participating and without in person attendance of members of the public. It also amends Section 2-92 of the Town Code so that a member can participate remotely and cast votes as long as they can hear the meeting and that his/her comments and vote can be heard by those attending the meeting.
- o Section 6 deals with Temporary Use Permits. Any Temporary Use Permits taking place between May 26 and June 26, 2020 are repealed. The Town Administrator can issue Temporary Use Permits between these dates if he determines that the event can be held with adherence to social distancing and without congregation of large groups in order to minimize the risk of the spread of COVID-19 within the Town in consequence of such events.
- o Section 7 deals with the extension

of the expiration of existing Building Permits. The time limit of any active building permit that was in effect as of March 1, 2020, or that was obtained between March 1, 2020 and July 26, 2020, shall be automatically extended for a period of six months. An additional six-month extension can also be granted by the Zoning Administrator.

- o Section 8 allows Code Enforcement Officers to enforce this ordinance and, in some cases, to cooperate with law enforcement officers to enforce this ordinance and any Executive Order issued by the Governor.
- o Section 9 states that the ordinance does not create any individual rights, privileges or benefits.
- o Section 10 contains a standard severability clause.
- o Section 11 states that Emergency Ordinance 2020-01 is repealed in its entirety and deals with conflicts in other ordinances or parts of ordinances.
- o Section 12 states that the ordinance will expire on the 61st day following the day it is adopted.

Councilman Crane made a motion to approve Emergency Ordinance 2020-02 as presented and discussed. Councilwoman Finke seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

**Ordinances for First Reading:** None

**Ordinances for Second Reading:**

• **Ordinance 2020-05** An ordinance amending the Town Code for the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina; Chapter 28, Traffic and Motor Vehicles; Article I, In General; so as to add a new section relating to the use of electric pedal-assist bicycles on bicycle pathways within the Town of Seabrook Island. The Town Administrator explained that this ordinance had first reading at the February Town Council meeting and, since that time, the State legislature has adopted legislation that provides that bicyclists operating bicycles with electric helper motors are subject to all statutory provisions as provided to bicyclists. This legislation makes the Town's ordinance unnecessary and the Town Administrator recommended tabling consideration of this ordinance. Councilman Crane made a motion for approval of tabling consideration of Ordinance 2020-05. Councilwoman Finke seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

**Miscellaneous Business:** None

**Citizens Comments:** The Town Administrator stated that two comments were received before the meeting that were not about agenda items. One just asked if there had been any progress made regarding short-term rental restrictions and Councilwoman Finke had reported that the ad hoc committee had no report. The other comment concerned signage for the off-leash area on the beach and that had been mentioned earlier in the meeting. The individual also asked when the ordinance would be up for revision and the Town Administrator explained that a section of the previous ordinance stated that Council would review after one year. The current ordinance was adopted in September and Council will soon have to determine how they would like to handle the review and decide if they are pleased with the ordinance or if they would like to make changes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.▲

# Day Camp at Camp Saint Christopher



If you know of any children looking for something fun to do on Seabrook Island this summer, they should check out the Day Camp programs being offered at Camp Saint Christopher. Sessions are held at the camp from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday through July 17th. Campers who have completed 2nd-8th grade have the option to register for the entire week or half a week (Monday-Wednesday or Wednesday-Friday). Each session is based around a different theme with varying activities that compliment the week's theme. Most weeks will include activities such as sailing, kayak-

ing, crabbing, camp games, a visit to St. Christopher's Herpetarium, mud pit, chapel, and much much more! Campers will be led by Camp Saint Christopher's trained and passionate, college aged staff, who have years of experience leading elementary and middle school aged children. Campers are welcomed to register for multiple sessions if space is available.

Please visit [www.stchristopher.org](http://www.stchristopher.org) or contact Justin Johnson ([jjohnson@stchristopher.org](mailto:jjohnson@stchristopher.org)) for more information about Camp Saint Christopher's Day Camp. ▲



**C.O.V.A.R. CORNER**

JOANNE FAGAN

Secretary for COVAR

## Standards Updates

COVAR, the Council of Villa Associations and Regimes, represents 41-member associations/regimes consisting of 1316 properties on Seabrook Island.

COVAR was established in 2001 to be a voice for its members with matters involving not only SIPOA, but the Town of Seabrook Island as well as The Seabrook Island Club.

The Villa Association that I reside in, Treeloft Villas, is one of the smaller associations on the island, with a total of 19 villas. With fewer homeowners, our board of directors works in a cohesive manner to ensure that any exterior home improvements are compliant with our standards. However, our standards were last reviewed and approved by the ARC in July of 2012. Our management company encouraged us to undertake the process of updating our standards, to make the approval process of a renovation a more streamlined process. By having current standards approved by the ARC in place, both the regime manager and board can give approval in a timely manner.

As a fulltime resident who is retired, in addition to being a Treeloft board member, I volunteered to un-

dertake this project. A template of the preferred ARC format was forwarded to me as a starting point, with the understanding that each section of the standards would be thoroughly evaluated and tailored to our homes. Fortunately, or not, the Covid-19 pandemic and its related shelter in place order provided me with ample time to gather the information needed to bring our standards into the year 2020.

Much of the information I required could be found online, cut and pasted into the new format. Pictures and descriptions of windows, doors, exterior light fixtures, roofing and siding materials and paint colors. Designs of exterior elements approved in the past, such as HVAC stands and shower enclosures, mailboxes and street number plaques were available from SIPOA. The list went on! Every day I tried to chip through one section, often walking through my neighborhood, cellphone in hand, to take photographs of structures specific to our villas. With my limited computer experience with Word and much invaluable guidance, suggestions and edits by my "mentor" Lynn Crane, I was finally, after 4 ½ months, able to produce a set of standards to present for approval to the Treeloft Board of Directors, for further submission to the SIPOA ARC.

Out of our 41-members, Beach Club Villas, Golf Shore Villas, Homes of Hidden Oaks, Sealoft Villas and Summerwind Cottages have completed the process of updating their standards.

So, what did I learn from this process? Having done a major renovation to our villa in 2012, with additional projects in 2020 that included reroofing our home, building a new code-compliant HVAC stand and repainting our home, I felt that I had a better understanding of the required process. Along with our contractors, we had submitted the required "Exterior Alteration/Improvement Conditional

Approval Request" which can be found on the SIPOA.org website under the "Forms" tab. This form is submitted to the regime management company as well as the ARC and needed for all exterior improvements. However, our 2012 standards were not very specific and could be left open to creative interpretation. By having a more concise set of approved standards, the homeowner will have a much better guide for reference. These new standards will also allow for a more rapid approval by our regime board and management company- a real time-saver. These new standards will also maintain consistency among the neighboring villas. If a homeowner bypasses this process or strays from the standards, our association will have the means available to ensure compliance.

Second, I learned that Treeloft Villas were built in 1978 in a manner known as "Panelized Construction". Our villas, which are very similar to Sealoft Villas and Duneloft Villas are still available for construction from Logangate Timber Homes, which is located outside of Asheville, N.C. Good to know in case we have major damage due to a weather-related event!

Finally, I gained a greater appreciation of all that SIPOA and the ARC does daily to make Seabrook Island the community that it is today. The ARC, chaired by our SIPOA Vice President Ray Hoover and co-chaired by Chuck Cross works in conjunction with Katrina Burrell, CMCA, AMS, Director of Administration and Architectural Review for SIPOA. Assisted by ARC volunteer committee members, the ARC guides our community through the construction and remodeling process.

While it is a time-consuming project, I would strongly encourage our COVAR membership to consider updating their standards in 2020. ▲

Joanne Fagan  
Secretary for COVAR



### New Home Collection

at Seabrook Island

4 pre-approved plans  
2,600-3,400 sq. ft.  
turn-key construction

SEABROOK ISLAND REAL ESTATE

**Bill Britton**  
843.421.6360  
[bbritton@seabrookislandrealestate.com](mailto:bbritton@seabrookislandrealestate.com)  
[SeabrookIslandNewHomes.com](http://SeabrookIslandNewHomes.com)

THE SUNSET COTTAGE

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# We Extend the Life of Your Roof!

# Odd Duck on Seabrook



Picture was taken in the the marshy area by the 17th green of Ocean Winds

The photo of the two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks was taken in the marshy area by the 17th green of Ocean Winds by nearby property owner Sybil Ryan. Noting that these ducks were unfamiliar to her and unable to identify the critters, she sent the pix to her daughter and son-in-law in Norfolk, England. Nick (son-in-law) followed up by suggesting the website ([ebirdr.com](http://ebirdr.com)) Sybil sent the photo there and a birder in Texas responded to her inquiry.

"Congratulations Sybil,

That was a good find in SC. You are quite right, as far as I know these birds are found in Texas, southeast Arizona, southeast California, and New Mexico. So yes it does appear to be quite out of its normal range on Seabrook island. In spring many unusual sightings are possible.

Good Birding,  
Larry"



The Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (shown above) is a boisterous duck with a brilliant pink bill and an unusual, long-legged silhouette. In places like Texas and Louisiana, watch for noisy flocks of these gaudy ducks dropping into fields to forage on seeds, or loafing on golf course ponds. Listen for them, too—these ducks really do have a whistle for their call. Common south of the U.S., Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks occur in several southern states and are expanding northward.



## SEASON DELAYED UNTIL 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on live events. From Broadway to Charleston, venues are dark, and event producers everywhere are re-thinking how we can once again gather together for a show.

Given the unique set of challenges and budgetary constraints this pandemic has created, the Town of Kiawah Island has decided to delay the start of the upcoming Arts & Cultural Events season until early 2021.

We are saddened that we will be unable to provide residents with fall

programming but feel this is the most responsible course of action given the demographics of our citizens and the priorities of the Town as a whole.

Arts Council events are sustained through the efforts of a dedicated group of resident volunteers. In order to create a safe environment, we will be working diligently to develop procedures that, among other things, may:

- limit capacity
- minimize contact
- increase spacing
- modify ingress and egress

It will be our goal to implement these measures seamlessly while presenting our programming at the highest quality possible.

If medical experts and government-provided guidelines still advise against resuming events like ours in 2021, we will announce further changes to the season.

We thank you for your patronage and look forward to welcoming you back to performances. Look for more information coming later this year. ▲



## Lowcountry Eats Founder & NV Realty Group Agent Christine England Receives The Jefferson Award for Assisting Local Restaurants During the Pandemic

Christine England, a real estate agent with NV Realty Group who has ties to the Charleston restaurant industry, formed the now-famous Facebook Group - "Lowcountry Eat Out" for one primary purpose: to help restaurants communicate directly with residents and provide real time updates regarding service status. England's husband Ray, is the executive chef at Tavern and Table on Shem Creek.

When the Pandemic hit and stay-at-home orders began, England said she could not find one, timely source for local restaurants on whether they were open, take-out menus, or delivery options. Restaurants were adapting and changing hours, menus, delivery options at lightning speed, so England decided to collect information from restaurants and put it in one spot. Within a few short days, restaurants began showcasing daily specials, foodies began posting pictures, and the popularity of the site exploded.

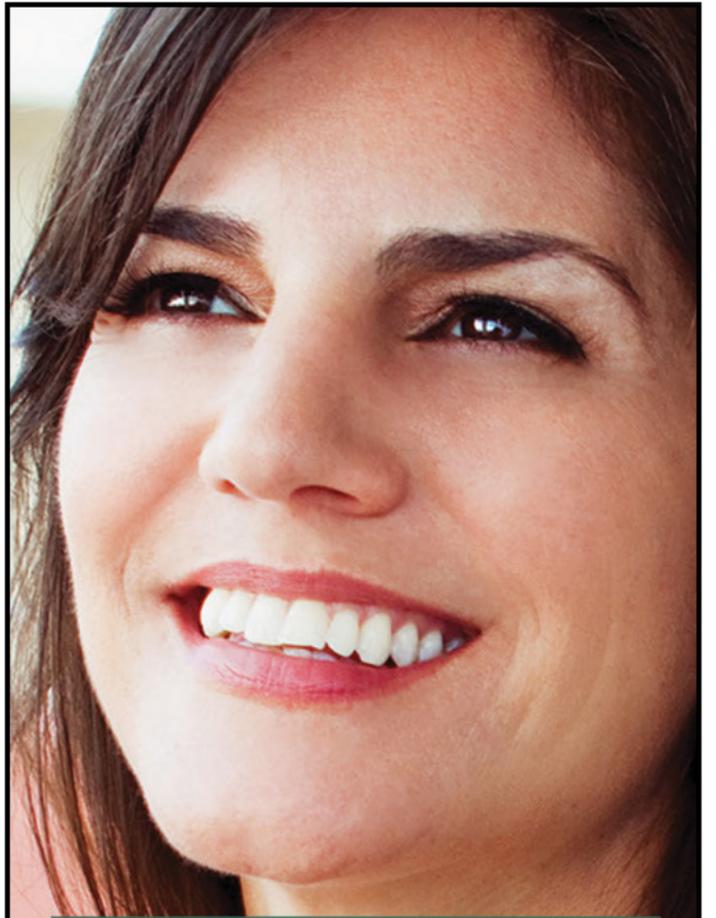


JEFFERSON  
AWARDS

Since its inception, Lowcountry Eat Out has grown from a few friends to over 23,000 members. England was the recent recipient of the Jefferson Award for Outstanding Community Service without Expectation of Recognition. "My goal was never to be a famous food blogger or an award winner. It was simply to help my friends," says England. Specializing in real estate across the Tri-County region, England recognizes the importance of being an active member of the community and prides herself on helping clients find the perfect home for their lifestyle.

"I love Charleston," says England, "and the food scene is a big part of Charleston culture. Restaurants cannot do it all, and many will have to find a balance to stay in business. Once again, the community will need to do its part by supporting local dining options in some form or fashion. For her part, England will continue to administer Lowcountry Eat Out and promote engagement between the community and restaurants." ▲

Kathleen Radenbaugh



Sweetgrass  
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**SIPOA**

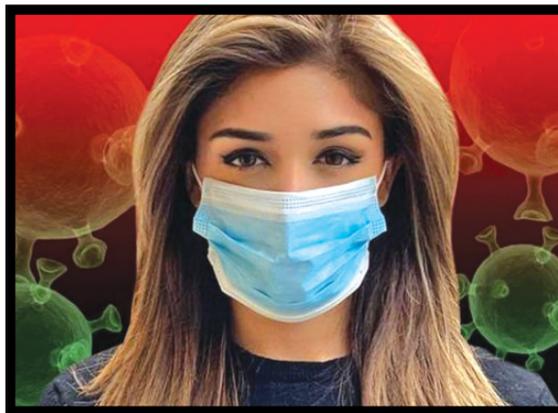
Administrative News from the  
Seabrook Island Property Owners Association

# SIPOA CARES ABOUT YOUR SAFETY

Safety is everyone's responsibility



Please maintain social distancing and other health/safety guidelines for COVID 19



Wear masks at SIPOA facilities when required



Do not feed wildlife or swim in lakes/lagoons



Obey all beach signage. Pets and their humans must stay off dunes and away from habitat areas



Alligators can be dangerous – do not feed or approach



Fireworks are not permitted

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



**Dan Kortvelesy**  
2020 President  
SIPOA Board of Directors

Whenever family and friends ask me about visiting Seabrook Island, I often say, if possible, come for the 4th of July Holiday. It is usually a time of high energy, family gatherings and reunions. The weeks around the holiday are usually our busiest with many PO's and visitors sharing in the good times of summer vacation, rest and relaxation and honoring our nation's birthday. The fireworks are outstanding and if you want to participate, the planned activities span a wide range of ages and interests. From all indications, 4th of July on Seabrook Island is the place to be.

Unfortunately, we continue to find ourselves in the middle of a COVID-19 health emergency that appears to know no end. Your SIPOA Board engaged in a vigorous discussion during its past 2 meetings on how to proceed or if we can proceed with our usual July 4th celebration. The questions asked and the comments made ensured that all matters were raised. In addition, the activities committee and our Executive Director studied

the issues carefully and provided their recommendations.

While many events and activities were cancelled, the outcome of this debate was that we would hold a scaled back version of our Annual 4th of July Parade. The biggest changes from past parades were that there would be no bicycles allowed this year, participants riding in the cars must be from the same household or family, and responsible health practices (masks, social distancing, sanitizer, etc.) must be observed by participants and those viewing the parade.

As with any course of action taken during this health emergency, many will feel that this was the wrong decision and an equal amount will feel that with the precautions in place, this event can take place. However, before you make your decision to participate in the parade or view the parade, you need to ask yourself some questions.

Can I risk possibly exposing myself to the virus given my health situation? Should I risk possibly exposing my family to the virus if I attend or participate?

Should I risk possibly exposing others I encounter to the virus if I attend or participate?

As I noted at the top, 4th of July on Seabrook Island is a special time. There are many ways that we can choose to celebrate our nation's birthday. If you are going to observe by going to the beach, pool, into Charleston, participating in holiday activities, or visiting family or friends, we all hope that you remain safe. Where appropriate, wear a mask. Maintain safe distances. Engage in all the safe practices outlined by our healthcare professionals.

And most importantly, have a happy and safe 4th of July. ▲



- PETS must always be on leash when off their owners' property, and their droppings must be picked up and disposed of properly. Waste bags and receptacles are in many locations around the island.
- Pet owners are responsible to control their pets so they do not become a nuisance.
- Dogs are allowed on the beach only in specific areas and at specific times. Rules are posted at the beaches and on [townofseabrookisland.org](http://townofseabrookisland.org).



- Recreational vehicles, boats, trailers, campers and resident business vehicles with logos, signs, etc. must be stored in an enclosed garage on the owner's property or in spaces available at the Seabrook Island Club Maintenance area. Contact the Seabrook Island Club at (843) 364-3264 for additional information and fees.
- Parking at the Boardwalk 1 area reserved for persons with disabilities, is limited to vehicles with government issued "Disabled License Plates or Placards." To access the area, contact the Security gate to obtain an access pass and gate code
- The SIPOA Community Center parking area on Oyster Catcher Court is for ONLY for use by Property Owners with black & white owner barcodes or Property Owner gate passes.

A friendly reminder to speed adhere to the speed limit on the Island:





Alan Fleming  
CHAMPIONSHIP

# 37th Annual Alan Fleming Tennis Tournament Postponed

## Safety Concerns Amid Pandemic Cited

The Alan Fleming Tennis Tournament takes months of lead time for planning and implementing— for the 37th annual Fleming, every activity had to be planned with safety in mind for players, attendees, volunteers and staff.

The USTA rightfully has placed player safety at a premium and is guided by a medical advisory committee. The organization has cancelled tournaments and stated stringent recommendations and guidelines for tournament play.

### Climate of Uncertainty

The USTA has cancelled a number of tournaments and the possibility of a cancellation or the elimination of doubles play weighed heavily on the tournament committee.

It also takes substantial financial commitments from sponsors early on to make this the highest ranked tournament in South Carolina. Financial hardships, particularly over the past three months, makes it difficult to ask for financial contributions to help underwrite the tournament costs par-

ticularly given the uncertainty of tournament play in October.

This is a highly competitive seniors tournament with incredible athletes but nonetheless added concerns because of age vulnerabilities.

### Tournament Looked at Science and Data

The NYT recently did a survey of more than 500 epidemiologists and a majority said they would not attend a sporting event, concert or play in the next year.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has stated he believes it is likely there will be a second coronavirus outbreak in the Fall.

As of mid June, South Carolina was experiencing a spike in the number of cases. And a number of other states including states where players come from were also seeing rising numbers of cases.

Debbie Pickens, tournament chair, said “ this was a carefully considered decision but nonetheless a painful deci-

sion. We did a lot of consultations with other racquet clubs, the USTA, and we did a player survey to understand their concerns. We did our research with medical experts and concluded we could not deliver what has been a first class tournament given safety and other guidelines.”

The 37th annual Alan Fleming tournament will now take place at a later date to be determined. It will be the first class tournament that showcases amazing talent, hospitality and Seabrook Island life.

We hope to mark the 100th anniversary of Alan Fleming’s birth year with a local tennis event raising charitable funds for this year’s designated charity, Sea Islands Hunger Awareness Foundation’s (“SHIAF”) / The Blessing Basket. In addition to our annual appeal for financial donations for SHIAF/ Blessing Basket in August, the Fleming steering committee plans on raising additional funds with raffles and/or silent auctions. ▲

Dale and Patti Leibach

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Annual Golf Tournament  
September 15th 2020  
Cassique at Kiawah Island Club

Registration is open for players and sponsors! Please join us for this incredible outdoor event!

[seaislandhabitat.org/golftournament](http://seaislandhabitat.org/golftournament)



Auction & Dinner  
October 11th 2020  
Seabrook Island Club

We will be working on planning an event that will keep our supporters safe and limit the spread of Covid-19.

[seaislandhabitat.org/auction](http://seaislandhabitat.org/auction)



Women Build  
November 7th - 14th 2020 | AM & PM Shifts  
Building on Johns Island

Sign up for as many half or full-day building shifts as you like. We welcome individuals and groups of all skill levels.

[seaislandhabitat.org/womenbuild](http://seaislandhabitat.org/womenbuild)

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3083 Marshgate Dr - \$2,999,000

Ocean/River/Marsh view | Private Dock | 4 BR



1908 Long Bend Dr - \$904,500

Horseshoe Cove | Marshfront | 3 BR | 3 BA



1133 Turtle Watch Ln - \$749,000

Salt Marsh | Marsh view | 3 BR | 3 BA



2738 Old Oak Walk - \$734,900

Lagoon view | Cul-de-sac | 4 BR | 3.5 BA



2087 Sterling Marsh Ln - \$679,500

Salt Marsh | Marsh view | 3 BR | 3 BA



3132 Baywood Dr - \$609,000

Golf view | 3 BR | 3 BA



2937 Atrium Villa - \$540,000

Atrium Villas | Ocean view | 2 BR | 2 BA



1806 Long Bend Dr - \$399,900

Heron Point | Marshfront | 3 BR | 3 BA



444 Double Eagle Trace - \$299,000

Golf Shore | Golf view | 2 BR | 2 BA



1929 Marsh Oak Dr - \$285,500

Bohicket Marina | 1 BR | 2 BA



3173 Seabrook Island Rd - \$110,000

Lagoon view | Corner homesite | 0.66 acres



2953 Baywood Dr - \$89,500

Wooded view | 0.50 acres

ANSWERS TO "WHAT AM IT?" FROM PAGE 9  
1/ Sweetgrass on the bike trail to Freshfields, 2/ Angel Oak, 3/ Slider turtles in Palmetto Lake, 4/ Merganser ducks and slider turtle, 5/ Bottlebrush, 6/ Zucchini Blossom (St Gardens), 7/ Confetti Lantana next to Lake House, 8/ Spicebrush swallowtail butterfly, 9/ Downey woodpecker, 10/ Anhinga, 11/ Pileated woodpecker, 12/ Ruby-throated hummingbird, 13/ Ghost crab, 14/ Seabrook Island Equestrian Center