



# TOJI NEWS

August, 2019  
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[www.jamesislandsc.us](http://www.jamesislandsc.us)

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## FOLLOW THE TOWN:



## A Word from the Mayor on Tax Relief & Annexation

Taxpayers will likely get some relief when they see their property tax bill in October. Town homeowners should see an approximate 15% cut in their tax bill. Last spring, the Town and the James Island Public Service District signed a Memorandum of Understanding and have since negotiated a Cost Sharing Agreement. The Town will pay part of the expense of providing fire protection and solid waste collection services on behalf of its residents and in exchange, the JIPSD will allow a Town credit on the property tax bills issued by the County. The plan has already been approved by the Charleston County Auditor and Treasurer. In May, Town Council budgeted \$1 million to help pay for District services during the 2019-20 budget year, which will result in an approximate 30% reduction in the property tax Town homeowners pay the District. For an average \$250,000 James Island home, that will be a \$200 savings. Tax credits will also appear on property tax bills for cars, boats, businesses and rental properties. Town Council approved the agreement in August and the final step is final approval by the District Commissioners.

In other news, the Town's effort to provide a way for our former residents in the unincorporated area of James Island to return made substantial progress last year. Bill 3661 passed the South Carolina House of Representatives and will be taken up by the South Carolina Senate in January. Please thank Representative Peter McCoy for his successful effort in the House and James Island's Senator Chip Campsen for his support in the Senate. Please encourage Senator Sandy Senn to back the bill as well. After passage by the Senate and signature by the Governor, it will allow residents of James Island's unincorporated areas to annex to the Town if they are directly across an area annexed by the City of Charleston. If 25% of the registered voters in an area sign, an annexation election will be scheduled. If the majority of the voters agree, that area will be returned to the Town. A key benefit of reuniting the Town is protecting James Island from dense development in the unincorporated area, especially if developers annex those areas to the City of Charleston. In my opinion, City development policies have improved recently, but we remain at the mercy of a City or County Council where only a handful are elected by James Islanders.

Thank you. Mayor Bill Woolsey

## James Island Intersection Improvements - Project Updates

As you may recall in November of 2016, the voters of Charleston County voted to approve another 1/2 cent sales tax to fund County-wide road improvements as well as funds to protect Greenspace. Since that time, the Charleston County Transportation Department and various jurisdictions, including the Town of James Island, have been hard at work moving these projects forward.

### Central Park & Riverland Drive

The goal of improving this heavily traveled intersection is to improve safety for all modes of transportation, while minimizing the impact to grand trees. The project is currently in the design phase, as the engineers developed design alternatives and County Council has directed staff to take both Alternatives 1 & 3 to 30% design so that project unknowns, such as impacts to adjacent properties, can be better understood.

### Fort Johnson Rd & Camp Road

This intersection improvement project will focus on a small round-about, similar to the improvements that were made further down on Fort Johnson Rd. at the intersection of Harbor View. However, because of the limited right-of-way available and many grand trees, this round-about will be smaller in size with no landscaped center. While this project is still in the design phase, some short-term fixes have already been made to improve sight-lines.

### Fort Johnson Rd & Secessionville Road

Surveying has been completed for this intersection improvement project, and the right-of-way plans are currently being developed. Engineers are designing a signalized intersection at this location as dedicated turn lanes are needed to best address the current and projected traffic flow issues.

For more information on James Island projects and others currently underway County-wide, please visit <https://roads.charlestoncounty.org>

## Did you know?

Beginning in July of this year, the Town of James Island began installing and maintaining street signs in lieu of the James Island Public Service District. The Public Works staff has inventoried all signs and is in the process of cleaning and/or replacing missing or damaged signs on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis. If you have any concerns relating to street signs, or other public works issues such as drainage, potholes, vegetation, sidewalks, street lighting and/or traffic calming, please report to the Town's Public Works Department. The easiest way to report a problem is by going to our website and filling out an online Work Order Request form.

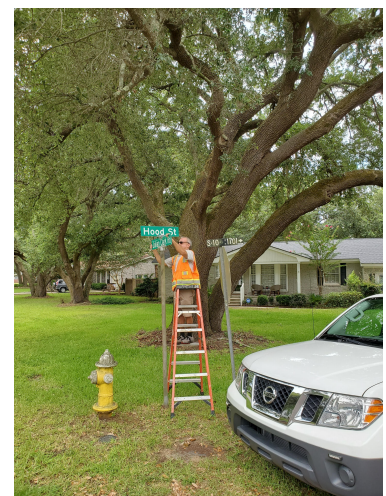
[www.jamesislandsc.us/work-order-request](http://www.jamesislandsc.us/work-order-request)



Rembert Rd Paving Project



Dills Bluff Boardwalk



Public Works Staff Replacing Signage

## Island-Wide Drainage Study

The Town of James Island, City of Charleston, and Charleston County have been partnering to improve drainage on James Island. While these stakeholders have had regular monthly meetings to coordinate drainage work for years, recent storms brought to light the need to clearly delineate all the basins on the island. Charleston County took the lead in hiring Thomas & Hutton Engineering and the Town and City are both helping to fund the effort.



Mayor Woolsey overseeing work on the Tallwood Drainage Project

The project was divided into two phases, with the first phase being the basin delineation. The basins and outfalls where the water flows and ultimately discharges, were mapped out using existing data from the jurisdictions. The reason for delineating basins is to have a better idea of where the water is supposed to go during a large rain event.

**Phase II of the study looked at evaluating the basins.** Are the existing pipes in this system undersized for the amount of acreage and population it serves? Many factors came into play, including work order requests, and age and condition of the existing infrastructure. Ultimately, the study provides a tool to help us identify short and long term drainage improvement projects. The findings will be presented and made available to the public when finalized early this fall.



## ReThink Folly Rd Getting a Jumpstart

The ReThink Folly Road Plan is moving forward. Phase 1 features sidewalks from Ellis Creek to George Griffith Blvd. and also a painted bike lane of regulation width. Intersection improvements, including a new bus shelter, will be added at Folly and George Griffith. The Town is contributing \$400,000 to Phase 1, as is the City. Charleston County approved \$375,000 from the half cent sales tax and \$1.5 million is from the BCD Council of Governments Complete Streets Grant.

The ReThink Folly Road Steering Committee, chaired by Mayor Woolsey, reviewed many options and chose a wide sidewalk and bike lanes for the Town's Commercial Core, while recommending a multi-use path for future phases. Based on the Town's Folly Road Overlay, redevelopment in this segment of Folly Road will require a multi-use path. The Steering Committee recently engaged the Toole Design Firm, nationally recognized for its work on complete streets, to provide guidance in further realizing the goals of the ReThink Folly Road Plan.





## Brantley Park

The Town of James Island and the City of Charleston are purchasing a joint park (located at the corner of Folly Rd. and Brantley Dr.) Each will be contributing approximately \$250,000 from their Greenbelt allocations.

Why a joint park? It's become increasingly important to preserve the limited greenspace left on James Island, and with the rising price of property, sharing the cost proved valuable. Also, while the park is located in the City's jurisdiction, it is surrounded mostly by Town neighborhoods.



Existing dock



Creek and marsh views

The park is expected to open before the end of 2019, with some minor improvements needed such as securing the dock for public access. This picturesque setting features many grand trees and beautiful marsh vistas. Inline with the ReThink Folly Rd mission, this park will provide much needed greenspace and walkable opportunities for passive recreation along the Folly Rd corridor. Brantley Park is named in honor of the Brantley family who owned and farmed this land, and we look forward to celebrating this land's heritage.

## A New Community Space



1248 Camp Rd Facility



Community Charette at Town Hall

The Town of James Island recently approved leasing the current Camp Rd Library building once it's vacated later this fall when the library moves to its new location on Grimball Rd. While the Town sought to keep this building a satellite library, that use is not allowed by the lease terms. The Town quickly organized a community meeting to engage citizens on what they would like to see in this facility. The meeting and online survey collected a lot of great insights and one thing is clear - James Island is excited about the site's potential.

The Town is engaging a consultant to work with the stakeholders and to help map out a variety of programming options. The stakeholders include the Town Neighborhood Council, the Town History Commission, the JI Arts Council, and the Children's Museum of the Lowcountry. More than likely, the building will serve multiple purposes. Please be on the lookout for future opportunities for community engagement as we move forward in this exciting endeavor. Signing up for our weekly Town News blast by emailing [info@jamesislandsc.us](mailto:info@jamesislandsc.us) is a good way to stay informed about upcoming meeting notices.



## The Town Market



The Town Market moved this year to the new James Island Town Hall for a more central location.



The same great vendors can be found selling everything from locally-harvested meats and cheeses to handmade leather and jewelry items. New to the market this year is outdoor Friday night movies. Bring your blanket or a chair and relax on the lawn. The Town Market and Movie Nights are running until September on the last Friday of the month beginning at 6 pm. Stay tuned for dates on special holiday markets around Halloween and Christmas time. Remember to SHOP LOCAL this holiday season!



Spotlight on the Queensborough Neighborhood, who came together to refurbish their entrance sign. Great job!

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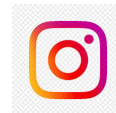
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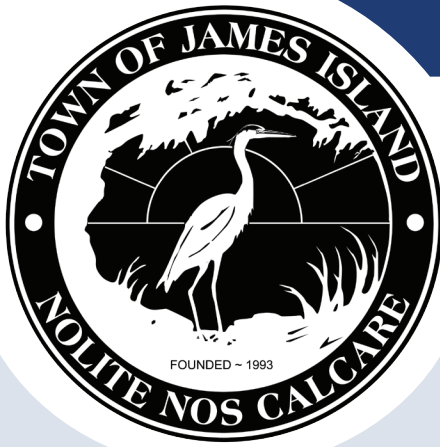
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### Mayor Pro Tem

Leonard Blank

### Members of Council

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Darren "Troy" Mullinax

Joshua Stokes

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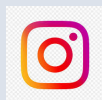
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Visit us at

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on Facebook and Twitter



## TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND MEETINGS

**Town Council** meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm.

**Planning Commission** meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm.

**Board of Zoning Appeals** meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

**Neighborhood Council** meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm.

**Arts Committee** meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm.

**Children's Commission** meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 pm.

**James Island Pride** meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm.

**History Commission** meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm.

**Drainage Committee** meets quarterly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 3:30 pm.

Upcoming Litter Pick-up: 9/7 from 9 to 11  
Lights-On Halloween Event: Thurs., 10/24

### TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND

P.O. Box 12240

James Island, SC 29422



Our Island Sheriff's Patrol created a new program this year, Dining with Deputies. Just another way we seek to foster positive relationships between the officers and the community they serve. Want to become a part of the Crime Watch activities in your neighborhood? Email [info@jamesislandsc.us](mailto:info@jamesislandsc.us) to see how you can get more involved.