

Bald
Head
Island

Village's Voice

A NEWSLETTER FOR BALD HEAD ISLAND PROPERTY OWNERS



March 10, 2020

2:30 p.m.

Dear Residents, Property Owners, and Friends:

The Village has two announcements to share with you regarding the coronavirus and annual golf cart registration.

Bald Head Island Prepares for the Spread of Coronavirus

Yesterday, Village officials met with several island stakeholders to discuss preparations being made to address the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) ahead of the island's busy season.

International Student Workers - International students come to the island each year to work at the clubs, the market, and vacation rental management business. This year, 55 students are expected to come. Thirty will arrive in mid-April through mid-May. Twenty-five will arrive at the end of May through June. The students will be working on the island until late August or early September.

As of today, none of the students are coming from a country that has travel restrictions, but this could change. If a student who is expected to come is from a restricted country, they will not be allowed to travel to the United States to work. It is being discussed whether the students will be required to be tested for coronavirus before leaving for the U.S. but regardless of testing, there is always a risk that the student could contract the illness after being tested but before travel. Our island entities depend on these students to maintain operations through the summer and are looking into alternate staffing should several or all students become restricted from travel.

The island's coordinators for the international student program will continue to monitor communications from the State Department and the CDC and follow recommendations.

Transportation – Bald Head Island Transportation, Inc. is implementing a five-step plan and will be taking the lead from the state’s transportation operations (trains, buses, ferries) and airport hubs (Charlotte Douglas International and Raleigh-Durham International) as the situation progresses. Step one of the plan is to utilize bleach to sanitize the ferries and terminal areas. Step two of the plan is to make additional hand sanitizer dispensers available in all offices and on all ferries. Step three of the plan is to install ultraviolet air sanitizers in all vessel HVAC systems (this has already been accomplished). Step four is to prepare for staff shortages. There are U.S. Coast Guard regulations which prohibit a crewmember from serving more than twelve hours in a twenty-four-hour period, this may result in a reduced ferry schedule, similar to operations as a named storm approaches. Step five is to communicate. Customers may check the website Announcements page [HERE](#) for updates.

Village Operations – The Village has already begun educating employees on preventing the spread of respiratory diseases, like coronavirus. The Village plans on cleaning and sanitizing, at a minimum, all areas that are accessible to the public. The Village is also identifying essential staff, who can work from home, and who will have childcare needs if the public school system is impacted.

At this time, there are no confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 in Brunswick County or plans to close the schools. There are currently seven presumptive cases in North Carolina. Governor Cooper declared a state of emergency earlier today which makes the state eligible for federal emergency funding.

The public is encouraged to increase prevention measures for the spread of respiratory illnesses including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Use fist bumps or elbows instead of shaking hands or hugs.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Follow CDC’s recommendations for using a facemask: **CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.** Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility)

For more information, please go to Brunswick County’s novel coronavirus webpage [HERE](#).

REMINDER: ELECTRIC CART REGISTRATIONS FOR 2019 HAVE EXPIRED

The Village is issuing citations for electric carts that do not have a current registration. The annual golf cart registration process began in early December shortly after the Thanksgiving holiday. There is an online registration portal for carts that have already been registered (not first-time registrations) and new stickers can be mailed to cart owners who are not on the island.

If you have not registered your cart(s) yet for 2020, please do so as soon as possible to avoid receiving a \$50 citation. The online registration is on the Village website [HERE](#). Public Safety also has several stickers that have not been picked up yet, so if you paid for a sticker, please come by to see Gloria at Public Safety to receive your sticker.



Old 2019 stickers were red.



New 2020 stickers are green.

As always, if you have any questions or comments feel free to e-mail, call, or stop by Village Hall!

Thank you,

Carin Z. Faulkner

Village Public Information Officer

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