

MAYOR
CHRISTIE RAINWATER

CITY ADMINISTRATOR
COURTNEY SOLER,
INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR



CITY COUNCIL
KEVIN HEDGPETH, MAYOR PRO-TEM
KEN BOGGS
JEFF C. CHANDLER
MIKE DYSON
MICHAEL SALLY
ADAM SPURLOCK

June 1, 2022

Dear Fellow City of Hanahan Residents:

As your Mayor, I have deep concerns for your safety and well-being. I hear and share your concerns about flooding and disaster-related losses in our community. Consequently, we at the City of Hanahan have been taking steps to help all of us reduce losses associated with flood events and to obtain discounts in flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System. We have and continue to provide information to you throughout the year as to steps you should take to reduce the potential for flood and other hazard-event related losses and in the event of emergencies. Hanahan, like other communities in the Lowcountry, is potentially subject to flooding from multiple sources including weather, high tides, and the Pinopolis Dam. Although it is highly unlikely that this Dam would fail, all of our properties are in the potential flood zone should this type of event occur and having flood insurance is the best way to protect our real estate investments. Many of our residents now receive a 15% reduction in their NFIP flood insurance premiums as a result of our participation in the Community Rating System.

Please make sure you follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CityOfHanahan>) to get instant access to important information. We have a reverse 911 system that will call you on your landline, if you have one, with emergency information, when applicable. Please register your email address or cell phone number at <https://cityofhanahan.com/subscribe> for our emergency alert system, if you have not already done so, to receive important information from us regarding protecting your family and property and saving money on your flood insurance.

There are several steps I urge you to take immediately to help you be better prepared for all types of disasters. First, determine if your property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) by contacting the Building and Codes Department at 843-576-5259 or online at <http://msc.fema.gov>.

Foremost, purchase or maintain flood insurance regardless of your flood zone, as flooding can occur anywhere. Your homeowners' policy most likely does not cover flood losses, but flood insurance is available in Hanahan through your property insurance agent. Contact your insurance agent today if you do not have flood insurance, as there is typically a 30-day waiting period for flood insurance to take effect, since we could have another flood event any time, and you will not be covered if you do not have flood insurance. Make sure your flood insurance agent is using the correct information in determining your flood insurance premium to get the best possible rates.

Obtain permits before you build. Permits are required even when the property owner does his/her own work. Comply with your community's building code and floodplain ordinance to reduce future flood losses. Contact our Building and Codes Department at 843-576-5259 if you have any questions about permit or code requirements or need a site visit or consultation to provide technical assistance with a flooding or flood insurance problem or question.

The Building and Codes Department also maintains flood elevation certificates on properties in Hanahan for review by interested parties. If there is a flood elevation certificate on file with our office, you may not need to pay for a new one.

Preserve wetlands, as these protect against flooding, clean the water, and provide a habitat for wildlife. Keep ditches free of trash and yard debris preventing clogging and flooding. Our stream dumping ordinance prohibits dumping items in the drainage system. Report drainage problems or illegal dumping in the drainage system to Berkeley County (843-719-4195) or the S. C. Department of Transportation (843-740-1655).

Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed. Create an emergency kit with a large flashlight, battery powered radio, spare batteries and more. Go to <https://www.ready.gov/kit> or (location of City web site with emergency information) for more details. Listen to the media regarding hurricane season and proper preparations. If flooding has occurred, be alert for washed-out roads and bridges. Do not drive or wade into flooded areas. Flooding results in multiple health hazards including mold, drowning, injuries, hypothermia, animal bites, chemical hazards, and so forth.

I encourage you to take these important steps to protect yourselves, your family, and your property. The City of Hanahan is here to help you. Please help us by making sure you receive our informational messages by providing us with contact information and following us on social media. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a horizontal line.

Christie Rainwater, Mayor
City of Hanahan