

MAYOR
CHRISTIE RAINWATER

CITY ADMINISTRATOR
MIKE COCHRAN



CITY COUNCIL
JEFF C. CHANDLER, MAYOR PRO-TEM
MIKE DYSON
KEVIN HEDGPETH
JOEL E. HODGES
MICHAEL SALLY
ADAM SPURLOCK

July 31, 2020

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 Community Rating System. We will be providing information to you, our residents, throughout the year, with regard to steps you and your family should take to reduce the potential for flood and other hazard event-related losses and in the event of emergencies. Please make certain that you follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CityOfHanahan/>) to get instant access to this important information. We have a reverse 911 system that will call you on your landline, if you have one, with emergency instructions when applicable. Please also register your e-mail address and/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 to help you protect your family and property and to save 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 City of Hanahan Building and Codes Department at 843-576-5259 or online at <http://msc.fema.gov>.

Foremost, ***purchase or maintain a flood insurance policy*** 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, and we could have another flood event at any time, and you will not be covered if you do not have flood insurance!

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 (843-576-5259) if you have any questions about permit or code requirements or need a site visit to provide technical assistance with a flooding problem.

This office also maintains flood elevation certificates on properties within the limits for review by interested parties. If there is an 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/sites/default/files/documents/files/checklist_1.pdf or <https://cityofhanahan.com/notices/hurricane-preparedness/> 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 into flooded areas.

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, appearing to read "Christie Rainwater", enclosed within a hand-drawn oval border.

Christie Rainwater
Mayor