



**Yemassee This Week**  
Matt Gaines  
Town Administrator

The three basic general rules of safe gun handling:  
1. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; never point a firearm at anyone or anything you don't want to shoot.  
2. Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.  
3. Keep the action open and the gun unloaded until you are ready to use it.

### Understanding South Carolina's New Open Carry Handgun Legislation: A Comprehensive Breakdown

The Constitutional Carry bill (H.3594) was signed into law by Governor Henry McMaster on March 7th, 2024.

SAFETY is our top priority; we ask that you familiarize yourself with this bill.

Since 2021, carrying a handgun in South Carolina has been legal for people with a concealed weapons permit.

The requirement for such a permit previously required applicants to be at least 21 years old, undergo 8 hours of training, and pass a background check.

The new law overrides those requirements, and the following is in effect immediately:

- Any adult who can legally own a gun can now carry one openly or concealed in South Carolina with or without a permit.
- This bill allows anyone 18 years of age or older to carry firearms.
- Establish state-funded firearms training administered by SLED and CWP instructors.
- There are no restrictions on guns inside of vehicles.
- Establishes Real Felon in Possession of a Firearm with Graduated Mandatory Minimum Penalties.
- Establishes a requirement to Report a Lost or Stolen Firearm.
- Firearms are PROHIBITED at the locations listed below:
  - A law enforcement, correctional, or detention facility.
  - A courthouse, courtroom, or other publicly owned building, whether owned by the State, a county, a municipality, or other political subdivision, is where the court is held and when the court is in session.
  - A polling place on election days.
  - An office of or business meeting of the governing body of a county or public school district.
  - School or college athletic events not related to firearms.
  - A daycare facility or preschool facility.
  - A place where the carrying of firearms is prohibited by federal law.
  - Church or other established religious sanctuary unless the appropriate church official or governing body gives express permission.
  - Hospital, Medical Clinic, Doctors' Office, or any other facility where medical services or procedures are performed unless expressly authorized by the appropriate entity.
  - The residence or dwelling place of another person without the express permission of the owner or person in legal control or possession of the residence or dwelling place, as appropriate.
  - Any place marked with a sign prohibiting the carrying of a concealable weapon on the premises in compliance with Section 23-31-235.



### Shrimp Festival Planning Meeting

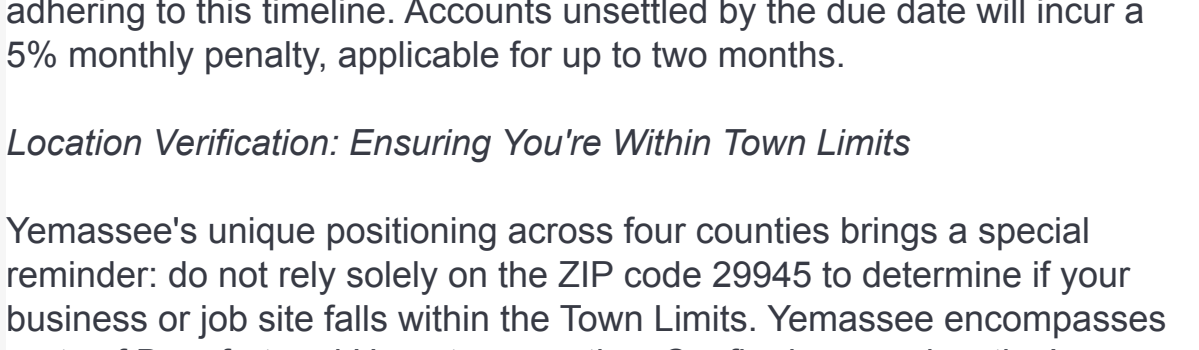
Attention all shrimp lovers and community enthusiasts! Join us for the Shrimp Festival Meeting on Thursday, March 21st, at 6:30 PM. The gathering will occur at the Community Center, 10 Mixon Street, Yemassee. It's a fantastic opportunity to learn how you can contribute to one of our town's most anticipated events. Your involvement and support are invaluable to its success.



### Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust Homebuyer Assistance Request For Proposals

The Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust is pleased to announce a round of funding to assist organizations that serve homebuyers in Beaufort and Jasper counties. The attached request for proposals (RFP) is being issued to encourage these organizations to apply for funding in this homebuyer assistance program. Background and instructions are provided within the RFP. The Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust welcomes further circulation of this announcement to interested parties and appreciates your interest in affordable and workforce housing.

Good news! The Beaufort-Jasper Housing Trust is offering \$250,000 to aid approximately 30 households in securing their first home. These funds can be utilized for closing costs, down payments, soft second mortgages, or reducing home prices. This initiative aims to enhance existing programs benefiting first-time homebuyers. Funding is available on a competitive basis to organizations experienced in financing homebuyers. Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on March 28, 2024. For more information on the criteria, please visit the link below. Don't miss this opportunity to make homeownership dreams a reality! DYK: The Town of Yemassee, along with our partners Beaufort County Government SC, Jasper County Government, SC along with City Beaufort SC, City of Hardeeville, SC, Town of Port Royal, Town of Bluffton Government, and the Town of Hilton Head Island Government formed the Beaufort Housing Trust to collectively work towards improving accessibility and inventory of affordable housing throughout our region.



### Business License Renewal: A Timely Reminder

Yemassee business licenses are valid from May 1 through April 30 of each calendar year. Renewal notices will be dispatched in March to maintain compliance and ensure your business operations continue seamlessly. The deadline for payment is April 30. We urge you to avoid late fees by adhering to this timeline. Accounts unsettled by the due date will incur a 5% monthly penalty, applicable for up to two months.

### Location Verification: Ensuring You're Within Town Limits

Yemassee's unique positioning across four counties brings a special reminder: do not rely solely on the ZIP code 29945 to determine if your business or job site falls within the Town Limits. Yemassee encompasses parts of Beaufort and Hampton counties. Confirming your location's eligibility is crucial for compliance and benefiting from town resources. [For more information click here](#)

### Special Permits for Food and Beverage Sales

Businesses selling prepared foods and beverages are reminded of the necessity to obtain the appropriate food safety permits. Additionally, you must collect and remit a 2% Hospitality Tax on sales of prepared food and beverages, contributing to the town's hospitality and tourism initiatives.

### Accommodations Tax for Short-Term Lodging

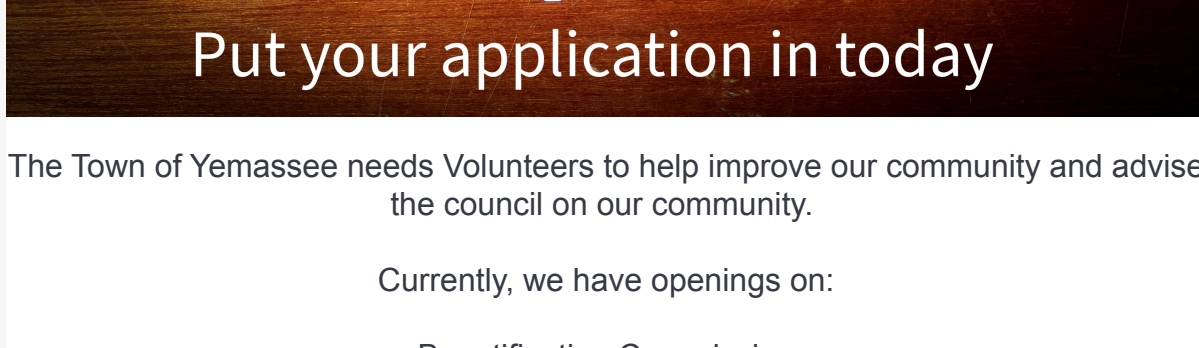
For those offering transient overnight lodging for 90 days or less, please remember to assess and remit a quarterly 3% Accommodations Tax. This tax is vital for supporting tourism and infrastructure projects within our town.

[For more information Click this link](#)



**SERVICES**  
• Blood Pressure Screenings  
• HIV Testing  
• 30 minute Low Impact Workout  
• Activities for Kids  
• And Much More!

**SATURDAY, APRIL 6**  
**10AM - 1PM**  
**BULL DURHAM CENTER**  
**ESTILL, SC**



### Beautification Commission Historic Preservation Commission

**We need you**

Put your application in today

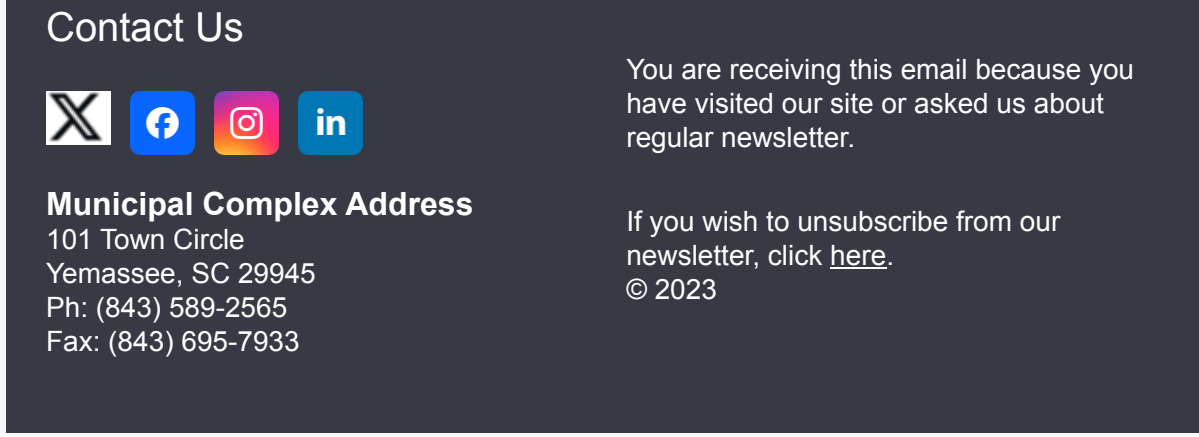
The Town of Yemassee needs Volunteers to help improve our community and the council on our community.

Currently, we have openings on:

- Beautification Commission
- Historic Preservation Commission

[Put in your application now!](#)

Be in the know!  
All committee and council meetings are open to the public.



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