(Old) Folly Bridges Falling Down

Well, not exactly falling down, as the nursery rhyme goes. But they’re coming down fast, and should be gone in a month. The Folly Creek Bridge demolition is almost done. The process is complex. All the material is recycled. Metal rebar is separated from the concrete. The concrete is crushed and sent to a concrete recycling yard, which turns it into road base material. (The Corps of Engineers nixed the original plan to add some of the concrete to the coffer dam around the Morris Island lighthouse.)

According to Sonny Dupre, president of Cape Romain Construction, removing the bridge pilings is tricky. The process is called “strawing the pile out.” A metal pipe with an interior diameter slightly larger than the pile is slipped over it and vibrated down through the earth around it. That breaks the friction between the pile and the earth, and the pile slips out with the help of a crane.

With the old bridge almost gone, long-time residents are getting sentimental. A small group slipped onto the old bridge one recent evening. With Rick Huff’s Folly Beach Weather Report* blaring from a boom box (special attention was paid to the lines “will the last one coming home tonight/please blow up the bridge”) they threw poppers at the concrete, drank a toast, and threw a small bouquet off the bridge.

Mayor Tim Goodwin throws a bouquet off the Folly River Bridge

Mr. Dupre says his company still needs to do landscaping and driveways, but everything will be done by June 30th. His contract calls for a hefty penalty if he isn’t done by that date.

*Rick Huff was a singer and lyricist who issued two CD’s with songs about Folly Beach. He was called Folly Beach’s poet laureate. He died in 2010 when his West 2nd Street house burned down.
Folly Clubs and Organizations

Civic Club

We are indebted to Council members Eddie Ellis, Pennell Clamp, and Sandra Hickman, the Council committee looking into festivals, for lending their ears at our April meeting to hear citizens’ views on festivals. It was standing-room-only and a spirited discussion, with many suggestions and a few complaints.

Our speaker at our May 19th meeting will be Lee Gessner, Folly’s new Director of Finance. Come prepared with questions on the recent property tax increase (2.6%), plans to build up reserves for continued beach maintenance and renourishment, costs of various City services, and other money topics.

Mark your calendars for our annual community picnic June 16th in Folly River Park. This free event, with hotdogs and hamburgers and other picnic fare, gives time to talk to fellow residents. We’ll take a break for the summer – our next meeting September 15th.

We’re not taking a break from putting together our famous calendar, though. Go through the pictures you’ve taken on the beach, in town, on a boat, or at festivals and celebrations, and share with us high resolution photographs that evoke the Folly spirit and Folly’s natural wonders. Send them to me at the e-mail address below. We count on the generosity of our many talented photographers to make our calendar special.

If you haven’t done so, join the Civic Club at the picnic. It costs only $10, and gives you opportunities to make Folly Beach even better. Gene Fallaw 588-6257 eugenefallaw7803@comcast.net

Home and Garden Club

351 Shadow Race Lane is May’s Yard of the Month. Sam and Carol Robinson established this well-designed and maintained yard nine years ago when they retired on Folly. They were familiar with Folly’s laid back charm from Sam's years at the Citadel and their daughter's choice to attend the College of Charleston.

A stone stating "Time Began in God's Garden" was Sam’s retirement gift on leaving their home in Knoxville, where they had inherited established azaleas and dogwoods worthy of display in Southern Living. They transformed a Folly lot with longstanding live and water oaks and palmettos into a manicured garden, starting with Empire zoysia grass in the front, divided by a travertine walkway and a driveway of permeable brick pavers. The front right bed features sago palms with a stocky palmetto and fan palms, and a most interesting volunteer plant - a devil's walking stick. Sam has dethorned and sanded these to make light-weight and durable walking sticks. Oleanders, sweet grass, crepe myrtle and pittosporum provide color and textures leading to their home.

A window box of bright red and pink petunias greets guests on the landing. Carolina jasmine wafts on a trellis to the left of the walkway. A large pot is filled with a transplant from a huge sago palm. Knockout roses bloom near a full birdbath.

Farther left, ligustrum and a dwarf crepe myrtle rest beneath a tall palmetto and water oak. A 33-year-old miniature rose of gradiating color which was given to Carol for Mother's day from her daughter at age four flourishes here, as it did in her previous gardens. A row of camellias lines the far left beneath a huge live oak. Lovely pink azaleas edge the marsh, echoing the colorful sunsets.

Congratulations to Sam and Carol for creating such a crisp garden, accented with so many subtle treasures.

The Garden Club will meet at noon May 26th for our annual luncheon before summer break. We will remember Kathy Nicklaus who served as Vice President of the Garden Club for many years. In this capacity, as in all she did, she was gracious and invaluable. Lynn Ray Smalley 588-0093 touchstone9@gmail.com

Exchange Club

At the April club meeting, we welcomed Dr. Don Elsie, Director of Clinical Services for the Dee Norton Lowcountry Children’s Center. April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and since the prevention of child abuse is the Exchange Club’s national project, it was only fitting that we would learn more about this wonderful local resource working to make a difference in children’s lives. Dr. Elsie’s presentation included reading (with permission) a letter written by a child who had been abused. The letter was a moving reminder of the reality of child abuse and the hope that can be gained with proper treatment.

Sea and Sand was a great success for Exchange this year, thanks to all who stopped by to support us! We were also pleased to serve free food to the police and volunteers working the event. Thanks to Folly Association of Business for donating the food and supplies that allowed us to provide this well-deserved service.

2015 Scholarship applications are now available at City Hall. Any local High School senior or college student is eligible to apply. Applications must be in by June 15th.

The MUSC free skin cancer screening will be May 9th, in front of City Hall from 9 am to 12 noon. There will only be one doctor this year, so get there early! Take advantage of this valuable service. John Pence 754-8772 exchangeclub@gmail.com

Senior Citizens

All 55 and older are welcome to the next Folly Beach Seniors meeting May 7th at 11 am in the Community Center. We will have a covered dish lunch – please bring your favorite dish or dessert. Our speaker will be Aleshia Parrish, Manager of the Lowcountry Senior Center, who will describe the many opportunities they offer.

Our thanks go to Dr. Melissa Cunningham, who spoke in April about exercises for arthritis. She was recently voted MUSC Doctor of the Month.

We voted to send money to the Red Cross.

Always remember our sick and shut-ins. Pauline Ray 588-9580
Dear citizens and Friends:

Unbelievably it is May again, and a lot is already happening this summer. The water and sand are warming up and the tourists are coming. This reminds me of a saying I heard a couple of years ago from a long time resident; “I am glad the tourists are coming so the locals can stop picking on each other.” That could be truer than we would like to think! Let’s all slow down, take a deep breath, and enjoy the wonderful place we call home.

As this is going to press, we are working on picking “rocks” off the beach again. Hopefully, this will help us start the summer in a good position. It has been suggested that the citizens organize a Folly Fossil collection day, an interesting concept. Stay tuned.

The Center Street committee is working hard to help improve our Gateway to Folly as the new bridges come on line. This project will take some time, and will hopefully be completed before the 2016 summer season. The suggestions they bring, after speaking with citizens, will help make our commercial district a safer place to drive, walk, and generally enjoy the downtown retail district.

Your City staff continues to work on other pedestrian walkways, and bike routes to make alternate modes of transportation safer and more attractive.

Speaking of traffic, the city continues to work with other local governments to improve the Folly Road Corridor. This project’s value becomes more evident each day with the increase in housing on Folly Road, and traffic that follows. You can take part in this planning effort. Look for details in this issue of the Sandspur.

The council committee on festivals continues to collect input from our citizens. They are trying to think-out-of-the-box, and bring real solutions to the Council that will help everyone to enjoy the festivals as they come to life in a new and better format for every citizen. There will be a Town Hall Meeting, tentatively set for June 11th, for the committee to collect more suggestions from the citizens. So, think about this and help by bringing not only your dislikes to the meeting; but also positive solutions and suggestions to share.

The South Carolina State Constables have brought a new offering to the Ladies of Folly (Constable Jerry Roberts in particular): a two hour self-defense class. One class was held last month and others are being scheduled. This course is free (you’ll have a chance to contribute toward the Constable’s fuel cost), and I understand that the class not only received valuable information but also had a lot of fun. If you want to sign up for future classes, call Charlotte Goodwin at 588-9955.

As the summer begins, everyone is busy trying to make Folly a better place for all of us. As always if you have questions, feel free to call me. I will try to make sure you get the correct answers.

Tim Goodwin 729-0298 timgoodwin52@gmail.com

The Chief’s Corner

Friends,

I’ve been thinking about the festivals and how we can improve for a while now. After listening to the comments and ideas at the Civic Club meeting, an underlining issue began to show itself. We have begun to confuse the concept of “open container is OK” with “public drunkenness is OK.”

When I think of the mindset of our community leaders about open containers, they probably pictured a nice sunny day, busy festival, responsible adults and families, and great music. Being able to have a nice cold drink or two would be a great addition to an already fun day for those who chose to. I am quite positive they did not picture some irresponsible folks looking at it as a license to get as drunk as possible and stumble around a festival, and then drive home intoxicated.

Before you get upset, I am NOT insinuating that is how each of these festivals is, or that everyone who attends is drunk. I am saying that there needs to be some change to re-instil that original mindset of responsible and safe fun whether they choose to drink or not.

This issue is currently the subject of a collaborative effort between City Leaders, Public Safety, Business Association Members, and Event Committee Members. We are educating bar and server staff on the dangers and liability of over-service, coordinating with local taxi companies to have more cars available for those who attend the festivals so there is less incentive to drive themselves, police presence with the mindset of looking for indicators and quelling issues before they get out of hand, and (most importantly) making more of these events family-friendly.

Some great thoughts came out of the Civic Club meeting from paying attention to timing the festivals during the year, to using colored bracelets to readily identify those who have been carded and are old enough to drink (something already in the works). Whether you want more or fewer festivals, I think these thoughts apply to any opinion. Questions, Concerns, or Ideas, let me know...

Andrew Gilreath agilreath@cityoffollybeach.com 588-2433

P.S. for those who attended the Civic Club, thanks for your kind words supporting Public Safety. It means a lot to us.
Folly Fun Stuff!

Fifth Annual Folly Turtles Homecoming Celebration. FREE educational activities about sea turtles for kids 10 and under, beach at 3rd Street WEST, Saturday, May 2nd from 9:30-11:30 am (rain date May 9th, same time, same place). For information: www.follyturtles.com

Turf war! Saturday, May 9th at 2 pm. East side v West side — capture the flag! Boundaries are ocean to river and 3rd Street both ways. Center Street is safe. $10.00 gets you a T-shirt and post-game crawfish boil. Sign up at Berts and state your side. If you don’t live on Folly, the West side wants to recruit you! Meet at Tides at 2 pm. Each team will have 30 minutes to hide their flag and designate team positions. Skateboards and rollerblades are allowed. Flag must be in plain sight off the ground so at least one person on your team can reach it from the ground. Tagging puts you in jail; a sneaky teammate can tag jail and set everyone free.

Help Rethink Folly Road as a “Complete Street”
The Berkeley/Charleston/Dorchester Council of Government (COG) has started a planning process for Folly Road, from Wappoo Cut to Arctic Avenue, and needs your help to explore the potential to remake Folly Road as a more sustainable, multimodal corridor which could be a precedent for the region. Go to http://follyroad.mindmixer.com.

There was an initial planning session April 23rd. You are welcome at an open design process at First Baptist School Activity Center, 2051 George L. Griffith, on these dates:

Hands On Design Session, Thursday, May 7th, 6-9 pm
Open Design Studio, Friday, May 8th-Tuesday, May 12th, 10 am-6 pm
Open House, Sunday May 10th, 5-7 pm
Work-in-Progress Presentation, Wednesday, May 13th, 6:30-8:30 pm

…… from the City

There are vacancies on two Boards:
• two vacancies on the Utilities Advisory Board (UAB),
• one vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Board.

To request consideration for appointment, send a letter and resume to Mary Cunningham at mcunningham@cityoffollybeach.com by June 1st.

To find out what these Boards do, go to www.cityoffollybeach.com and click on Ordinances. Go to codified ordinances, Title III, Chapter 33.

FOLLY BEACH LIBRARY

Story time and a craft are Mondays at 10:30 am with Miss Larla (we will be closed Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day, including our bookdrop). Wednesday, May 6th at 6 pm is Knit Night. We will be open Saturday, May 9th from 10 am–2 pm, when you can make a Mother’s Day craft. At 11 am we will show Angels in the Outfield. The Folly Beach Book Club will meet May 13th at 2:30 pm to discuss Nemesis by Philip Roth. For more information on any of these programs, feel free to call us, or like us on Facebook.

Mary Bushkar 588-2001