Folly Water System Gets a Makeover

Ever since the early 1950’s, when “city” water came to town, Folly Beach has scraped together the funds each year to repair and expand its water system. There were no funds put aside for a rainy day. And the work of opening and shutting valves to flush the system has been manual.

Now the bill has come due. The six-inch asbestos concrete pipe on East Ashley is falling apart because of age, hot soil, and salt. “Pipes usually break clean,” says Public Works Director Kevin Whitsett, “but ours blow up.”

Council has approved funds for tying East Side customers into an extended 10-inch pipe. The work will cost $170,000. They have also approved a SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system to automate system monitoring, at a $100,000 cost. Sensors will monitor pressure in the system, and open and shut valves to adjust the pressure. Supervisors can get readings on their cell phones.

As part of a Capital Improvement Plan, the City will identify what’s underground (there are now multiple maps, and when you dig it up, “it’s different again” says Whitsett). And all quarterly customers will get new meters with “radio read.” The manufacturer of some of the old meters has been out of business for 30 years, says Whitsett.

Water Outage Sunday, 7/21, 2-7 am

Charleston Water System (CWS) will relocate the main that supplies water to Folly Beach on July 21” starting at 2 am. City residents between Crosby’s and Little Oak Island who pay their water bill to CWS will be completely out of water during this work, which is expected to take about 5 hours. Customers who pay their water bill to Folly Beach should expect lower pressure and flow, since we will be running solely off reserves in the elevated water tower.

Please do not irrigate your lawn or use water for other non-essential tasks during this time, to save water for essential and emergency needs.

Feel free to contact me with questions. Thank you for your cooperation. Kevin Whitsett, Public Works Director
kwhitsett@cityoffollybeach.com 513-1832

photo by Kevin Whitsett
Workers prepare to splice a ruptured water pipe.

photo by Nancy Moore
Kyle Sullivan opens a West Indian valve
**Folly Clubs and Organizations**

**Civic Club**

We had a wonderful annual picnic in June at Folly River Park, despite the heat. About 80 people caught the river breezes and enjoyed great hamburgers by Tom Scruggs and Mark Saunders. We had lots of new memberships or renewals.

The Civic Club is on vacation until September as far as meetings go – our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 15th, with guest speaker Laurie Hull, chair of the Folly Beach Parks and Recreation Board, who will tell us about the new projects the Board is undertaking.

Meanwhile, our dedicated members will be working hard on the Civic Club’s 2016 calendar. If you’d like to advertise in the calendar, e-mail Teresa Marshall [teresa.marshall56@hotmail.com] or call her at (828) 553-4670. Don’t delay – we ran out of ad space to sell last year. Our ad rates are reasonable, your ad stays up on the wall all year long, and revenue from the calendar pays for the Sandspur, the Halloween party, the Summer Picnic, and the many ways the Civic Club contributes to make Folly Beach a better place.

We’re also looking for spectacular photographs which express the many sides of Folly Beach. If you have Folly photographs which are at least 300 pixels per inch, send them to ron@rongray.com. If they make the cut, you’ll get a photo credit and admiration all year long.

See you in September! **Gene Fallaw 588-6257 newgenef@att.net**

**Home and Garden Club**

July’s Yard of the Month is 1004 West Ashley, a statuesque white home with a garden bursting with color, permanent residence of Charles and Shirley Kears since 1998. The abundance of color is an annual Father’s day gift from their daughter, Angie. She provides the bounty of flowers and he maintains them.

Angie’s grandmother was a florist in North Carolina who passed along her love of flowers. Her mom, Shirley instilled in her a great love of nature, waking her as a child to see the beauty of the moon and clouds. Shirley loves and protects her trees.

Symmetry is the key to their landscaping, with a forked driveway creating central and side beds. The left and right beds have three tall palmettos flanked by sagos. Hydrangeas, vincas, purple petunias and angelonia have been placed at the base on each side. Oleanders form a dividing wall on the left side. A large pine and water oak flourish here as well.

Beyond the palmettos on the right side is a gracious gardenia grown from a clipping by her grandmother. Textured cypress trees complete the boundary.

The central bed complements their home with white stones and birdbath. They contrast with vibrant colors throughout. Red, pink, purple and white vincas bask in white flower boxes. Petunias and fuchsia Gerber daisies thrive here. A black wheel barrel replete with red and yellow lantana rests here with verbena. Balancing the scene are two back pots filled with confetti plants. All this precedes a single, stately palmetto. Hydrangeas accent each side along with hanging baskets dangling red vincas.

Leading to the wide entry steps is a salmon hibiscus with red circling the center of each flower. Angelonica, white petunias and red and purple lantana all welcome visitors. Large baskets of verbena and summertime confetti invite butterflies to the garden.

Cheerfulness and color to add to nature’s beauty was Angie’s goal, a goal beautifully achieved. Our congratulations to the Kearses for the kaleidoscope of color added among nature’s palmettos.

Have a happy and safe Fourth of July,

**Lynn Ray Smalley 588-0093 9touchstone9@gmail.com**

**Exchange Club**

Our June program meeting was devoted to planning the programs of service and fund raisers for the coming “Exchange year” which begins on July 1st. Incoming president Angus Smith presented his vision for the coming year which included even more community involvement and seeking out the current needs of Folly Beach citizens.

There also ensued discussion regarding the Folly “Green Team’s” request to use the parcel of the Exchange Club’s property for their planned community garden and passive park. There was widespread support for this idea and the request was granted. The garden and park will be located on Michigan Avenue at the rear border of our property.

2015 Scholarship applications are in! The Exchange Club board of directors will be reviewing all applications at our regular board meeting on July 2nd. Scholarship winners will be notified shortly thereafter, and will be invited to attend our club meeting on July 16th to receive their awards.

If you are interested in learning more about exchange, please contact Angus Smith, 813-7704, fbexchangeclub@gmail.com.

**John Pence 754-8772 fbexchangeclub@gmail.com**

**Senior Citizens**

The Folly Beach Seniors are on summer vacation. We will meet again at 11 am Thursday, September 3rd when our guest speaker will be Nancy Hussey from Surfers Healing. We will send money to Surfers Healing in July, and will remembering our sick and shut-ins with cards, calls, etc.

Have a happy and safe July 4th.

**Pauline Ray 588-9580**
From the Desk of the Mayor

Let me wish each of you a wonderful Independence Day weekend. While you and I know the beach, river, and boat landing will fill up early, let’s take a minute to remember how lucky we are to live here every day and not just visit on Holidays and weekends. We should tell ourselves every day: “Slow down; It’s Folly,” and enjoy the sunrises and sunsets others have to travel miles to enjoy.

Thanks to the Turtle Team for all their hard work! We are having a good year on Folly with many nests and potential new members of the Loggerhead species. Remind your friends and neighbors to observe “Lights out for Turtles,” along front beach as we head into the hatching season. These babies need all the help they can get to make a success of the first part of their long journey as they emerge from their nest. The lights can confuse them and lead them to doom, versus successful arrival to the water’s edge.

Now is the time to become part of Folly History; Buy a brick or two or three. Details can be found on the City Website, at City Hall or from any member of the Center Street Task Force.

Many people have asked about the renourishment and its success, or not, so I asked Dr. Elko, our Coastal Consultant, to bring all of us up to date. Below is Dr. Elko’s report:

The annual beach profile and physical inspection surveys of Folly Beach were conducted in June. These surveys occur every year to document the condition of the beach prior to hurricane season. If Folly were to be impacted by an extreme storm that caused significant beach erosion, these surveys would help the City and Corps apply for emergency funding to repair damages.

Overall, the beach is in excellent condition. Due to calm summertime sea conditions, sediment is being transported back onshore resulting in over 100-ft wide sections of beach along most of the island. As sand bars move onshore and attach to the beach, they result in runnels or “pools” at low tide – the kiddos love them! In addition, the newly installed dune vegetation and fencing is trapping wind-blown sand, helping to build elevation.

In general, Folly Beach can easily accommodate summer crowds and is ready for hurricane season.

Nicole Elko, Ph.D.
Elko Coastal Consulting, Inc. (843) 371-7082

I want to thank everyone who participated in the many memorial services held around our City for the nine people and families of the Emmanuel AME church. While this has been a very sad and sobering event, we the people of the Charleston Area and the Great State of South Carolina will come out stronger on the other end, as we come together to heal our wounds and grieve the loss of our friends, neighbors, and family members, and begin the healing process that will bring us all closer together to work for the Greater Good of All Mankind.

If you would like to contact me, use this information:

Tim Goodwin 729-0298 timgoodwin52@gmail.com

The Chief’s Corner

Friends,

I thought I knew what I was going to write for this month, but it seemed trivial in light of the recent events here in Charleston. The way this greater Charleston community as a whole has come together has been nothing short of amazing to see. As I reflected, I don’t know why it would surprise anyone… that is what Charleston is all about. The lessons to be learned from this tragic event are more than just about race relations… it is about all relationships. Life is too short to harbor hate, no matter the point of focus. One of the things that make life so interesting and beautiful is the relationships we have with people.

If you will allow me to share with you the reasons why I fell in love with Folly upon moving here just 3 ½ short years ago: Here on our island, we take care of each other, we watch out for each other. Just in the past year alone, we have lost a lot of beautiful people who have contributed so much to this island community. The members of this community came together with fundraisers, prayers, meals, fellowship, and just about anything else the families needed from their community… that’s what Folly is all about. This is without question an eclectic community; it’s made up of so many types of folks from too many backgrounds to count. We don’t always agree and we might not even like each other from time to time. What matters is that when someone in this community needs help, this community responds, no matter our differences. How can you not love a place like that?

All that being said, your public safety department is a part of this island family. This month ends my first year as your Chief; I hope I have made you proud thus far. Our department is making great strides to meet the needs and demands of this city. We could not have come so far in such a short time without the support and assistance of the citizens, the city administrative staff, and our elected officials. Thank you for your support, keep the suggestions and feedback coming. We love our citizens!

Andrew Gilreath agilreath@cityoffollybeach.com 588-2433
Folly Fun Stuff!

A special tribute to America’s armed forces and their families **July 4th**. Show your support for active and veteran military by breaking out your Red, White, and Blue. Salute a flight of F-16s and vintage WWII military aircraft as they fly down the SC coastline. It starts at 1 pm.

Because of the tides, the Folly Beach fireworksones have been moved to the County Park at **9:30 pm on Saturday, July 4th**.

Patriotic musical “This Is My Country!” with combined church choirs, narrated by Mayor Tim Goodwin, **Sunday July 5, 11 am**, Folly Beach Baptist Church

Loggerhead’s presents its third annual benefit for Surfers Healing, **Saturday August 1, 12-5 pm**. $15 tickets include lunch and music by local musicians. Raffle and silent auction, $5 for a chance to win $5,000. All proceeds benefit Surfers Healing on August 20th. For advance tickets: Alison Burbage, (843) 834-5898.

**FOLLY BEACH LIBRARY**

Summer Reading continues and we have lots of great events but first, we will be closed Friday, July 3rd to observe Independence Day. We have Story time and a craft on Mondays at 10:30 am with Miss Larla. Our special Summer Reading events will be Monday afternoons at 4: pm: July 6th SC Aquarium Rovers, July 13th Natalie Daise presents Comeyah Tales, July 20th a Puppet Show: The Adventures of Gingerbread Man, and July 27th is our Grand Finale Ice Cream Party. Fridays at 1 pm we will have a movie for teens. Cool off inside with a film and some snacks! Knit Night is Wednesday, July 1st at 6 p.m. The Folly Beach Book Club will be July 8th at 2:30 pm. We will discuss And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini. We will be open Saturday, July 11th from 10 am–2 pm. At 11 am we will show The Lorax and you can make a craft. For more information, give us a call or like us on Facebook.  

Mary Bushkar  588-2001

…… from the City

Council is looking for candidates for two vacancies on the Parks and Recreation Board. Candidates must reside in Folly Beach or own property here. To request appointment, send a letter and resume to mcunningham@cityoffollybeach.com by August 1st.

**Farmer’s Market Moves**

The Folly Beach Farmer’s Market has moved from the Grill’s parking lot to Folly River Park. They will set up there every Wednesday from 6-9 pm through September 6th. They will also have an expanded inventory on hand.