

Planners Turn to Protecting the Marsh

Folly Beach about to do something that no other South Carolina jurisdiction has done – adopt a marsh management plan. The plan, drafted by coastal consultant Nicole Elko, is about to be circulated to the Planning Commission and Council. Dr. Elko will discuss it at the Civic Club on November 20th when she is the Club’s guest speaker. The presentation will be interactive, with audience members able to vote by phone on different elements of the plan.

City Administrator Spencer Wetmore says the City got the idea of tackling marsh management when it looked at flooding and sea level rise maps, and “realized a lot of the island’s vulnerability comes from the back side. We spent so much time focused on the beach; this is our first comprehensive look at the marsh.” She hopes the plan “can become a model for other communities.” To see what she’s talking about, go to the City’s web page and search for “Sea Level Rise Viewer.”

There’s a lot to study. There are 10,000 acres of marsh within city limits. The entire state only has 350,000 acres of marsh. The State requires beach management plans, and maps the critical line which defines development boundaries on the beach, but pays no such attention to the marsh. It doesn’t map marsh critical lines. If a property owner wants to build near the marsh, a state surveyor comes in and plots the critical line for that property. The information isn’t connected to surveys of adjacent properties.

The marsh has been called the lungs of the landscape. A healthy marsh is vital to the commercial fishing industry. It is affected by the run-off of fertilizers and pesticides, as well as trash discarded by boaters and drivers. It’s also affected, positively or negatively, by plants and vegetation on adjacent properties. Most of Folly Beach’s shore line is marsh.

Nancy Moore, who lives in Turn of River and “farms” the river and the marsh with cast nets and clam pots, repeats an old saying: the marsh is the garden and the beach is the desert. The marsh is so rich that before the Civil War, slaves were sent into the marsh to dig up pluff mud for fertilizer. One oyster in the marsh can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day, consuming nitrates and ammonia, phosphates, plankton, detritus, bacteria, and dissolved organic matter, removing them from the water.

The marsh study has prompted all kinds of ideas about steps to protect it. Setbacks with restrictions on what can be

planted, and natural buffers are being discussed. Planning Commission Chair LaJuan Kennedy is thinking about steps to reduce run-off, such as requiring roof gutters that will direct rainwater away from the marsh. She’s also thinking about how to educate residents (especially new arrivals) about native plants and the importance of root systems, both near the marsh and on beach dunes. There are discussions about forming a “marsh patrol” to clean junk out of the marsh, similar to the beach patrol.

The marsh study is not one of the items covered under the moratorium, but is coincidentally happening at the same time. It’s seen as a critical part of the city’s efforts to address sea level rise. As the sea level rises, it will create a “coastal squeeze,” and restoring the marsh to a healthy state will protect Folly Beach from some of the effects of that squeeze.

Mid-Term Election

The mid-term election for county, state, and national offices is Tuesday, November 6th. Polls are open from 7 am-7 pm. Voters in Folly Beach precincts 1 and 2 vote at the Baptist Fellowship Hall at Center and West Indian. Voters in James Island precincts 1A and 1B vote at James Island Elementary School on North Grimball Road.

You can vote absentee in person up to November 5th. Three special voting locations have been set up in Mount Pleasant,



North Charleston, and West Ashley for absentee in person voting. Call 843-744-VOTE (8683) for details. You will need to meet one of the 16 reasons why you are allowed to vote absentee in person.

You can also vote absentee by mail, but you need to act fast. Get an application by mail or in person (you or a designated representative), send in the application, complete the ballot the Board of Elections will send you, and get it to them by November 6th.

Finally, if you have mobility problems, go to your polling place on Election Day and send someone in to ask for “curbside” service. Poll workers will bring a voting computer and sign-in sheet to your car.

To see who will be on your ballot, go to www.vote411.org and put in your address.

Clubs and Organizations

Civic Club

We closed out October with a bang, or shall I say a “boo”, with our 44th annual Folly Beach Halloween Carnival. This hauntingly hilarious event could not be possible without the support of our residents and local businesses. Thank you to all who donated and volunteered. A special thank you to Katherine Houghton and congratulations on a job well done coordinating this event.

Please join us Tuesday, November 20th at 7 pm in the Community Center when Dr. Nicole Elko will speak about our Marsh Management Plan being developed. This plan will have an impact on Folly for years to come. Stay in the know and find out what’s underway so you can express your views. We will also elect a new board at this meeting.

Thanks for a great year.

Deana Dockery (843) 276-9878
follybeachcivicclub@gmail.com

Home and Garden Club

November's Yard of the month, 43 Lempeis, is the home of Burns and Spencer Wetmore. Burns purchased the home in 2011 and Spencer, our City Administrator, came soon thereafter. They renovated their home in a cottage style and began restructuring their landscaping.

An elevated bed was established bordered with pilings. Purple wandering jew joins red and pink pintas curving around this bed. Great care was taken to transplant beloved items such as sago palms Burns had grown from seedlings and Spencer's hydrangeas reminiscent of her grandmother and given on momentous occasions such as their marriage, the birth of a child and Mother's Day. A southern oak was planted to eventually shade these transplants. Breeze and seagrass flow nearby. Established palmettos reside with pine oaks and new additions, a palmetto nicknamed “Sumter,” and flowering tractor seats.

Ligustrums line both sides of their front porch to create the beach cottage illusion. White day lilies and a fan palm grace the pervious, wood look, cement pavers leading to their entry which is illuminated and overseen by a pink flamingo.

Curb appeal is enhanced with Saint Augustine grass which their 3-year-old was told was "not walk-on grass, but looking-at grass." She passed that on to playmates. Now Spencer enjoys weeding in her garden, which reminds her of family, while her daughters play nearby.

Congratulations to the Wetmores for the way they created their garden to work with Folly's natural design.

The Garden Club will meet Tuesday, November 27th at noon in the Community Center. Ben Sumrel with Nimmer Turf, a division of Sod Busters, will speak. All are welcome. Happy Thanksgiving.

Lynn Ray Smalley (843) 588-0093
9touchstone9@gmail.com

Exchange Club

Congratulations to Steve Mroz and Shane Smith for being named the exchange’s police and firefighter of the year recipients. A big thanks to you both, and to the entire Folly Beach Public Safety for helping keep Folly such a safe and happy place to live!

Our One Nation under God Breakfast is Saturday November 10th at 10 am at the Tides. Can you say “gobble gobble”? The Golden Age Dinner is Thursday November 15th at 6 pm at the Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Come for a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner!

Please visit the Nationalexchangeclub.org to learn more about the history of Exchange, our core values, and what we do as a club in our local communities. Happy Thanksgiving!

John Merritt Jr 843-847-9823
fbexchangeclub@gmail.com

Senior Citizens

The Folly Beach Seniors will meet Thursday, November 1st at 11 am in the community center. All 55 and older are invited. Alan Berger, Director of Pet Helpers, will speak. Our main dish will be turkey, provided by Patty Holsclaw. Others are asked to bring a covered dish.

Thanks to Carrie Moore from the free Health Clinic on John’s Island for speaking in October. We are still looking for Seniors who are sick or shut in. We would like to visit and take a fruit basket.

We wish you a happy and safe Thanksgiving. This is a good time to be thankful with little damage from the storms!

Pauline Ray (843) 588-9580

Green Team

Our November meeting will be Thursday, November 8th at 6 pm in Council Chambers. Everyone is welcome. Come on out and join us. Our November garden workday is on Saturday, November 10th beginning at 8 am. We do have one plot available for lease. Email Teresa Marshall if you are interested.

Teresa Marshall (828) 553-4690
teresa.marshall56@hotmail.com

From the Desk of the Mayor

Hard to believe November is here! Halloween and all its spooks and goblins have left except the ones hanging around for the mid-term election on November 6th. Remember to get out to vote and elect your favorite candidates. As always, the voting booths will be set up in the Fellowship Hall at the Baptist Church; a good place to meet and have some good old fashion Folly fellowship as we wait our turn to vote.

The upcoming month will see a lot of events happening in your City. Besides the election, on November 4th we will return to Daylight Savings Time. November 12th is Veterans Day, a time to remember all those men and women who have helped keep our Country free. November 18, at 6pm, will be our ecumenical Thanksgiving Church service, to be held this year at Our Lady of Good Counsel, where all three churches can come together and be thankful for our great country and our ability to worship as we see fit.

Next is the day we all look forward to, November 22nd, Thanksgiving Day! A lot of good food and football. The climax for November will be the Christmas Tree Lighting in the Folly River Park on November 25th at 7pm. Bring everyone young and old it is always a good time and to watch the faces of the little ones will always warm your heart no matter what the temperature is.

Beyond having a festive month, the City Administration will continue to be hard at work. The Planning Commission and City Council will be diligently working on the proposed Beach and Marsh Set Backs. I would urge everyone to pay close attention to these meeting and Public Hearing, your input is very important to keep decisions from being made in a "vacuum." While this process will begin in November it will probably be ongoing through the first of the year.

The moratorium on development near the ocean and marsh has been extended to February, to give the Planning Commission and Council time to have final reviews and a public hearing. The changes being discussed are a big deal. We will be the first city in SC to have a Marsh Management Plan. Pay attention to your opportunities to listen and speak. The Planning Commission will meet on November 5th and December 3rd, and a special meeting will be scheduled. Council meets the second Tuesday of every month.

Our Public Safety Department and our Community Coordinator, Colleen Jolly, are working hard to get the Christmas Parade ready for Saturday December 8th. This wonderful event is preceded on Friday December 7th with Santa Claus visiting our children in the Folly River Park. Put these days on your calendars and watch for the times to be posted as we get closer to the dates.

As always, if you have any questions don't hesitate to contract me Tgoodwin@cityoffollybeach.com or 843 729 0298, we will get an answer for your questions.

Mayor Tim

The Chief's Corner

October has come and gone. Things are slowing for us here at public safety. We felt Follypalooza went well and are now looking forward to and planning the Christmas parade.

The slower months have historically led to an uptick in thefts from rental properties, since they are often unoccupied. This is when we need your help. If you live near empty rental properties and notice odd behavior, or folks there at odd times, please call.

In other activities, we use this slower time to catch up on mandatory annual training and team improvement. We recently certified another large group of the staff as emergency medical responders to increase our medical response capabilities.

Please call or email with any questions or concerns. Enjoy the cooler weather, especially while the water is still warm!

Andrew Gilreath (843) 588-7003
agilreath@cityoffollybeach.com

From the City.....

..... City Council will give second reading in November to an ordinance prohibiting formula businesses in the commercial districts on Folly Island. The goal is to maintain the unique, funky character of our commercial district.

..... Work on proposals for the moratorium is gearing up. The first round of proposals will be presented on October 29th. The main component, the new Dune Management Area, should be ready in November. The proposed Marsh Management Plan will also be reviewed in November. Go to www.cityoffollybeach.com for current information.

..... The U.S. Postal Service has agreed to leave the two live oaks on the Folly post office property. They had planned to cut down the oaks to expand post office parking.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Folly Fun Stuff!

Saturday, November 3rd. Folly Beach Baptist will have the Operation Christmas Child Packing Party in their Fellowship Hall at 10 am.



The Community Thanksgiving Service of the combined churches will be held on Sunday, November 18th at Our Lady of Good Counsel at 6 pm.

Folly Beach Christmas Parade Information

The Folly Beach Christmas Parade is Saturday, December 8th. Entry forms for a float in the parade are at www.cityoffollybeach.com or send a request via email at fbparade@cityoffollybeach.com. Deadline is November 21st. New this year as a part of the registration process, we're asking for a toy donation to go to Toys for Tots.

If you would like to join the team of elves coordinating this event, please e-mail fbparade@cityoffollybeach.com.

The route will be staged on West Arctic, then begin at West Ashley and West 2nd. The Folly River bridge won't be closed to traffic. Staging begins at 10 am and the parade will start at 1 pm sharp!

We encourage entries to be creative, imaginative and fun, but we also want everyone to remain safe and enjoy the day. A panel of judges set up in front of City Hall will view floats, and prizes will be given for Most Original Entry, Best Band/Music Group, and Best Christmas Season Spirit (winners to be announced via Facebook (City of Folly Beach) on Monday, December 10th).

There's only **one** Santa at the parade. He rides on the fire truck down Center street to Folly River Park.

Colleen Jolley (843) 513-1836
cjolley@cityoffollybeach.com

FOLLY BEACH LIBRARY

We have Storytime and a craft on Mondays at 10:30 am and the After-School STEAM Club on Mondays at 3:30 pm **except for November 12th when all branches will be closed for Veteran's Day.** On Saturday, November 10th we will be open from 10 am–2 pm. We will show "Early Man" and serve popcorn. The Folly Beach Book Club will meet Wednesday, November 14th at 2:30 pm to discuss "Still Alice" by Lisa Genova. **We will close at 6 pm Wednesday, November 21st until November 26th for Thanksgiving.** For more information, give us a call or check out the library's web page www.ccpl.org.

Mary Bushkar (843) 588-2001
bushkarm@ccpl.org

COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS ON FOLLY

843-795-4386 or www.charlestoncountyparks.com to register or for info.

Thursday, November 1, 1-3 pm. Monarch Migration. Monarch butterflies are the subject of tag and release research. Join a naturalist to search for and potentially tag Monarchs while learning about their amazing annual migration. Meets at Folly Beach County Park. Age 9/ up; registered chaperone required for 15/under. Must pre-register. Fee: \$9/\$7 Move IT!

Friday, November 9th 8:30-10:30 am. Folly Beach Bird Walks: Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve A registered and paid chaperone is required for participants ages 15 /under. Meets at Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve. Age 12/up. Fee: \$7/\$5 Move IT!

★ The Sandspur

Publisher: Folly Beach Civic Club
PO BOX 884 – FOLLY BEACH, SC 29439
www.facebook.com/Folly_Beach_Civic_Club
Printer: Print Shop of West Ashley
City web page: www.cityoffollybeach.com
Meetings: cityoffollybeach.com/streaming
or Comcast channel 195

LIBRARY HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY 10-6 WEDNESDAY 12-8
FRIDAY 10-6 2nd SATURDAY 10-2
CLOSED MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH and
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 21ST TO 26TH

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

Council Chambers

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| 5 th | Planning Commission | 7pm |
| 13 th | Council meeting | 7pm |
| 19 th | Design Review Board | 6pm |
| 27 th | Parks and Recreation Board | 6pm |

Clubs, Organizations & Committees

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|------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| 1 st | Senior Citizens | 11am |
| | Folly Green Team | 6pm |
| | Exchange Club Board | 7pm |
| 6 th | Arts and Crafts Guild | 6:30pm |
| 7 th | Save the Light | 7pm |
| 8 th | Folly Association of Business | 6pm |
| 15 th | Exchange Club | 7pm |
| 20 th | Civic Club | 7pm |
| 27 rd | Garden Club | noon |

Library

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| 5 th , 19 th , 26 th | Story Time, craft | 10:30am |
| 5 th , 19 th , 26 th | STEAM After-School | 3:30pm |
| 10 th | Open Saturday <i>Early Man</i> | 10am-2pm |
| 14 th | Book Club: <i>Still Alice</i> | 2:30pm |

Recycling

12th and 26th

Volunteer Fire Fighters

6th, 13th, 20th, 27th 6pm

Special Events

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|------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 4 th | Daylight Savings ends – Fall Back | |
| 6 th | Election Day | |
| 11 th | Veterans' Day | |
| 18 th | Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service | 6pm |
| 22 nd | Thanksgiving | |
| 25 th | Christmas Tree Lighting | 7pm |