



Folly Responds to Those in Need

Most people think of Folly as an affluent beach community, removed from urban problems. But Folly Beach draws many troubled and down-and-out people, and the generous Folly heart struggles to help them. The main sources of help are Folly churches, the Library, and Bert's Market

Camping out in Folly's parks or on its beaches violates City law. Public Safety officers don't go looking for drifters, but if they find campers while on patrol, they have to enforce the City's ordinances and move them along, or refer them to one of the churches. More often, a nearby resident makes a complaint. Chief Andrew Gilreath describes it as a problem they deal with regularly all year long.

Some homeless people essentially camp out "in the woods" on Folly, usually on the grounds of the old Coast Guard station. Families in need usually have a vehicle. They camp out in the vehicle in the Wal-Mart parking lot, and head to the beach during the day.

Others take the bus down Folly Road to the last stop, and walk the rest of the way to Folly.

Besides Public Safety, the point of contact is usually the Library, one of Folly's three churches, or Bert's Market. All those places see the problem as a challenging one, and struggle to respond. Several people interviewed for this article said the City needs to put together a task force to figure out how to deal with this problem more effectively.

The Library is trying to put together information on resources available for those in need. One of the other county libraries has developed a flyer on resources, and Folly librarian Mary Bushkar is trying to get copies. The library spreads the word on local resources (described below). In a pinch, one of the librarians brings in a sandwich or a clean shirt.

Fact is, there are very few resources in Charleston County. The new One Eighty Place was supposed to provide shelter, but they are usually full of homeless veterans. James Island Outreach covers Folly Beach and provides counselling, but it is only open three days a week for two hours.

Folly's churches provide most of the help. The Baptist Church has a soup kitchen every Monday at noon, with residents bringing ingredients and cooking up a lavish buffet. Baptists also have a Wednesday dinner and a food pantry. A Recovery

in Christ program Thursday night helps with the addiction problems many homeless face. The other churches also have developed ways to respond to these needs.

Bert's Market is a magnet for those in need, and responds the best way it can. Owner Omar Colon says "if they're hungry, we fill their bellies. If they need a place to stay, we call around and try to find some place." He emphasizes that Bert's is not just handing out freebies. He or staff pay for the food the struggling visitors eat. "What can we do?" he says. And the coffee's always free.

Christmas Parade

The famous Folly Beach Christmas parade starts at 1 pm Saturday, December 8th. The bridge to Folly Island will not be closed, but Center Street and all streets running east and west of Center will be closed except East and West Indian.

The parade will enter Center Street from West Ashley, and go down Center to East Huron. The one and only Santa will end the parade by riding a fire truck to the Folly River Park, where he will listen to children's wishes.

Spectators should be careful about running into the road to pick up candy. Some floats are hard to drive, and the driver's visibility may be obscured.

Santa's Mailbox



Santa is accepting letters in his mailbox at the fire station until Tuesday, December 18th. Please include a name and return address so Santa can respond.

Clubs and Organizations

Civic Club

Happy holidays to all Folly Beach community members! Our gratitude for all the holiday activities: Tree Lighting, Santa at Folly River Park, Christmas Parade, Flip Flop Drop and other celebrations throughout the season.

People may be in need during various times of their lives. Please read the cover article and be solution-driven to this community issue.

If you want community engagement, join the Civic Club. Dues are \$15 a person or \$25 a family. A Sandspur subscription (\$15 a year) makes a great gift for friends who have a Folly connection – see Marlene Estridge at City Hall.

The Civic Club has new leadership for next year: Ex-Officio Members Susan Breslin and Deana Dockery; Members-at-Large Laurie Hull and Marlene Estridge; Secretary Regina Anderson; Treasurer Dale Hart; Vice President David Miller; and President Katherine Houghton.

All are encouraged to create shell ornaments to place on the Community Center/Library Christmas tree. Drop off the ornaments at the Library, or at the Civic Club meeting.

The Civic Club meets this month on Tuesday, December 18th at 7 pm in the Community Center/Library. We will discuss Club business and activities, celebrate the season, and socialize. Please bring an appetizer or dessert.

Safe, healthy, holidays and a joyful 2019 to the Folly Beach community!!! **Katherine Houghton (781) 254-2302**
khoughton2259@gmail.com

Home and Garden Club

December's Yard of the Month crowns a Folly hill from 706 East Ashley to 705 East Cooper. Suzanne Kerns and Ryan Coverdale selected this property in 2016, when they visited locales along the eastern shore while they were lifeguards at Carolina Beach. Folly was their favorite. They are raising their family next door to Suzanne's parents.

Their home sits with terraced wooden box gardens adorned with curved bronze-tone railings on the decks. They added edibles to their garden. Pavers on the Ashley side created a new deck surrounded with olive, banana and fig trees, and rosemary and horse mint lavender, enhanced with breeze grass, purple plumbago, salvia, red blanket flowers and butterfly bushes.

Three towering palmettos are on the left side of their yard. A tremendous white lily stands next to a weathered cypress tree. Terraced beds host sago and fan palms. A windmill palm sits in a box. Solar panels on their roof reflect their environmentally friendly attitude.

The decks on the Cooper side host a key lime tree (a Mother's Day gift) and mint and curly leaf Thai basil which

propagated itself below the deck. Crepe myrtle, climbing fig and hydrangea all thrive. An oak on the deck seeks the sun.

Congrats to Suzanne and Ryan as they continue to grow their Folly garden and family. Thank you to Mama Jean's Christmas Trees on East Ashley for donating a Christmas wreath as a door prize for our November meeting.

The Garden Club will not meet in December. Merry Christmas,
Lynn Ray Smalley (843) 588-0093
9touchstone9@gmail.com

Exchange Club

As the year comes to an end, we look back on all the wonderful things we have done together not only as a club but as a community; Whether it be putting up flags for military appreciation and Americanism, donating car seats and school supplies to our youth, or honoring our police and firefighters, we want to thank everyone for a great year!

Get Exchange's world-famous burgers and dogs at the Christmas Parade! We will not have a dinner meeting in December, but after the New Year we will accept donation items for our yard sale, and get ready for our golf tournament and many other fun and exciting programs of service. Definitely join us next year! Happy Holidays!

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

Senior Citizens

Folly Beach Seniors will meet Thursday, December 5th at 11 am in the community center. All 55 and older are invited. We will enjoy a catered Christmas dinner arranged by Johnny Carter, and exchange gifts (not to exceed \$5).

Thanks to Alan Berger, Director of Pet Helpers. He enlightened us on the history of Pet Helpers. It was started by Carol and Bob Linville 40 years ago. They were the first no-kill shelter for animals in SC.

We are looking for sick or shut ins on Folly Beach to visit and give gift baskets. Give us a call if you know someone. This is a good time for giving and also for giving thanks. Thanks to the Exchange Club for their delicious Thanksgiving dinner for the Widows and Widowers of Folly Beach.

Pauline Ray (843) 588-9580

Green Team

Our December meeting will be Tuesday, December 11th at 6 pm in Council Chambers. The Community Garden's December workday is Saturday the 15th beginning at 8 am. Happy Holidays!

Teresa Marshall (828) 553-4670
teresa.marshall56@hotmail.com

Arts and Crafts Guild

The Arts and Crafts Guild Christmas Show is Saturday, December 8th at the Folly Beach Community Center from 10 am to 4 pm. Handmade local arts and crafts make perfect gifts for the holidays

Kerry Hupp (843) 345-8739
kerryhupp@bellsouth.net

From the Desk of the Mayor

Merry Christmas! 2018 is coming to a rapid close. I hope everyone whose lives have been negatively impacted in 2018 by natural disasters or other tragedies our Nation has faced in the wake of mass shootings or other terrorist actions can find a peace in their lives this Holiday Season. We also remember the men and women who have lost their lives or were critically injured during the past year defending our freedom and our right to worship as we please no matter what the religion or religious Holidays we choose to observe. To them goes our gratitude and admiration for their sacrifices.

While the city takes a break to celebrate the Holidays, we also have to say thank you to the women and men of our Public Safety Department who are always on duty, 24 hours a day, seven days a week! They do not all get the luxury of holidays off to spend with their families. Take a few moments as we gather with our families and friends this Holiday season to remember and say a word of prayer for the safety of the women and men who dedicate their lives to being our Emergency First Responders, the Firefighters, Police, Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics who help keep us and our families safe and healthy on the home front, or as we travel this holiday season.

As the New Year draws closer, the city calendar becomes very busy. First is the tree lighting in Folly River Park, at 7 pm on Sunday, December 2nd. Next are the two events that all children from 1 to 100 wait for: Friday December 7th at 6 pm when Santa Claus arrives at Folly River Park to speak with every child, no matter their age, and get that vital information about what they *really* want for Christmas gifts, followed the next day (Saturday December 8th at 1 pm) by the Folly Beach Christmas Parade, a grand time for everyone! Santa will be the grand finale of the parade as always, ending the parade at the Folly River Park to speak once again with everyone and offer a fine photo opportunity for the entire family. On Sunday, December 9th, the combined Folly Churches Choir will perform a Christmas Cantata at the Folly Beach Baptist Church at 6 pm.

On New Year's Eve, Folly's own Flip Flops will be raised high at 10 pm, positioned to descend at midnight to bring in 2019! Music starts at 10 pm while we wait for the Flip Flops' midnight descent. This has turned into a fun event for all ages to bring in the New Year! If you are inclined on New Year's Day, Folly will again celebrate the Polar Bear Plunge. I heard a rumor Bill Murray will show up this year. Why not? Jimmy Buffet seems to keep showing up at Folly to surf and enjoy our hospitality.

Let me wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year that will make 2019 the best year ever!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, contact me at tgoodwin@cityoffollybeach.com or (843) 729-0298.

Mayor Tim

The Chief's Corner

This month I wanted to give you a little homework that will benefit you in the long run. We at Public Safety are running into an issue at times where homes are difficult to locate in an emergency. Please ensure that your home numbers are properly located and visible from the roadway so we can find you quickly in an emergency.

Folly Beach has a city ordinance (91.03) that explains how your home should be numbered and those numbers displayed. Basically, the ordinance requires a home to be easily discernible for public safety. Numbers should be placed in a highly visible location near the entrance to the home. If the entrance is not visible from the roadway, place the numbers in a visible location near the roadway closest to that entrance.

Amendments to the ordinance are being proposed at the December council meeting, clarifying some language and requesting home numbers to be reflective so they can be seen more easily at night. If you have feelings one way or the other, that would be a time to discuss those with council.

I hope your Thanksgiving holiday went well. I'm praying you all have a safe and happy December holiday season. See you at the Christmas Parade! **Andrew Gilreath (843) 588-7003**
agilreath@cityoffollybeach.com

From the City.....

..... On Christmas week, garbage will be collected as follows:

- Monday: normal garbage pick-up, island wide.
- Tuesday and Wednesday: off (holiday)
- Thursday: normal garbage pick-up, island wide.
- Friday: brush and man-made

..... There are new penalties for breaking golf cart rules – up to \$100 or 30 days in jail. Golf cart rules are:

- The cart must be registered through DMV and insured.
- The driver must be at least 15 years old AND licensed.
- The driver must stay within four miles of the address the golf cart is registered to.
- Do not drive at night.
- Drive only on secondary roads, not primary roads.

..... The City and the Army Corps of Engineers have completed a full beach renourishment, paid for 100% by the Federal government as a hurricane recovery project. The City also rehabilitated nine rock groins between 8th Street East and the Washout to better hold the sand in place. The \$3 million groin cost was shared 50/50 between the City and the State. The City was able to use the Folly River as the borrow source for higher-quality, less expensive sand. That had the added benefit of clearing the River for navigation.

Folly Fun Stuff!

Tree Lighting at Folly River Park, Sunday, December 2nd, 7pm

Santa at Folly River Park, Friday December 7th, 6 pm

Christmas Parade, Saturday, December 8th 1 pm

Flip Flop Drop/Fireworks, Monday, December 31st 10 pm

Bill Murray Look-Alike **Polar Bear Plunge**, Tuesday, January 1st 11 am



Our Lady of Good Counsel Christmas masses:

Christmas Eve, December 24th, 5 pm and Midnight

Christmas Morning, December 25th, 10 am



Folly Beach Baptist Church: Children's Christmas Party at the Fellowship Hall Saturday, December 8th after the 1 pm Christmas Parade. All invited. Christmas story, face painting, crafts and refreshments. Sunday, December 9th at 6 pm the musical "**O Holy Night**" will be presented at Folly Beach Baptist Church, followed by dessert and coffee in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday, December 24th at 5:30 pm

Folly Beach Baptist Church will have a **Candlelight and Communion Service**



United Methodist Church: The middle school Methodist Youth Fellowship meets at the church Sunday December 10th at 4 pm. All middle schoolers are invited. The **Christmas Cantata** will be Sunday, December 16th at 10 am during morning worship. A **children's play and communion service** Christmas Eve at 6:30 pm.



FOLLY BEACH LIBRARY

We have Storytime and a craft Mondays at 10:30 am **except Monday, December 24th when we will be closed for the Christmas holiday. We will reopen Friday, December 28th.** On Saturday, December 8th we will be open from 10 am–2 pm, show "The Polar Express," and serve popcorn. On Monday, December 10th we will have a Holiday Open House in appreciation of all our wonderful Folly Patrons! Pop in any time for a holiday treat. The Folly Beach Book Club will meet Wednesday, December 12th at 2:30 pm to discuss "The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion" by Fanny Flagg. Call us or check out the 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.

Seabirding at Folly Beach Pier Tuesday, December 18th - 8:30-10 am.

Targets include grebes, loons, gulls, terns, etc. Paid chaperone required for ages 15 and under. Meet at Folly Beach Pier entrance. Age 12 and up. Fee: \$6

The Sandspur

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PO BOX 884 – FOLLY BEACH, SC 29439
www.facebook.com/FollyBeachCivicClub
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, DECEMBER 24TH
to FRIDAY DECEMBER 28TH

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

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

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

3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 31 st Story Time, craft	10:30am
8 th Open Saturday	10am-2pm
<i>The Polar Express</i>	
10 th Holiday Open House	
12 th Book Club:	2:30pm
<i>The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion</i>	

Recycling

3rd, 17th, 31st

Volunteer Fire Fighters

4 th , 11 th , 18 th	6pm
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Special Events

2 nd Hanukkah begins at sunset	
2 nd Tree Lighting in Folly River Park	7pm
7 th Santa in the Park	6pm
8 th Christmas Parade	1pm
8 th Art in the Park	
18 th Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service	6pm
21 st Winter Solstice	
25 th Christmas	
26 th Kwanzaa begins	
31 st New Year's Eve – Flip Flop Drop	