

# The Role the Marshes Play

*The City is moving to protect the marshes which preserve the health of Folly Beach's islands. The Sandspur asked Anton DuMars to describe the role marshes play in our island's ecosystem. DuMars is a long-time Folly resident who teaches geology at the College of Charleston. Until recently, he ran a boat tour into the marshes and rivers around Folly. One highlight was daubing pluff mud onto the cheeks of passengers.*

Salt marshes are among the most productive ecosystems on the planet. They form in the protected environment shoreward of barrier islands. Tides force salty ocean water into and out of this back-barrier environment through inlets between islands. Sand-size and larger sediments don't typically enter this back-barrier setting. Instead, they're left behind on higher-energy depositional environments, such as beaches and inlet deltas. In the saltmarsh, fine-grained silt and clay-size sediments deposit behind dam-like oyster banks to become what's locally known as pluff mud.

*Spartina alterniflora* (also known as smooth cordgrass or marsh grass) sprouts through the pluff mud, forming a monoculture of high plant abundance, but low diversity. In contrast to this single-species sea of spartina grass, diversity among saltmarsh organisms is high. Mollusks, arthropods, fish, and mammals thrive in this food-rich environment. When spartina grass decomposes, the detritus forms the base of the food chain. It all starts with the marsh grass.

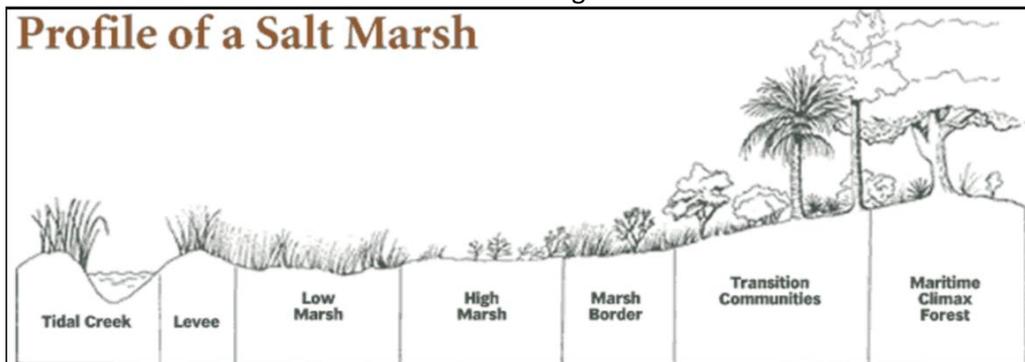
Unlike the dynamic ocean side of a barrier island, where changes occur daily, decades to centuries must pass for significant natural change to occur in a saltmarsh. In fact, tidal creeks seen on the most recent NOAA nautical charts are found very close to the locations they were surveyed 150 years ago for Civil War-era charts.

Islands and salt marshes translate water to and from each other. Fresh surface and ground water flow into the saltmarsh from the islands. Salty tidal water flows onto and into the sediments of the island from the saltmarsh, forming a limited fresh-salt interface zone. Diverse plant species found at this interface zone indicate a transition between saltmarsh and terrestrial environments.

The salt marsh is commonly divided into two ecologic zones: *low marsh* and *high marsh*. *Spartina* defines the low marsh. It grows in a vertical range from mean (average) high tide elevation up to the saltwater-freshwater interface, the upper limit of the *low marsh*. *Spartina* does not thrive below mean high tide elevation. Instead, prolonged tidal flooding causes it to drown. Above this salt-fresh interface, *spartina* gives way to *high marsh* species, such as black needle rush and salt meadow cordgrass. Above the high marsh, shrub forest plants, including wax myrtle and red cedar, indicate a transition to upland (full terrestrial) plant varieties.

As sea level rises, these ecological zones will need space to move landward. In other words, when sea level rises, what was once a high marsh environment transitions to become a low marsh environment. What was a predominantly a freshwater shrub environment will become a salt-tolerant high marsh environment.

*Spartina's* narrow ecologic range makes it especially susceptible to sea level rise. The slow rate of change typical to a saltmarsh compounds this sea level rise threat. If the saltmarsh is unable to transition at a rate equal to sea level rise, the marsh grass will drown, reducing the area to less-productive mud flats. Providing room for the marsh to migrate landward is vital for saltmarsh health.



[https://sherpaguides.com/georgia/coast/natural\\_history/natural\\_communities.html](https://sherpaguides.com/georgia/coast/natural_history/natural_communities.html)

# Clubs and Organizations

## Civic Club

Our January Civic Club meeting was well attended by returning and new members, the presentation by Mayor Tim Goodwin was informative and educational (Thank You!), Club business was conducted, and lots of fun was had during the social part of the meeting. In response to membership requests, future meetings will have this format of a balance between informative presentations, Club business and priorities, and socialization.

The February meeting on Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Community Center/Library will feature Lauren Russ, Executive Director of the Low Country Marine Mammal Network. The mission of this nonprofit organization is to protect marine mammals through, science initiatives, educational programming, and conservation. Members are asked to come to the meeting with possible fundraising ideas and presentation topics/speakers for the Civic Club. All residents of Folly Beach are welcome to attend this meeting.

**Katherine Houghton (781) 254-2302**  
**[khoughton2259@gmail.com](mailto:khoughton2259@gmail.com)**

## Home and Garden Club

414 West Indian, retirement home of Tom and Sue Verville since 2014, is February's yard of the month. The Vervilles selected this location for its marsh view, our small town environment, and - last but not least - the beach.

The garden's most distinctive feature, an adult sized pot man, was left by the original owners. The Vervilles had to replace his head, and they've graced him with rose of sharon hair. Tom made "no grass" the first priority in designing his garden. His focus is on native, salt-tolerant plants. A sand berm was created in the front bed to add contour. Stones have been laid to contain this area.

Large crepe myrtles frame both side beds, with a pindo palm in the center. Red verbenas were planted in the bed to the right, with a native azalea and giant leopard plants. A banana tree flourishes near the entry, aided by Tom's gardening secret, potassium. Iron plants anchor this area. A palmetto tree provides the finishing touch.

A Chinese fan palm dwells to the left. Creeping rosemary offers purple blooms and ground cover, with a sago palm providing texture. Two meyer lemon trees brought from their former home are far left.

Tom relishes his garden-in-progress, believing balance in the garden contributes to serenity of the mind. Congrats to the Vervilles in their friendly, helpful neighborhood on Folly.

The garden club will meet at noon in the Community Center on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to Troy

Burgess with Carolina Irrigation, who spoke at our January meeting. Happy Valentine's day,

**Lynn Ray Smalley (843) 588-0093**  
**[9touchstone9@gmail.com](mailto:9touchstone9@gmail.com)**

## Exchange Club

Our Holiday Party is tentatively Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm at Locklears on Little Oak (LoLo's). Our Public Works cook-out, when we show appreciation to our public workers, is being scheduled. The Exchange/FAB Golf Tournament will be held Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>; to learn more about team signups, sponsorships, and volunteering, please contact DJ Rich at planet\_follywood@yahoo.com.

Hats off to Angus Smith for being named South Carolina's District 48 Treasurer, and John Merritt Jr. for receiving the National Exchange Club's 2018 Distinguished Secretary Award! A big thanks to members who helped clean up the hut after another big flooding (especially to Matt Geringer and Greg Marshall for putting in our new door and framework). The club is also in the process of getting new chairs and paver ramps installed by the doors.

**John Merritt Jr 843-847-9823**  
**[fbexchangeclub@gmail.com](mailto:fbexchangeclub@gmail.com)**

## Senior Citizens

Folly Beach Seniors will meet Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 11am in the Community Center. All 55 and older are invited. Our main dish will be fried chicken, provided by Jacob Carter. All others please bring your favorite dish.

Thanks go to our January speaker, Erin Bell from the SC Sea Grant Consortium. She showed an interesting video containing items found during the clean sweep. Plastic straws were the number one item. Jennifer Harris from Wings for Kids will speak at our February meeting.

As always, let's remember our sick and shut ins. We began the new year by delivering a fruit basket to a Folly Shut in. We wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**Pauline Ray (843) 588-9580**

## Green Team

Join us February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center, when we host Andrew Dunn from Southern Current who will discuss "How Solar Power Works" and "Why Go Solar." He will also discuss important 2019 changes to SC Solar Programs. Folly residents who have installed solar will be available to answer questions and describe the benefits of going solar. The presentation will begin at 6 pm. We will also provide information on a Home Energy Footprint Contest sponsored by the Green Team

**Teresa Marshall (828) 553-4670**  
**[teresa.marshall56@hotmail.com](mailto:teresa.marshall56@hotmail.com)**

## Arts and Crafts Guild

The Guild will meet Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Kerry Hupp (843) 345-8739**  
**[kerryhupp@bellsouth.net](mailto:kerryhupp@bellsouth.net)**

## From the Desk of the Mayor

Happy Valentine's Day! February is upon us and looks to bring winter with it, although we cannot complain -- it has been a wonderful winter thus far. I hope everyone will continue to have a good winter season.

February will not only bring Valentine's Day, but also the South Eastern Wildlife Expo. I look forward to this not only bringing an exciting time to Charleston, but also bringing visitors to the Edge of America. This gives our economy a little boost and helps us get ready to face another tourist season.

Speaking of tourists, February also brings Folly the Save The Light Run on Saturday 2/2/19, Cupid Undie Run on 2/9/19, and Folly Gras on 2/23/19 (rain date 3/2/19). All these dates are Saturdays in February.

February also gives us Valentine's Day and a real opportunity to enjoy some or all of the specials that will be advertised in our local restaurants. Dress up in you finest Valentine's attire and bring your loved ones down to enjoy all the local specials for that day.

A special reminder; due to scheduling conflicts for out of town meetings for Council, Mayor and our City Administrator, the City Council meeting will be on the **Second Monday, 2/11/19**, at 7 pm. Don't forget to mark your calendars for this change.

In January, I was contacted by citizens that needed some questions answered. They were apologetic to be calling me and taking up some of my time. Please don't hesitate to call me if you need a question answered, information as to who to contact for a certain problem, or you just want to say hello. That's why I end these columns with: If you need any questions answered or you want to find out the truth about the latest rumor, contact me at [tgoodwin@cityoffollybeach.com](mailto:tgoodwin@cityoffollybeach.com) or (843) 729-0298. Have a good month. I hope to see you on the beach.

*Mayor Tim*

## The Chief's Corner

February typically brings with it even colder weather, so please continue to use caution with any supplemental heating sources. Exposed pipes can be subject to bursting, so please cover them where possible.

Your public safety department has quite a bit of training and internal audit tasks to do in February as we prepare for the spring that is quickly approaching. We are also in preparations for the "Folly Gras" event Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Andrew Gilreath (843) 588-7003**  
[agilreath@cityoffollybeach.com](mailto:agilreath@cityoffollybeach.com)

## From the City.....

..... Stay informed about the city's planning initiatives and meeting schedules at: <https://www.cityoffollybeach.com/city-departments-services/building-planning-and-business-licenses/planning-documents/>

..... February's regular City Council Meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

..... 2019 tide charts are available for pickup at City Hall.

..... The deadline for annual Rental and Business License renewals was February 1<sup>st</sup>. Penalties for late renewals increase each month. If you use an agent, make sure the agent has renewed your license.

## Development Moratorium Meetings

There are several key meetings in February related to the shoreline development moratorium:

- On **Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**, the Planning Commission will consider five ordinances affecting riverfront properties, including private docks, marsh island zoning, height limits, erosion mitigation and buffer preservation, and exterior lighting.
- On **Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**, new property elevation and septic requirements will be considered at a Council work session.
- At 7 pm on **Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**, Council will remand a package of proposed ordinances to the Planning Commission for public hearings. Council will also give first reading to property elevation and septic amendments, and Second (final) reading to five oceanfront amendments and ordinances.
- At 7 pm on **Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**, the Planning Commission will hold public hearings on amendments affecting front beach development, and will finalize new requirements for frontage and for mergers of lots with shared lot lines.

For more information on these meetings, and for links to the proposed ordinances and amendments, go to [www.cityoffollybeach.com](http://www.cityoffollybeach.com), put "moratorium" in the search box, and select "Planning Initiatives and Documents."



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Invited.



You Can Sign Up to Donate by either

- Going to [REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG](http://REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG) and using Sponsor Code **FOLLY**
- Or, emailing [deacondave73@gmail.com](mailto:deacondave73@gmail.com) and I will sign you up

**Saturday, March 2**  
**9am -2 pm**  
**Tides Hotel**

# Folly Fun Stuff!

The date of the start of the New Women's Bible Study offered by the Folly Beach Baptist Church has been changed to February 5th and will be offered on Tuesdays at 9:30 am and 6:30 pm and on Thursdays at 9:30 am in the Education Building of the Church. The study has also been changed to a seven- week study titled: "Gideon" by Priscilla Shirer.



Our Lady of Good Counsel Men's Club is having a **benefit oyster roast** on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 4-8 pm in Father Kelly Hall, 105 West Hudson. \$25 for oyster eaters, \$12 for non-oyster eaters. All you can eat steamed local oysters, catfish stew, hamburgers, hot dogs, desserts, and drinks. Live entertainment by Marilyn Clifford and Overexposure. Get tickets from Club members, at Sunday Mass, or at the door February 9<sup>th</sup> (if space is available).



**Folly Gras** returns to Center Street February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10 am-4 pm. The parade starts at 11 am. Live music and over 40 food, arts and crafts vendors. Two kids' areas with Mardi Gras inspired fun, crafts, activities, and inflatables. For questions, contact Kelly Russ, [FollyFABEvents@gmail.com](mailto:FollyFABEvents@gmail.com) or 843-323-5607.

Folly residents and kids 12 and under are free. \$10 tickets are available at VisitFolly.com, City Hall, and the Library, or at the door (cash only). Parade participants will get into the festival free, but must pre-register at VisitFolly.com. The motor vehicle fee is \$20. Walkers and golf carts are free. Center Street will close between Huron and Arctic from 7 am-6:30 pm. Two-way traffic on West Arctic from Center to 2nd West. Huron and Indian open to traffic. Residents will be able to enter at both sides of Hudson and Cooper.

## FOLLY BEACH LIBRARY

We have Storytime and a craft Mondays at 10:30 am **except Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> when we close for Presidents' Day.** Our After-School STEAM Club will also meet Mondays at 3:30 pm. We will open Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 am-2 pm. The Folly Beach Book Club will meet Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm to discuss "Lilac Girls" by Martha Hall Kelly. For more information on any of these programs, give us a call or check out the library's web page [www.ccpl.org](http://www.ccpl.org).

**Mary Bushkar (843) 588-2001**  
[bushkarm@ccpl.org](mailto:bushkarm@ccpl.org)

## COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS ON FOLLY

843-795-4386 or [www.charlestoncountyparks.com](http://www.charlestoncountyparks.com) to register or for info.

**Save the Light Half Marathon & 5K – Saturday, February 2nd** at the Pier to support Save the Light in preserving the Morris Island Lighthouse. Both races are USATF-certified, and start and finish near the Pier. Half Marathon is a run-only event; 5K open to runners and walkers. Register online for **Half Marathon**: \$50; **5K**: \$30. Online and phone registration ends January 31st. Registration available at The Tides Hotel Friday, February 1st from 4-7 pm, and race day from 7-8 am for \$60 (half marathon) and \$36 (5K). Both races begin at 8:30 am. Awards and post-race food will be provided.

**Seabirding at Folly Beach Pier Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>- 8:30-10 am.** Targets include grebes, loons, gulls, terns, etc. Paid chaperone required for ages 15 and under. Meet at Pier entrance. Age 12 and up. Fee: \$6

# The Sandspur

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PO BOX 884 – FOLLY BEACH, SC 29439  
[www.facebook.com/Folly Beach Civic Club](http://www.facebook.com/Folly Beach Civic Club)  
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Meetings: [cityoffollybeach.com/streaming](http://cityoffollybeach.com/streaming)  
or Comcast channel 195

## LIBRARY HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY 10-6      WEDNESDAY 12-8  
FRIDAY 10-6      2<sup>nd</sup> SATURDAY 10-2  
**CLOSED MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>**

## CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

### Council Chambers

11 <sup>th</sup> Council meeting	7pm
20 <sup>th</sup> Joint Planning/Council meeting	7pm
14 <sup>th</sup> Design Review Board	6pm
26 <sup>th</sup> Parks and Recreation Board	6pm

### Clubs, Organizations & Committees

6 <sup>th</sup> Save the Light	7pm
7 <sup>th</sup> Senior Citizens	11am
Folly Green Team	6pm
Folly Association of Business	6pm
Exchange Club Board	7pm
19 <sup>th</sup> Civic Club	7pm
21 <sup>st</sup> Exchange Club	7pm
25 <sup>th</sup> Garden Club	noon

### Library

4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>st</sup> Story Time, craft	10:30am
4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>st</sup> STEAM Club	3:30pm
9 <sup>th</sup> Open Saturday	10am -2pm
13 <sup>th</sup> Book Club:	2:30pm

*Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly*

### Recycling

11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>

### Volunteer Fire Fighters

5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup>	6pm
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### Special Events

2 <sup>nd</sup> Groundhog Day	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Save the Light Race	8am
3 <sup>rd</sup> Super Bowl	
5 <sup>th</sup> Chinese New Years	
12 <sup>th</sup> Lincoln's Birthday	
14 <sup>th</sup> Valentine's Day	
18 <sup>th</sup> Presidents' Day holiday	
22 <sup>nd</sup> Washington's Birthday	
23 <sup>rd</sup> Folly Gras	10am