

The Turtles are Coming!

It's 6 am. The sun is rising. Ghost crabs scurry about, sensing the approaching daylight. About 10-15 volunteers, clad in this season's white turtle crew shirts, begin their daily patrol of Folly Beach's 6.1 miles of beach. Yes, the 2019 sea turtle season officially begins May 1st and will continue well into October, or until all the nests have hatched.



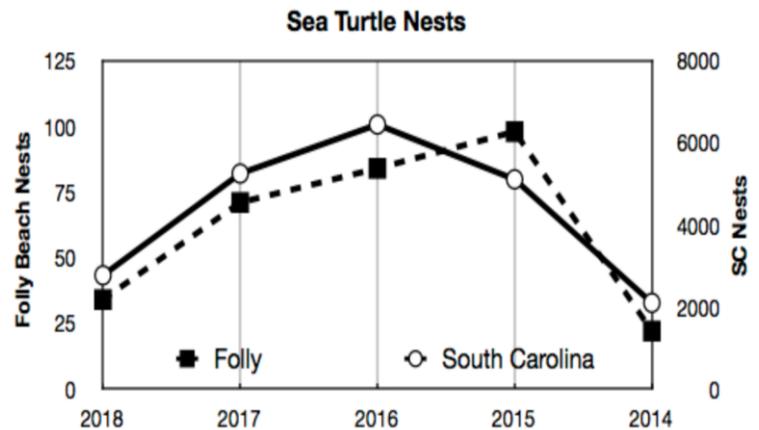
A loggerhead turtle comes ashore

The white shirted volunteers are among the 60 or more Folly Beach Turtle Watch (FBTW) volunteers who are trained to walk our beach looking for signs of nests or adverse conditions that may harm or impede a sea turtle (such as holes in the sand, sandcastles, and discarded chairs or toys). They also look for lighting violations which can discourage females from nesting and can disorient hatchlings, leading them inland where they often die from exposure. If a nest is found, a loggerhead turtle nesting sign is posted and the area is roped off to keep it from being trampled or disturbed. If the nest is at risk of frequent tidal inundation, it is carefully relocated to a higher location near the dunes.

The FBTW Team is one of more than 30 teams patrolling South Carolina beaches. "There's over 300 kilometers of ocean-facing beach that my staff of five just can't do every day for five months straight, so we rely heavily on these folks," says Michelle Pate, coordinator for the state's Marine Turtle Conservation Program. "They're long term, they're dedicated, passionate, very great beach stewards."

What kind of season can we expect this year? The chart below shows the number of nests on Folly Beach and on all South Carolina beaches from 2014-2018. Although Folly's nest count has declined for three years, scientists tell us there is no cause for concern. It is very possible, even probable, that the 2019 season will see a significant increase in nests. A loggerhead has already nested on Kiawah.

According to Pate, the earliest groups started around 1982. Pate said that after the groups started spearheading conservation efforts, the percentage of hatchlings making it off the beach skyrocketed — from 10% to as much as 88%.



Data from seaturtle.org

Female sea turtles begin coming on shore to lay nests only when the surface sea water temperature is consistently 68F or higher. The waters around Folly Beach usually don't reach this temperature until May. From 2013 through 2018, the first Folly Beach nest was laid between May 13th and May 18th. The turtles continue to lay nests until late July or early August. Meanwhile, after about 45 to 65 days of incubation, the first nests begin hatching in late June to early July and continue to hatch as late as mid-October, marking the end of the turtle season.

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Clubs and Organizations

Civic Club

The April Civic Club meeting featured a panel presentation by Folly Beach officials Spencer Wetmore, City Administrator, Chief Andrew Gilreath, Director of Public Safety, Eric Lutz, Director of Buildings, Facilities, and Public Works, Lee Gessner, Director of Finance, and Colleen Jolley, Community Coordinator.

Our upcoming meeting on Tuesday, May 21st at 7 pm in the Community Center/Library will include a talk by Dr. Bobby Boessenecker, College of Charleston, Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences who will speak about the early evolution of whales and dolphins in the Charleston embayment. Civic Club members will also discuss the June Club Picnic, our Halloween Carnival, and the Folly Beach Calendar created and distributed by the Club. Folly Beach residents and employees are encouraged to attend our activities.

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Home and Garden Club

May's Yard of the Month, 1103 East Arctic, is home to Theresa and Mark Bonney. An open green wooden fence defines their entry of pervious pavers with pink camellias, Boston ferns and plumbago preceding boxwoods on each side. A live oak frames the front left bed with a statue of Saint Francis of Assisi (her gift to her husband; his prayer is their favorite). Coral azaleas and fluid muhly grass surround a birdhouse with pink camellias behind. Silver saw palms waft along the far right.

A lustrous magnolia which blossoms twice a year protects their viewing bench, with deep purple spider wort for accent among Boston ferns and pink camellias and a bed of zoysia. Palmetto trees catch the breeze along the left side. Pink-tipped muhly grass and pink azaleas march beneath. The birth of dormant blossoms is Theresa's joy in gardening while viewing song birds in the front and dolphins and pelicans on the ocean.

April's Yard of the Month was the yellow home at 120 West Hudson, owned by Michael Norton for a quarter century. He bought it as soon as a "for sale" sign went up.

His mother was a gardener and he owned a flower shop, instilling his gardening gene. The landscaping has evolved over the years without a plan. David Israel, a landscape designer for whom the Garden Club Memory Garden is named, took it to the next level. Better Homes and Gardens featured it in July 2005.

It is a plush tropical garden with a meandering gravel path and koi pond with lily pads and tinkling fountain. Fruit trees flourish nearby: Meyer lemon, orange, grapefruit, lime and even tangerine. A greenhouse beyond is home to azaleas, laurapedelum, and yellow bush daisies. Spikey orange succulents lead to an Indian hawthorn and a hydrangea tree. A

statue of David, head resting on his feet, survives near purple Mexican petunias and flowing grasses.

Encased by orange canna lilies, bird of paradise and a line of Boston ferns, statuesque Diana looms. Closer to the Hudson entry, live oaks cascade above red camellias and a lantern man. Kudos to him for the ongoing and ageless beauty in his garden.

The Garden Club will meet Tuesday, May 28th at noon for lunch at Saint James Gate, followed by a tour of private local gardens. Happy 87th birthday to Pauline Ray, my Mother. Happy Mother's Day! ***Lynn Ray Smalley (843) 588-0093***
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Exchange Club

A big thanks to everyone who helped at our yard sale, especially those who donated items. Proceeds were donated to Dee Norton Children's center at our April dinner meeting in honor of child abuse awareness month. A big thanks also to the Folly Angels who helped at our golf tournament. Tournament proceeds were donated to the Folly Angels.

Exchange club scholarships will be offered to incoming college freshmen or current college students. Applications will go out this month. We will put up American flag displays in honor of Memorial Day and Flag Day this coming May and June!

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Senior Citizens

Folly Beach Seniors will meet Thursday, May 2nd at 11 am in the Community Center. All 55 and older are invited. Our main dish will be fried chicken provided by Johnny Carter. All others are asked to bring their favorite dish. Our speaker will be Lisa Zobel, Program Manager of the Low Country Senior Center. Come see what the program offers for seniors. Thanks to our April speaker, Lauren Rust, from Low Country Marine Mammal Network.

We always want to remember our sick and shut ins. We wish all a Happy Mother's Day. ***Pauline Ray (843) 588-9580***

Green Team

Green Team members have visited local restaurants checking their straw policy. We want to thank the following restaurants who have switched from plastic straws to biodegradable straws or are not automatically providing straws to their customers: Taco Boy, BLU, Black Magic, Jack of Cups, Drop In Deli, and Low Life. Do your part: tell your server you don't want a straw.

We are sponsoring a Home Energy Contest for Folly residents. Our FB page (gofollygreen) has an overview. Contest applications, due June 15th, are at the front desk at City Hall.

Our May meeting is Thursday, May 2nd at 6 pm at the Community Center. Our guest speaker will be Olivia Bueno and Mary Bryan from Charleston Surfrider. They will discuss going strawless on Folly.

Teresa Marshall (828) 553-4670
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From the Desk of the Mayor

Welcome to May and the beginning of Spring and the 2019 tourist season! What an early treat we have had in some very nice weather. But with the nice weather come the visitors and traffic. Our Public Safety Department is working hard to control the traffic and keep it moving, but it is the time of year that we all need to adjust our schedules to include some traffic delays on the weekends. Ahh, one of the costs of living in Paradise.

May 1st began another Turtle Season for our State. Be on the lookout for those turtle tracks on the beach as the Mama turtles come to lay their eggs. You will recognize the track -- they look like small tractor tracks in the sand. Remember, if you see a turtle on the beach, laying eggs, or a marked turtle nest; do not harass the turtle, interfere with their nesting, or disturb a turtle nest. It is a Federal Offense with severe penalties.

With the month of May comes City Council's favorite time of year, Budget Time! Over the next weeks, we will enjoy each other's company as we trudge through another budget. The workbooks have been distributed to Council; as always, they represented a balanced budget with no tax increase proposed. We will work through each Department Head's request and see where we come out on the other end. The finished project will be presented for a vote in June, so be on the look-out for this budget presentation. It is how your tax dollars will be used. As over the last years, I am certain the citizens of Folly will be happy with the outcome as we decide the best use of our tax dollars at work.

City Staff and I continue to try to have some derelict boats removed from our waterways. The bids are out and waiting on their return, with a contract to be awarded by City Council. Hopefully, this can be accomplished without impacting our major boating season.

All citizens need to be aware of the Island-wide 25 mile per hour speed limit and adjust your speed accordingly. I know it is hard to keep that speed, but the PSO's are out writing tickets to help make our Island safer. I don't know about you; but I am going to do my best to keep from getting an invitation to our Municipal Court.

Speaking of Court, welcome to our newest addition, her Honor Judge Kate Schmutz. Judge Schmutz will be a great addition to our court system. Congratulations also go out to Judge Chris Skipper, Folly's new Lead Judge.

Last, but certainly not least, a reminder that June 1st is the beginning of the 2019 Hurricane Season! While the predictions thus far have this season to be slower than normal; remember it only takes one bad storm, and we could be in recovery mode for several years. Plan now to evacuate, have a communication plan with your family, gather your supplies, and know your

evacuation routes. A little time planning now could be the life saver of the future.

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

Mayor Tim

Free Clinic to Serve Folly

The Barrier Islands Free Health Clinic, which has served 2,400 poor Johns Island, James Island and Wadmalaw adults aged 18-65 since 2008, has voted to add people who live or work on Folly Beach. To be eligible, you must be uninsured, and your income must be less than 200% of the Federal poverty level (currently \$24,980 for single persons, and \$51,500 for a family of four). The Clinic expects that most Folly patients will be food and beverage and other workers, but that some Folly residents will qualify.

The clinic was started by two retired doctors from Atlanta. It is staffed by 36 retired doctors and 25 retired nurses who volunteer one morning or afternoon a week to provide free primary care and free orthopedic, dermatology, gynecology, and psychiatry clinics and health classes. Patient services include low- or no-cost generic prescriptions as needed, with free imaging and scans provided by Roper St. Francis Hospital. Patients needing obstetrical or dental care or other specialized care are referred to 25 other free clinics.

The Clinic has grown steadily since its founding. A new facility on Maybank Highway with seven exam rooms was donated last year. It currently serves 400 patients a month, but the new facility will permit it to expand to serve 600 patients a month.

To find out more, go to the clinic web page at www.bifmc.org, go to 3226 Maybank Highway, Building C, Johns Island, SC 29455, or call 843-266-9800.

The clinic engages in constant fund-raising to provide its services, including a golf invitational, a wine festival, and a tennis tournament, and various fund-raising gatherings. It also relies on volunteers to support its medical practitioners and is looking to expand its roster of volunteer medical personnel. To help the clinic raise funds to support its services, or to volunteer, go to the website and check out the "How you can help" section.

From the Editor:

My apologies to Sandspur readers for not getting an April Sandspur out to you. I was in the hospital, and the spirit was willing, but the flesh, as they say, was weak. This is a combined April/May issue, with some material from April which is not time-limited.

Susan Breslin

Folly Fun Stuff!



Folly Beach Arts & Crafts Guild is sponsoring Art in the Park on Saturday May 18th from 10 am-4 pm. Handmade arts & crafts by local artisans, kids' crafts, hoops on the lawn, T&T Kettle Korn, music by Chris Sullivan Admission is Free. Fun for the whole family.



Folly Family Fun Night will start Tuesday, June 25th with music and child-centered entertainment in the Folly River Park every Tuesday night through July 30th. Volunteers are welcome. Call Colleen Jolley at (843)-513-1836.



Hands Across the Sand, an international organization to "say no to fossil fuels and yes to clean energy," will link hands on Saturday, May 18th from 10 am to noon next to the Folly Pier.

FOLLY BEACH LIBRARY

We have Storytime Mondays at 10:30 am on May 6th, 13th, and 20th. We will be closed for Memorial Day, May 27th. The Folly Beach Book Club will meet on Wednesday, May 8th at 2:30 pm. We will discuss "The Graceland Tales" by Donna Prescott. We will be open from 10 am-2 p.m. on Saturday, May 11th. For more information on any of these programs, feel free to call us or check out the library's web page: www.ccpl.org.

Mary Bushkar (843) 588-2001
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COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS ON FOLLY

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

Wheel to Surf, County Park, Saturday May 4th, 9 am-2 p.m.

Provides individuals with physical disabilities a chance to experience surfing! Adaptive surfing staff will provide instruction and assistance in a controlled environment. Participants must meet guidelines prior to registration. No fee. Age 4 up

Lighthouse Inlet Bird Walk - Friday May 10th, 8:30-10:30 am. Age 12 up. \$7

Coastal Kayaking Workshop - Level 3. County Park, Saturday May 18th, 9 am- 3 pm. Age 16 up. \$85.

Dawn Patrol Adult SUP Surf Camp, County Park, Tuesday May 21st-Friday May 24th, 6:30-8 am. Age 16 up. \$165

Introduction to Short Boat Surf Kayaking, County Park, Saturday, May 25th, 8 am-noon. Age 16 up. \$65.

SUP the Surf Zone, County Park, Saturday May 25th, 8 am-noon. Age 16 up. \$65.

Moonlight Mixers are back! The first dance of the 2019 season is Friday, May 24th from 7-11 pm at the Folly Beach Pier. Admission in advance is \$8 per person. On-site site tickets are \$10 (if available). Advance purchase is recommended -- tickets are limited. Beverages can be purchased on site.

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, MAY 27TH

CALENDAR FOR MAY

Council Chambers

1 st Community Promotions	6pm
2 nd Folly Beach Green Team	6pm
6 th Planning Commission	7pm
8 th Tourism & Visitor Promotion	6pm
14 th Council work session	5pm
14 th Council meeting	7pm
18 th Hands Across the Sands	10am
20 th Design Review Board	6pm
28 th Parks and Recreation Board	6pm

Clubs, Organizations & Committees

7 th Save the Light	7pm
7 th Senior Citizens	11am
Folly Green Team	6pm
Folly Association of Business	6pm
16 th Exchange Club Board	7pm
21 st Civic Club	7pm
23 rd Exchange Club	7pm
28 th Garden Club	noon

Library

6 th , 13 th , 20 th Story Time, craft	10:30am
8 th Book Club:	2:30pm
<i>Graceland Tales by Donna Prescott</i>	
9 th Open Saturday	10am-2pm

Recycling

13th, 28th

Volunteer Fire Fighters

7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th	6pm
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Special Events

1 st Mayday
5 th Cinco de Mayo
12 th Mothers' Day
18 th Armed Forces Day
27 th Memorial Day