On February 3 when Susan Breslin passed, Folly Beach lost a remarkable woman. Susan was a force on Folly - a long-standing editor of the Sandspur, a member of the Civic Club and Planning Commission, Folly Beach Citizen of the Year, and an active and outspoken participant and sometime candidate in local politics. However, her Folly years were just the final phase of an incredibly well-lived life that included stints as journalist, 12 hour shifts in a typing sweatshop, civil rights activist, office manager, city planner, professor, education policy developer, and owner of a consulting company.

Like her two older sisters, Susan attended high school at Kenwood Academy in Albany NY and graduated from the University of Toronto. In 1963 as a 24-year-old journalist in Montreal, Susan visited friends in New York City who convinced her to attend a CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) meeting. After the meeting Susan said "Wow! This is the movement of our time. This is the big thing of my generation, and I have to be part of it." Susan returned to Montreal, packed her belongings, gave up her career as a journalist, and moved to NYC.

Throughout the 60's Susan volunteered full time at the Harlem CORE office "trying to change the world to a place where everybody could live to their potential. And the most obvious area for that at that time was black people." There were sit-ins, stall-ins, letter writing, marches, bomb threats, demonstrations, and Susan's favorite - the TV Image Campaign. This was an "incredibly important project. We went after the major advertisers in the country to force them, basically, to integrate their ads and create a more favorable depiction of black life in America." Luther Seabrook, a long time CORE colleague of Susan's, described Susan during her Harlem days as "a spunky little white woman standing on the corner of 125th Street and Lenox Avenue in the heart of Harlem, holding a TV and offering passers by one dollar for every black face they could find on the TV." After 6 weeks Susan and her colleagues were able to give away only fifteen dollars.

The next phase of Susan's life began in the 70's. Susan had left CORE, or rather vice versa. "I had moved on by that time, and I was working for Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, an organization that provided technical assistance to communities. It came out of the urban planning department." Susan later became an adjunct professor at Pratt working in Urban and Regional Planning. "I eventually became a city planner, and I specialized in education planning. Mostly I would project enrollment so that they would have some sense of what kind of buildings they needed. But I also did a lot of education policy stuff." Transitioning from New York to South Carolina in the latter part of her career, Susan consulted on both urban planning as well as educational reform.

Surprisingly, it was Spoleto that attracted Susan to Folly. After hearing about Spoleto, Susan asked a
Charleston friend to find a beach house for her during Spoleto. "They said, 'oh, we'll find you a beach house.' And it was Folly Beach. And I just kept coming back. I loved it. There was something wild about Folly Beach. It's a wild and crazy place." In 1995 Susan bought her own beach house on Folly and became a full time resident. She spent the last 25 years of her life on Folly. Susan did not readily share her private thoughts but she confided in her family that "the happiest years of my life were my years at Folly."

And what an active 25 years they were. She immersed herself in local causes and local politics. Many past and current elected officials on Folly Beach owe their election, at least in part, to Susan. Candidates understood Susan's influence and knew that without her support, Susan could be "the most dangerous person on Folly Beach." Congressman Joe Cunningham said "Susan believed in me even before my wife and mother did. My relationship with Folly Beach and Mayor Goodwin is entirely due to Susan."

Susan was a fighter for the cause. She loved the fight. She absolutely loved it. And she was good at it. She was persistent and "would push a rock uphill for weeks until she pushed it to the top." She told a class at The Citadel that "I am tearing up Folly Beach pretty good." Susan could be combative, unfiltered, and controversial. As Mike Henning described her - "Susan was an acquired taste. But Susan was color blind. She fought for the rights of anyone who needed something done for them." Susan was most motivated when advocating for those she considered vulnerable.

Most near and dear to Susan was the Sandspur. She was the editor of the Sandspur from 2012 until just a few months ago when her body told her no more. Near the end, Susan had pared her life down to just what she thought was important and what she thought Folly Beach needed - the Sandspur. Even then, while in a nursing home, in a wheel chair and with a broken arm, with cancer and congestive heart disease, Susan continued to edit the Sandspur with one finger. Yes, she was a fighter and we will always remember and love her.

**Go and find your issue of the generation, because you can really make a difference.**

**And every little step creates controversy, but the controversy doesn't last long. What lasts is that a door has been opened a little wider.**

Susan Breslin

The family has designated the Folly Beach History Museum for memorial contributions.

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**Folly Election Coming in April**

Three council seats will be filled by voters in the 2020 municipal election Tuesday, April 7th. Candidates for these offices are profiled on pages 3 and 4. Here are some things to know about the election.

- Incumbent Council members Laurie Hull and Teresa Marshall are not running for re-election. Eddie Ellis is the only incumbent Council member on the ballot.
- You can vote for one, two, or three Council candidates. If you vote for fewer than three, the machine will prompt you to vote for more candidates, but you do not have to.
- Voting will take place from 7 am to 7 pm at the Baptist Fellowship Hall, 61 W. Indian.
- There is still time to register to vote in the Folly election. The last day to register to vote by mail is March 7th, 2020. The last day to register to vote in person is March 6th, 2020. Marlene Estridge, the City Clerk, has forms and can assist you (843-513-1830).
- You can vote absentee by mail in this election. Call the County Board of Elections at 843-744-VOTE (8683) to get an absentee ballot application.
- There will be a hearing to certify the election results on Thursday April 9th, 2020 at 11:00 am in Council Chambers located at 21 Center Street. Run-off election, if necessary, will be held Tuesday April 21st, 2020.
- There will also be the following referendum question on the ballot: Shall the City of Folly Beach, South Carolina, be authorized to acquire by initial construction or purchase and thereafter establish, improve, operate and maintain a water utility system and plants?

**Meet the Candidates Forum**

The Civic Club’s Meet the Candidates Forum is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17th, 7 pm at the Community Center. There is a box there now for your questions, and pencil and paper will be handed out the night of the forum.
Council Candidate  Adam Barker

Hello, my name is Adam Barker, Folly Beach property owner as of 2008 and resident beginning 2013. I’ve served you on the Board of Zoning Appeals from 2014-17 and since then as Vice Chairman of the Planning Commission never missing a meeting.

Following years of the same, we must flip the script and focus the conversation on the low-lying backside of the island, not just the beach. Did you know that 90% of properties on our oceanfront are armored (e.g., seawall) yet only 10% are on the marsh? Well on 4/9/19 with little fanfare, Amended Ordinance 05-19 was passed into law, establishing a ten-foot buffer from the marsh onto the property owners high ground prohibiting within which any “land disturbing activities.”

Now as sea-level rises one inch every two years (Charleston County 2019 Comprehensive Plan) that buffer will move or retreat landward first overtaking yards, then homes, and finally, many good folks’ Folly dream. This affects approximately 600 property owners alongside the marsh, and hundreds more across the street from them, taking into account where the water goes when we experience king tides, strong onshore winds causing “sunny day flooding”, and of course hurricanes.

Stand with me to “protect the edge,” allowing citizens to safeguard their property and potentially yours, by placing (or replacing damaged) berms and bulkheads where most appropriate. Concurrently I’ll address an array of livability challenges including nuisance rentals, pedestrian safety, utilities infrastructure, and historic preservation.

For more information contact me at (704) 299-0797, barker_adam@yahoo.com, or https://m.facebook.com/barker4folly/about.

Council Candidate  Eddie Ellis

Hi! I'm Eddie Ellis! Folly Beach has been my home since July, 1992. I have been a local business owner/operator for 22 years, a Folly property owner for 15 years, and a city council member for 16 years. I'm currently running for re-election.

As a council member, I have sponsored and passed legislation that STOPS OVERDEVELOPMENT, including an ordinance that prohibits any further condo/multi-family development, and a height limit and marsh setback in a zoning district that had neither. I have worked with Mayor, Council, and Planning to control the density of development, and to keep Folly primarily a residential community.

I have worked to PROTECT the ENVIRONMENT, including having the 78 acres of marsh surrounding Peas Island donated to Folly and placed in The Folly Beach Nature Conservancy, of which I'm a board member. Most recently, I worked with Mayor, Council, and Planning to establish a beachfront buffer zone and a marsh setback.

The safety of our community is a priority. Most recently I have worked to bring pedestrian walkways to our second streets and around our commercial district. I sponsored and passed legislation that removed Folly from County Dispatch, and returned our LOCAL DISPATCH.

Serving on council is my love and passion! I bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the table.

I awake every day eager to serve! Therefore, I ask for your vote on April 7th. I can be reached at eddieellis333@gmail.com or 843-518-1670
Council Candidate  Billy Grooms

Billy Grooms was born and raised in South Carolina by a Baptist Mother and a First Sergeant Father. At six-years old, Folly Beach made an impact on his life as the place where he learned to swim. Married to his wife Tracy for 38 years, spending his time on Folly Beach enjoying gardening, art, music, cooking, exercising, and working on bicycles and riding motorcycles.

Billy has a degree in Journalism and Mass Communications from the University of South Carolina. Most of his 35-year career was in the communications industry where he was a leader and manager of radio and communications in Columbia, SC and Charlotte, NC.

Since moving to Folly, Billy has remained very active and involved with many volunteer and community projects. He works with Folly Beach Public Safety; attended the Offshore Oil Drilling sessions at the State House with Mayor Goodwin; he’s a board member of Folly Beach Parks and Recreation, Folly Beach Civic Club, and National Night Out; and he established Billy’s Bicycle Ministries which gives free bicycles to people in need.

Billy sees and hears first-hand the challenges facing our wonderful town like beach re-nourishment, marsh control, growth management, flooding and litter. Communicating information to our visitors is vital, but just as important, is representing our community and environment.

As one of your Council Representatives, Billy will bring his experience in leadership and communications to his role on City Council. He has a proven track record of success by offering honest character, constructive debate, and excellent listening skills. As a leader he will focus on accountability and good judgment in stressful situations. As a passionate and approachable citizen of Folly Beach, Billy will communicate openly and be very conscientious of protecting the islands’ wonderful resources – the people and the environment.

Council Candidate  Katherine M. Houghton, Ed. D.

In 2010 I fell in love with Folly and purchased property. By this time I had amassed extensive experience as a University/College Vice President and Dean in the United States and abroad. I immediately transferred my skill set from University administration and applied my Undergraduate Degree in Fine Arts, Master’s Degree in Higher Education Administration, and Doctorate in Educational Leadership to consulting, part time work at the library, and volunteer responsibilities. Throughout all of these Folly Beach leadership, volunteer, and work duties I have been fortunate to work with citizens, families, business owners, library patrons, and City Hall officials and employees. Those experiences have enhanced my love of Folly. As with any relationship and partnership there are challenging, diverse, joyful, productive, and counterproductive times, however, I believe, know, and have faith that if a community such as Folly stays focused on the objectives we need to achieve together, then we will accomplish those goals. In fact, last year I was selected as “Folly Beach Citizen of the Year.” I consider this honor as truly being shared by all individuals who supported our mutual work and accomplishments. Below is a list of my goals to consider for Folly:

- Strengthen infrastructure to prevent reactive measures
- Sustain a high quality of life
- Focus on community safety and security
- Implement a planned growth approach to City governance

Thank You!

Katherine M. Houghton, Ed.D.
Fellow Citizens,
Happy Saint Patrick’s Day! It is difficult to believe that we are already to the month of March.

Seems like just yesterday we were saying, “Happy New Year!” As the seasons progress, we will be seeing much work begin, continue, and be concluded in our fair city. The dock at the Folly River Park will be replaced with a new and better facility to be enjoyed by everyone. We will continue to work on the infrastructure of the island under the guise of: pedestrian walkways, new water mains to keep our water being delivered to every home when someone turns on a tap, drainage projects to help move storm water in the most efficient manner we can in conjunction with Mother Nature and the tides, the community landscaping like the causeway and our parks for the enjoyment of our citizens, and finally the remodeling of City Hall to allow the citizens of Folly a more efficient and user-friendly experience when dealing with City Hall. These are just a few of the endeavors your city staff continues to work on along with the everyday jobs and assignments that go with their careers. I encourage everyone to read This Week at City Hall on the website, which is a weekly update of our staff meetings that will give you an insight into the work being done on your behalf.

The city had to say goodbye to one of our hard-working citizens, Susan Breslin. Susan was always thinking of Folly first, and she would remind me of that at every possible opportunity. Susan was not only active in our local, state, and national politics, but she was also very involved with the Civic Club and the Sandspur. As Editor of the Sandspur, Susan always tried to have a fair and unbiased paper for the residents of Folly. Although as described by Mike Henning as “an acquired taste,” she will be sadly missed by all whose lives she had touched.

So, as the weather warms and the traffic on James Island grows, let’s all remember the words of Jimmy Buffett, “We have a license to chill.” We can work to keep our sense of humor up and our blood pressure down as the season is upon us one more time. As always, if you have a question or need to verify a rumor, please contact me; tgoodwin@cityoffollybeach.com or 843 729 0298.

Mayor Tim

The Chief’s Corner

Friends, March starts the busier part of the year for us. Spring breaks from around the state and county will bring in the crowds. We wanted to remind you that you can reach out to us 24/7 via our dispatch at 843-588-2433. This can be for any issues such as loud parties, parking issues, etc. Please don’t hesitate to call, as you are not expected to suffer through it. Not to mention, it is often difficult to address issues after the fact, so please call as it is happening. We appreciate our community partnerships and feedback, so again, please never hesitate to call us for assistance. Chief Gilbreath

The Folly Beach Seniors

The Folly Beach Seniors will meet Thursday, March 5th at 11am in the Community Center. All 55 and older are invited. We will celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day with corn beef and cabbage prepared by Patty Holscow. All others bring a covered dish.

Our speaker will be Phil Macchis, the chief operating officer from the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission. He will share the CCPR vision and commitment to preserving our natural historical and cultural resources and offering a clean, safe and exceptional visitor experience that is accessible to all.

Thanks to our February speaker, Dr. John Vena, professor of the Department of Public Health Science Department at MUSC.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our sick and shut ins. If you would like a fruit basket, contact us. We wish all a happy and safe Saint Patrick’s Day.

Pauline Ray 843-588-9580

BLOOD DRIVE

NEXT BLOOD DRIVE: MARCH 6, 2020
Father Kelly Hall
9am - 2pm

The Green Team

The Green Team’s March meeting will be on Thursday, March 5th at the Folly Beach Baptist Church. Our next garden workday will be on Saturday, March 7th beginning at 8:00 am. The Green Team will be hosting a Sustainable Green Info Night on Wednesday, March 11th from 4:00 to 7:00 in the parking lot of the Washout Restaurant. The following info booths will be available: Vertical Roots, Recycling, Composting at home, thrift recycling as well as other “green” topics.

Green Sustainable Ideas:
Use cloth napkins. Even if you only do this once a week, it will add up. Try it.
Wait until you have a full load to run the washer, dryer or dishwasher. Carpool.
Recycle, recycle, recycle.
teresa.marshall56@hotmail.com

The Exchange Club

YARD SALE!
SATURDAY MARCH 28TH
THE HUT/ 206 WEST INDIAN AVENUE

The Exchange Club is having a yard sale Saturday, March 28th at the Hut, 206 West Indian Avenue. The entire community has donated thousands of dollars’ worth of valuable items including art, furniture, lamps, jewelry, tools, kitchenware, tables, headboards, pillows, clocks, radios, turntables, surfboards, collectibles, silverware, appliances, chests, rugs, sofas, chairs, yard items, toys and more! If you’d like to donate, contact Billy Grooms to arrange a pick-up locally at your home or garage. Call the yard sale hotline at 704-516-2849.
Money raised will provide support and advocacy to abused and neglected children through HALOS and the Dee Norton Center.

THE EXCHANGE CLUB

YARD SALE!
SATURDAY MARCH 28TH
THE HUT/ 206 WEST INDIAN AVENUE

The Exchange Club is having a yard sale Saturday, March 28th at the Hut, 206 West Indian Avenue. The entire community has donated thousands of dollars’ worth of valuable items including art, furniture, lamps, jewelry, tools, kitchenware, tables, headboards, pillows, clocks, radios, turntables, surfboards, collectibles, silverware, appliances, chests, rugs, sofas, chairs, yard items, toys and more! If you’d like to donate, contact Billy Grooms to arrange a pick-up locally at your home or garage. Call the yard sale hotline at 704-516-2849.
Money raised will provide support and advocacy to abused and neglected children through HALOS and the Dee Norton Center.
**Things to note:**
The Men's Club of Our Lady of Good Counsel will serve breakfast at Father Kelly Parish Hall (105 W. Hudson) on Sunday, March 22nd at 10:00 a.m. The cost of the buffet, featuring pancakes, scrambled eggs, grits, bacon, sausage, biscuits, gravy and fruit salad is $6.00 per person. All are welcome.

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Folly River Park is closed to reservations until further notice due to upcoming dock repairs.

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**FOFFLY BEACH BAPTIST CHURCH**
Soup Ministry on Mondays at Noon
Youth Bible Study with dinner provided on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

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Folly Beach Arts & Crafts Guild Tides of March
**Arts & Crafts Festival**
Saturday, March 14th,
The Washout parking lot
Show hours: 10-4

**Performances by:**
Allegro Charter School of Music Jazz Ensemble and Guitar Players
Dance Moves of Charleston

**Also featuring:**
Arts & Crafts by local artisans
Hoops with Kit Kat Cunningham
Yoga with Jennifer Mahanes
We still have a few vendor spaces available. For more information, or to apply for a vendor booth, please visit follybeacharts.com.

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**CHARLESTON COUNTY PARK ACTIVITIES**
**Lighthouse Inlet Bird Walk**
Fri., Mar. 13, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Ages 12+ $7
This walk focuses on the incredibly diverse northeast end of Folly Island. Once the home of a Coast Guard station, this Heritage Preserve protects maritime forest, beach, dune, and marsh habitats for wildlife. This site is a leader in number of bird species seen in South Carolina.

**Nearby Activities of Interest in March**
East Coast Paddlesports Symposium at James Island County Park and “The Reckoning in the Park” (local Grateful Dead cover band). Visit charlestoncountyparks.com for details.

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**Civic Club February Photo of the Month**
"Fluent Tranquility"
Photography by Christopher Morgan
View it in the March Folly Current

Spring is in the air, Folly photographers! Please submit your high resolution, horizontally oriented (think calendar) photos for March to kathy74@gmail.com.

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**THE CIVIC CLUB**
On Saturday, March 7th from 2:00 pm until Sunday, March 8th at 11:00 am the first annual Civic Club Folly FamCamp will be held. Additionally, the Civic Club is recruiting members and requests that Folly residents consider becoming a member of the Club. If you have any questions, or need further information about the Civic Club or the FamCamp, please contact me at khoughton2259@gmail.com or 781-254-2302. Katherine Houghton

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**YARD OF THE MONTH**
March’s Yard of the Month is the home of Susan and Jim Peal, 916 W. Ashley. They chose Folly after 20 years following Jim’s retirement. They aptly christened their home “Folly Beach Stay.” Susan prefers utilizing found objects for accents and made their sign on wood from our ocean.

Susan began with a bed of zoysia grass and enhanced with winter rye and Bermuda seed. The left bed hosts healthy pink and white oleanders beneath the ubiquitous palmettos. Soft pink breeze grass, yuccas, and fan palms sway behind. An alluring and red bottle brush greets butterflies in the front bed, along with carefully selected stones from Johns Island and a fisherman statue.

A line of podocarpus defines their entry, with a favored tiki man and sweet grass on the far side. A hand-painted surfboard denotes the shower area. A gravel driveway is preceded by pavers. A mirror image with palmettos and oleanders is the focal point in the bed to the right. Indian hawthorn and Susan’s favorite - agave - offer variety with fan and windmill palms above a stone alligator.

Susan relaxes while gardening. They both appreciate the laid-back environment and being on “Folly time.” Kudos to the Peals. May they enjoy a very long Folly Beach stay.

The Garden Club will meet Tuesday, March 24th at noon in the Community Center. Our speaker will be William Hampton, owner of Priority Landscaping. All interested parties are welcome to attend. Happy St. Patrick’s Day. Lynn Ray Smalley

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**PLEASE NOTE**
A Note From Zoning & Building:
Political signs must be on private property.

Signs placed within the public ROW or other public land may be removed by City employees. Questions on sign regulations? apone@cityoffollybeach.com or elutz@cityoffollybeach.com

Thank you in advance for your compliance

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**MARCH CALENDAR**
**Clubs, Organizations & Committees**
(2) Planning Commission 7 pm
(5) FB Seniors 11am
(5) FB Exchange Club Board 7pm
(5) Green Team mtg 6 pm
(10) City Council Work Mtg 6 pm
(10) City council meeting 7 pm
(16) Design Rev Board 6 pm
(24) FB Parks & Rec 6:30 pm
(24) Garden Club 12 pm

**Library**
3/14 (SAT) OPEN 10-2 pm
M & F 10-6
WED 12-8
SUNDAYS CLOSED

We have Storytime at 10:30 a.m. on Mondays. On Fridays at 10:30 a.m., March 6th, March 13th and March 27th we will have a Natural Gardening series with Linda Geronilla, a Master Gardener & Naturalist.

The Folly Beach Book Club will meet on Monday, March 9th at 2:30 p.m. We will discuss The Woman’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote by Elaine Weiss lead by representatives from the League of Women Voters of the Charleston area. –Mary Bushkar

**Trash & Recycling**
Trash will be collected every Monday & Thursday
Recycling will be collected on March 9 & 23.

**Special Events**
(6) Blood Drive
(7) Green Team event 8 am
(7) FOLLY FAM CAMP!
(8) Reckoning in the Park event
(11) Green Team Info night 4 pm
(13) Lighthouse Bird Walk
(14) Tides of March
(17) Meet the candidates! 7 pm
(22) Men’s club breakfast 10 am
(27) Paddlesports Symposium
(28) Exchange Club Yard Sale

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**The Sandspur**
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