The First Annual Folly Campout!

Article by Amy Ray
Photos by Kristen Cappel

The Civic Club Halloween carnival was only days away, and already there was discussion about a Spring family event. Always anticipating, planning...those Civic Club folk...or maybe, the camaraderie, creativity, stories and laughter got the best of us, and what seemed like a far fetched idea became a reality. Although originally imagined at the Folly River Park, Folly FamCamp 2020 was made exceptional at the “still under construction” FB County Park Dunes House. We had a date and location - now we just needed the dress. Oh, wait...we just needed the participants and the FUN. CHECK. The collective ideas started flowing, and on March 7, 2020 it all came to fruition.

Twenty-five (25) camp sites staked out on the farthest west side of Folly Beach. Campers started showing up with huge smiles, ready for adventure. Pitching tents in 15-20 mph wind gusts, with the assistance of the Mayor, COFB staff, and volunteers was only a glimpse of how the day and night would commence. Folly families played beach soccer, made sand castles, participated in a nature walk, enjoyed a spectacular sunset, visited each other’s campsites, and most of all celebrated what it means to be a part of the Folly Beach community. This was the greatest gift, especially in these times. I am beyond grateful to those who helped pull FollyFam Camp off (thank-you notes, forthcoming!) and to the residents who participated. To those who missed the opportunity, we are looking forward to having another FamCamp in 2021!

The Folly Boat reminded us to “see the good”, despite the challenge we are all facing. (artist unknown)
News from the City of Folly Beach

From the Desk of the Mayor

Is it May, or did time stand still? While the last six weeks has seemed like an eternity for everyone, I can assure you time has not stood still for your City Staff or City Council; we have all been working diligently to navigate this new storm of the 21st century. I know there are many questions out there, and I urge you to get your answers from the City’s information line (843) 588-7006; not Social Media.

I have heard many stories of how our citizens have helped each other and the City during this time. It is a time, like many trying times, when we as a community come together. People making masks and offering food to their neighbors, strangers, and the Public Safety department, who are very grateful, but when this trying time is over, I am afraid the City will need to buy larger uniforms. These stories are always heartwarming and exciting to see our community band together to fight the good fight in the face of adversity. While everyone will not agree with the decisions being made, I can assure you that these decisions come with a lot of discussions and study of the medical and scientific information. It is never easy to make these decisions. So, before you condemn your city staff or city council members for these decisions, try walking a mile in their shoes.

On a brighter side, I understand from some young citizens that there are some yellow ducks hidden around the city, to be found and rehidden or kept- your option. I personally don’t know who started this, but I think it was a grand idea to give some of our citizens another reason to get out and enjoy the community during their breaks from “school.” I would suggest whoever hid these ducks to create a “golden goose”, by attaching a $100.00 bill to one to get everyone out on the search.

In closing for now, I have another conference call. Stay safe, enjoy the beach for exercising, keep moving, and keep our families healthy and our community strong.

Please, if you have any questions, use the information line 843 588 7006, or give me a call at 843 729 0298, and we will get you the correct information. tgoodwin@cityoffollybeach.com. Mayor Tim

City updates

Here are some key things to note:
* We have a new water billing system, described on page 4.
* Folly River Dock Demolition is 90% complete and the complete project is 30% complete.
* Business Licenses and Permits are still being processed via email and online.
* The checkpoint has resulted in a huge increase in compliance. During this season, we have seen an incredible amount of city teamwork! The staff has shown such strength during this time, stepping up and working together throughout this crisis! Every single city employee has taken on additional duties, be it working the checkpoint, the Citizen Information Line, or helping keep our city facilities clean. We are so grateful to the citizens for their kindness and cooperation, and ask everyone to show compassion for the employees who are away from their families and doing a

Census 2020

Help Folly officials help you by completing the 2020 Census questionnaire you’ve been hearing about, or may have received by mail.

The 10-minute questionnaire updates the 2010 Census; helps aid disaster & rescue efforts, determines distribution of federal & state funding, and guides other important funding considerations like highways, hospitals, and even school lunch programs.

Take a few minutes to make a big difference at https://my2020census.gov/

Helpful navigation tips:
* You must complete your questionnaire once you begin. If you leave the questionnaire and return later, you will have to start over.
* Do not use the web browser buttons (back, forward, or close browser). Use the buttons within the questionnaire to navigate.
* For best results, use the latest version of Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer, or Safari.
* Enable cookies.

From Public Safety

Please convey our sincere appreciation to all the businesses and residents that have supported FBDPS and City Staff for the donations of masks, food and general well wishes.

Chief Gilbreath

Please Note

For years, the City has had an established "Folly Beach City Relief Fund" for those citizens in need of assistance. We encourage all residents of Folly Beach that qualify for assistance to contact the City Hall at 843-588-7006 and apply for this support.

The process will include providing documentation of the specific need.

FB Parks & Recreation

Hello Folly Families!

Exciting news...!

At their February meeting, FB Parks & Recreation approved the following recreational activities at our parks and facilities: tennis, soccer, and basketball lessons/camps. Planning is underway, however due to the current COVID-19 circumstances, scheduling has been postponed.

We look forward to finalizing the details and opening registration soon.

Meanwhile, check out our website to see what’s being offered virtually!

Website: cityoffollybeach.com/parks-and-recreation/
The one thing that has surprised me while living at Folly is the friendliness of people including city hall and all departments. I am very proud that I made Folly Beach my retirement home. I am encouraged with the future of Folly Beach with the restrictions on high rises, hotels, and condominiums being built. Folly's story of encouragement is “stay as you are, be friendly to people, and keep all three churches meeting at certain times together.”

Thank you, Pauline

Don't forget to send your Folly photos to thisyearfolly@follybeach.gov for us all to enjoy at the New Year's Eve Flip Flop Drop, 2020/2021 slide show!

SENIORS

I am Pauline Ray. I am secretary of the Folly Beach Seniors. I moved to Folly Beach March 1, 1987, from Charleston Heights. I retired from Garrett High School. The Folly Seniors were organized over 50 years ago. I joined in 1987. A long time resident, Minnie Smith, invited me to attend a meeting. I have been an active member ever since.

Our group is made of people 55 and older. We invite all Seniors and welcome all visitors. We always have an interesting speaker and good food at each meeting. We all work together and are leaders in some way as well as friends.

The Green Team

The Green Team will not be meeting in May. We hope everyone continues to stay safe and practice social distancing. Our community garden is flourishing while the gardeners are planting their spring/summer gardens. It’s a very good time to use some of the following sustainable ideas in your home. Teach your children how to be, “GREEN.”

Green Sustainable Ideas:

Teresa Marshall

THE LIBRARY

Hello, Folly Beach! I hope this finds you all healthy. I am Mary Bushkar, the manager of your Folly Beach Library. I moved to Folly 15 years ago from Virginia. Soon after arriving, I started working for the Main Library in downtown Charleston, but once there was an opening at the Folly Branch I applied immediately.

The library on Folly is such a special place full of light, friendly people and books! We are part of the Charleston County Public Library system so we have all the resources of a large library, but with the small-town feel.

Even though the library is most likely closed at this time, there are still plenty of ways to use your library. In fact, even if you don’t have a card yet you can apply for a temporary e-Card so you can access our digital media. Just go to our website at www.ccpl.org.

I love all our regular patrons and I miss you all. If you aren’t a regular yet I can’t wait to meet you. Take care!
The City of Folly Beach is excited to announce a new utility billing process! The new bill customers will receive features a simpler look with more account details and a convenient envelope for remittance. Mailed payments will now go directly to our bank’s regional lockbox processing center in Charlotte, NC. We also encourage all customers to go to www.municipalonlinepayments.com/follybeachsc to sign up for your online account too if you haven’t already. There you can manage your account, to include signing up for FREE auto draft payments, and you will never have to mail another check again.

Those that have already signed up will see no change to your online account payment preference and do not need to do anything at this time.

This new system will be more efficient and cost effective for our residents, and we are excited to share in this new chapter with you!

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to the City of Folly Beach Utility Department.

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**How Can I Help During the Pandemic?**

This COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented challenges to the U.S. blood supply, even here in the Lowcountry. Donor centers have experienced a dramatic reduction in donations due to the implementation of social distancing and the cancellation of blood drives. Some of this shortfall in donations has been offset by decreased blood utilization actions such as cancellation of elective procedures. Nevertheless, there is still a critical ongoing need for blood for such things as non-elective surgical procedures, emergencies, cancer treatment, and chronic conditions like sickle cell anemia.

**Is it Safe to Donate Blood Now? Yes.**

Donor safety is a top priority of the Red Cross during this evolving public health emergency. At each blood drive Red Cross employees follow thorough safety protocols, including:

- Staff wearing basic face masks
- Donors wearing face masks: Donors are required to wear face masks. If you don’t have your own, one will be provided
- Wiping down donor-touched areas after every collection
- Enhanced disinfecting of surfaces and equipment
- Providing donors with hand sanitizer before entering and throughout the donation appointment
- Temperature checks before donors enter the blood drive facility
- Following social distancing practices between donors including donor beds, as well as waiting and refreshment areas
- Guests are not allowed to attend blood drives (e.g. babies, children, friends)

All refreshment items must be pre-packaged (e.g. no pizza, open box donuts, homemade items). As always, at Folly there WILL BE Nutter Butters!

Even during this COVID-19 pandemic, every 2 seconds someone in the United States needs a blood transfusion. The need for blood never ends.

**Will you consider a social distancing blood donation?**

If so, you can sign up by going to redcrossblood.org and searching on sponsor code FOLLY, or email Dave Miller, the Blood Guy, at deacandave73@gmail.com and he will sign you up.

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**Civic Club April Photo of the Month**

_Photography by Brent McClair_

Please submit your high resolution, horizontally oriented (think calendar) photos for May to kathymiller74@gmail.com

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**IMPORTANT UPDATE**

No matter how many times we see it, the view of Folly Beach never gets old. But let’s be honest, much of what makes Folly special is the people! During this season we have really seen Folly residents helping each other, supporting local businesses, and bringing gifts & food to Public Safety & those working the checkpoint. It’s been wonderful to see all of the pictures of Folly on Facebook! Those who have contributed to the “blessing box” at Berts, and whoever put out the ducks for those out walking to find, a special “thank you” to you!

Folly, you’re beautiful!
From the desk of Pastor Randall Horres: My wife Renee and I have been enjoying serving Folly Beach United Methodist Church for four years. I grew up West Ashley and Renee James Island. Our families have been in the area for generations and have a long history of visiting Folly Beach. We love our congregation. Some from Folly, James Island, and Johns Island. It has been a very positive experience to pastor a thriving church. We are always ready for visitors. It’s Folly Beach after all. Renee and I stay in the parsonage next to the church. Next door to Richard and Debbie Summey from Folly Beach Baptist Church. How cool is that. The church is uniquely situated on West Indian. Close to center street but not too close. We love all our neighbors. I don’t think you could find a church community that is any closer. The Methodist, Baptist, and Catholic Churches working together, singing together, worshipping together, serving together, loving each other and the Folly Beach Community.

While the church is closed for business, it is never closed to ministry. We are currently worshipping on Folly Beach United Methodist Facebook page at 10:00 AM Sunday mornings. Other activities are posted on Facebook. These are troubling times. It is great to have a supportive church community. Stay safe. Wash your hands and then fold them in prayer. May God bless and keep you. Pastor Randal

Folly Beach Baptist Church is "devoted to be an anchor of hope, encouragement, and the love of God on the beach and in our neighboring communities." If you live on Folly Beach, you know or at least have heard about Pastor Richard Summey who lives this mission! You may see him and his wife Debbie (who is the church pianist) riding in their golf cart through the island streets checking on their "flock."

While we are living in the days of the Corona Virus Pandemic, the Church is still reaching out to all age groups to promote the Good News through God's Word and His blessings even in a time of suffering. During the Pandemic, Folly Beach Baptist Church is reaching out to all who will listen through:

- Live Worship Sunday Services at 11:00 am via the Folly Beach Baptist Church Facebook
- Live stream via Zoom "Youth on the Edge" Bible study for 6th through 12th grade youth 630 - 830 pm Tuesdays.
- Live Wednesday night Prayer Service, 630 Facebook page and
- Thursday night Recovery in Christ meetings via Zoom from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. There is also a food pantry and a new women’s Bible study starting. For information on either, or if you need prayer, email info@follybeachbaptist.com. Or call Pastor Summey at 843-793-8623 or the Church Youth Minister, Billy Smith at 843-460-7737.

So, as you can see, the Good News is being proclaimed to all at Folly Beach Baptist Church and the Community of Folly Beach! May God bless you and keep you! Pastor Summey

“Turtle Time” Teresa Marshall

A arching maple tree hovers above their brick walkway, installed by Sam, "the yardman.” Foxtail ferns contrast with bright pink begonias and hot pink vincas in a blue pot. Solar lighting shines upon the beds and trees. Confederate jasmine, which blooms around Laurie’s birthday, twines around a central palm tree. Laurie finds gardening centering, and getting her hands in the dirt puts her at peace. The Hulis enjoy both the Folly people and its beach. Congrats to them for their magnificent garden.

When I became a member of the Folly Beach Garden Club, over 20 years ago, it was a group of sweet Southern ladies getting together to learn about gardening and have a potluck lunch.

COVID-19 and the 2020 Sea Turtle Season

Historically, April is a busy time for the Folly Beach Turtle Watch Program (FBTW) as we prepare for the opening of the sea turtle season which begins May 1 and continues until October. Like Folly Beach and many other government agencies, SCDNR has suspended all nonessential functions. All of the functions performed by FBTW are considered nonessential, including daily nest surveys, staking and relocating nests, conducting inventories, and responding to sick or dead turtles. Therefore, until further notice, all FBTW activities are on hold.

With the closure of SC beaches to humans, we expect less foot traffic, less trash, fewer holes, and fewer flashlights. We are hopeful that this will entice sea turtles to come and nest on our beaches. One reminder to beachfront residents - beginning May 1 remember to turn off beach lighting - After Nine It’s Turtle Time!

Yard of the Month

The FB Turtles

The Folly Beach Churches

The FB Turtles

May’s Yard of the Month has been the home of Laurie and Sam Hull for 26 years - 918 East Cooper. Sam grew up on Folly, while a job brought Laurie to Charleston, and consequently to Folly. Irma removed their existing landscaping, leaving only tall palmettos. A lush, tropical scene was instrumental in their new design, with a splash of color. The left front bed is textured with variegated shell ginger, majesty palms and podocarpus. A favorite African iris offers yellow and black contrast among pink and red knockout roses. A pink hybrid tea rose brings soft color and scent. Garnet Hawaiian ti cordyline adds to the bounty with purple pixie loropetalum which is encased with a border of hand laid Morris Island bricks, accented with monkey grass.

Although our club is more diverse now, the constant is the amenable nature of the ladies and gentlemen. Volunteering is available with our 50 cent jewelry sales, maintaining the memorial garden, setting up tables for meetings, and serving on numerous committees. My mom, Pauline Ray, is president, and will be 88 this month.

1. Lynn Ray Smalley, am a Charleston native, growing up in Charleston Heights, coming to Folly Beach with the dream of living on Folly. I graduated from the College of Charleston in the early ’70s. I moved as far west as Vegas and even spent a year in Iceland.

2. In the late ’70’s the lot on Tabby was acquired and my husband, Earl, made the dream a reality 25 years ago when we moved in our home on Folly.

I have always been drawn to the inclusive nature of the people on Folly. Whether it is the church community coming together for cantatas and the soup kitchen, the patrons of the Sand Dollar raising money for Toys for Tots, Christmas trees delivered and mounted by our local tree lot, the bike rental gentleman coming to rescue my dog, Nine, and me by the side of the road or my neighbors coming to our aid when Nine was attacked on the beach, kindness abounds. As Jesus said in many ways and Jewell put in song, “in the end only kindness matters.” Lynn Ray Smalley

The FB Turtles

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“At sea I learned how little a person needs, not how much” Robin Lee Graham
A letter from FAB
As Covid-19 has devastated communities across the globe, and left businesses closed or operating with limited staff, our little beach community is not immune to the damage caused by this pandemic. With over 80 Folly Beach businesses that rely on visitors, it’s very important to us to do anything and everything we can to keep our businesses going and help them open back up once this has passed. We have compiled two separate initiatives to help the present and future of our Folly Beach businesses and community.

Here are the two initiatives:
1. The City of Folly Beach has been receiving calls from members of our community asking how they can help Folly Beach business employees who have been furloughed due to Covid-19 and are having a difficult time making ends meet with expenses such as medical, rent, and utility bills. As a result, FAB has decided to create a GoFundMe campaign with an application process for employees of businesses of Folly Beach to apply directly to FAB, and we are contributing $1,000 towards the fund. We want to be sure the funds go towards specific needs as agreed on by the FAB board. Anyone who works for a Folly Beach business and has experienced hardship is welcome to apply. The application can be found on GoFundMe: Folly Beach Employee Relief Fund and on VisitFolly.com. If you are a citizen in the community and would like to help Folly Beach business employees, please visit the GoFundMe page and donate today!
2. FAB has teamed up with the Folly Beach Civic Club, Folly Beach Exchange Club, the Tourism and Visitor Promotion Committee, and other private parties to roll out a big marketing program to help jump start and stimulate the Folly Beach economy again. Once the stay-at-home orders are lifted, we want to immediately launch this marketing program so we can all get back to business and once again bring business to Folly. The goal for this campaign is to encourage overnight visitors to come back to Folly after quarantine is over, which will jump start our economy and help our business community recover. Look for more details and ongoing opportunities for the community to get involved with this FOLLY ONLY marketing opportunity. It’s really cool, and we think you are going to like it.

President, Lynn Oliver
Vice President, Lindsey Chambers
Treasurer, Sunnee Clark
Secretary, Kelly Travers

Growing up in South Carolina, several of my family and relatives were Military, National Guardsmen, Deputies, Troopers, DNR and Local Police Officers and they taught me the foundation of Community, Country and Family. I was brought up with love, kindness, discipline, patriotism and a sense of belonging, which I have found on Folly Beach and at The Exchange Club.

The Exchange Club takes the responsibility to display American Flags during holidays and memorials. When I see these flags as I crest the bridge, I feel a sense of pride to be an American, a member of The Exchange Club and a citizen of Folly Beach. It is quite the sight to see all those flags waving in the ocean breeze. At that point, I realize we live in the greatest country and city on the planet.

The Exchange Club recognizes the Public Safety during the Police and Firefighter of the year awards.

As a dispatcher working beside these heroes, I see them work unsafely night and day to give us our security and help us feel safe.

They work weekends, holidays, overnight, overtime and even during pandemics.

It is a beautiful thing to see the outpouring of food brought to the checkpoint during this crisis. Giving them recognition like that should be an everyday occurrence.

The Exchange Club provides funding for school scholarships and to abused children advocacy groups. The children and groups receiving these funds deserve a bright future, and The Exchange Club works tirelessly to see that happen. Money raised at the club’s yard sale, cook outs and golf tournament helps to fund education investments in our future and protecting children.

Speaking of raising money, the Annual Golf Tournament is The Exchange Club’s largest and most fun event of the year. It is joyous to watch a bunch of adults pay big money to act like little kids. I always have a smile on my face during this one.

In closing, The National Exchange Club is the oldest service organization in America, with The Folly Beach Exchange Club founded on September 5th, 1951. We’d love to have you join us every 3rd Thursday at 7 p.m.at The Hut, 206 West Indian, when things are normal. In the meantime, join us safely at our Facebook page at Folly Beach Exchange Club or call me for more information.

Billy Grooms, Secretary
704-516-2849

“Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain, we all have sorrow
But if we are wise
We know that there’s always tomorrow
Lean on me, when you’re not strong
And I’ll be your friend, I’ll help you carry on
For, it won’t be long
‘till I’m gonna need somebody to lean on

Bill Withers 1938-2020

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