



James Island, SC: 843-795-4141; Fax: 843 795-4878

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Mayor Woolsey's Corner

Over the last year, the Town has continued to make progress. The flooding on James Island last fall gave us a wake-up call. Drainage has been reopened under Fort Johnson Road near Eaglewood Retreat. The Town is pursuing drainage projects in the "Down the Island" Community between Seaside and Williams Road, on Lighthouse Blvd (along with a sidewalk,) on Grimsley Drive, and we are also obtaining new easements so that we can maintain the recently

cleared drainage in Teal Acres.

We are moving forward on our sidewalk projects, with construction starting on Phase II of the Camp Road project. We are well on the way to completing sidewalks on Camp Road from Fort Johnson to Riverland Drive and James Island County Park. We have completed conceptual studies for sidewalks along Dills Bluff and Seaside Lane. We hope to construct sidewalks on Lighthouse Blvd and Quail Drive as soon as next year.

The Town, along with the City of Charleston, Folly Beach, and Charleston County have approved the Rethink Folly Road Plan. Improving Folly Road, and especially doing something about the traffic, is a key priority of the Town. I have asked Town Council to consider joining the other area municipalities in adopting the Hospitality Tax to help fund this vital project. Please let me know if you believe this is a reasonable and responsible way forward.

Bill Woolsey

Drying Out from the 1,000 YEAR FLOOD

October of 2015 marked an anomaly in South Carolina's weather history. The extreme rain and astronomical high tides, combined with the approach of Hurricane Joaquin left many of us saturated. Town staff stayed busy helping Charleston County hand out sand bags and responded to citizen inquires. During the aftermath, the Town has been assisting with recovery efforts including replacing failed drainage pipes around the island

and being proactive working on drainage easements to help re-establish drainage basins and purchasing tidal backflow prevention devices for various outflows.

Area water tables are up 2 ft. from the historical average and they aren't expected to recede until early Fall. That means standing water after rain is still likely until the water table recedes.



Neighborhood Council and Sheriff's Office sponsored National Night Out 2015



Island Sheriff's Patrol Making a Difference

The Island Sheriff's Patrol (ISP), a partnership with the Sheriff's Office that is funded by the Town, provides our residents with additional law enforcement officers dedicated to making our Town a safer, more secure place to live and work. It is headed by Charleston County Sheriff's Deputy, Sgt. Shawn James who works closely with the Town's Neighborhood Council to

make sure that issues are promptly addressed. Sgt. James has been awarded the coveted Chief Deputy Carroll B. Gordon Award for 2016 for his dedicated work for the Town of James Island. His patrol has combatted crime on the island and Sgt. James noted the fact that "the citizens feel protected is beyond measure". Also, the Town recently purchased License Plate Recognition

cameras that have been installed on Folly Road, that will make the officers' job in catching criminals much easier.

Congratulations to Deputy Corey Shelton, ISP Officer of the Year for the second year in a row.

To reach the Island Sheriff's Patrol for non-emergencies, call consolidated dispatch at 743-7200.

Pinckney Park – Wrapping up the Master Plan Phase

Pinckney Park



The Town is moving full steam ahead on its Master Planning for Pinckney Park. Purchased in 2015 with Charleston County Greenbelt funds, the 7 acres located at 461 Fort Johnson Rd is an ideal setting for a passive park with its majestic trees and easy walking access for residents. To date, the Town has held an open house and two public workshops since the park's purchase. The Open House and first

public workshop invited participants to share their ideas of what they'd like to see, or not see, at a Town park and rank those ideas by placing a dot sticker next to their favorite items. The "dotmacracy" revealed that residents most wanted walking trails, an outdoor area events stage, a non-motorized watercraft launch area, and above all, for the natural setting to remain pristine. The Town's

consultants Hussey Gay Bell will be presenting the Draft Master Plan at the third public workshop on May 10th, and will be coming back to Town Council later this summer for final approval. The Town hopes to begin its first phase soon and open the park to the public in the fall. Please visit our website for more detailed reports from our consultants and email info@jamesislandsc.us with your ideas!

New Handicap Ramp



Repair Care Program

The Town partnered with the Sea Island Habitat for Humanity (SIHH) in 2015 and recently wrapped up its first Pilot Program for Repair Care. The program funds critical need repairs such as weatherization-type projects.

During the first round of repairs, the Town and SIHH were successful in

helping 4 families. One resident in particular received a new handicap ramp which allows her to get in and out of her home by herself.

The Town received many applications during the first round, and has a waiting list for the second round which we plan to

begin later this year. The Town will be opening another application round this fall. Applications will be available at Town Hall or on our website.

We're looking forward to expanding the program and helping more homeowners with critical needs repairs.

Building Better Infrastructure

If you've headed anywhere on the Island recently, there's one thing you're sure to notice – construction.

While frustrating to maneuver around, recent and upcoming projects serve to improve our aging infrastructure. Charleston County's ½ cent sales tax project of the Fort Johnson Sidewalk is mostly complete, and the final phase funded partly by the Town will come up Camp Rd and down Dills Bluff Rd to Ft. Johnson.

The Town recently approved a conceptual plan for a sidewalk along Dills Bluff connecting Camp Rd all the way to Harborview Rd. The Town will begin the engineering of Phase 1 which will run

to Seaside Lane this month. The Town is also currently working on a conceptual sidewalk and drainage plan for Seaside Lane. Camp Road Sidewalk Phase II is another sidewalk project currently underway. The sidewalk will connect the intersection at Dills Bluff to Secessionville Rd. The construction is being funded 50% by the Town and 50% by Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax. This project should be completed by the end of May.

The Town was successful in getting partial funding for a sidewalk along Camp Road between Folly Road and Riverland Drive which has been a joint effort among many entities.

The Town submitted a request for County Transportation Sales Tax funding for Lighthouse Point Blvd sidewalk and drainage, Phase I and is hoping to hear the status of that award soon. Other drainage projects underway at the Town are drainage easement work in the Stonepost, Tallwood, and Honey Hill areas. The Town recently funded a drainage pipe repair on Kentwood Circle with its Stormwater Utility Fund, and has purchased two backflow prevention devices, one for an outfall on Reylea Ave and another on Sea Aire Dr.

Charleston County's Harbor View Road project is well underway with completion scheduled for Sept 2016. For updates on this project, please visit <http://roads.charlestoncounty.org/projects/harborviewroad/>

2% Hospitality Tax and Change Coming to Folly Road

Town Council is considering adopting a 2% Hospitality Tax. The tax is on the sale of prepared food and beverages and many of the restaurants on James Island that are in the City of Charleston already collect this tax. The reason the Town is now considering this is because of much needed improvements to Folly Road. The funds can be used on improving infrastructure, synchronizing traffic lights, and other improvements that were identified in a recent planning effort, Rethink Folly Road: A Complete Streets study. The study was undertaken by the Berkeley-

Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG) in association with the City of Charleston, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), the Charleston Area Regional Transit Authority (CARTA), the Town of James Island, the City of Folly Beach, and Charleston County. Town Council will have their final vote at their Town Council meeting on May 19th at 7 pm. here at Town Hall. Please let the Town know if you think this funding plan is a good idea by either attending our meeting to speak, or contacting Town Hall.

Folly Road is currently undergoing major changes at the intersection of Camp and Folly Road. The project, funded primarily by Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax, will relieve traffic congestion and localized flooding by adding turn lanes and upsizing drainage pipes. Bike lanes and sidewalks will also be added. More information can be found by visiting www.follyatcamp.com

Groundbreaking for Camp Rd Sidewalk, Phase II



Dedication Ceremony for Jeffrey, Lemontree, Deleston and Ben Rd Paving Projects



Groundbreaking for Camp and Folly Intersection Improvement Project



May 2016 Yard of the Month winners for Lighthouse Point, Willie and Melvena Bishop



Keep James Island Litter Free!



2016 Art Auction



Recent Changes to Town Code of Ordinances

The Town passed new ordinances this past year that you need to be aware of if you aren't already. The first ordinance regulates the times in which fireworks can be discharged. Please make a note that discharging fireworks in the Town is prohibited from 11 pm to 9 am the following day, except on New Year's Eve

when they're permitted until 1 am. We ask that everyone remain respectful of their neighbors and stay safe!

The Town also not only regulates weeds and rank vegetation on improved lots, but now unimproved lots less than 1 acre as well. Residents are responsible for maintaining their yard and

keeping their grass cut on any Right-of-Way along their property line.

The Town also changed its grand tree size and now any tree over 24" will need a permit for removal. If you have any questions on whether or not you need a tree removal permit, please contact the Town.

All of our Town Ordinances can be viewed online by visiting our website.

James Island Pride

The Environment & Beautification Committee for the Town sponsors James Island Pride. The committee also sponsors James Island Arts and the Helping Hands Program. JI Pride hosts island-wide litter pickups & community cleanups. Our volunteers include members of JICHS student groups, the Exchange Club, Boy Scout troops, church youth groups and many residents who work with us to remove litter from our island parks, marshes and roadways. JI Pride hosts an annual SC Arbor Day event the first Friday in December of each year. Three ornamental trees

were added to the front lawn at Fort Johnson Middle School. We host a booth at the Charleston Green Fair (JICP) annually. JI Pride recognized the 2015 James Island Community Heroes: Inez Brown-Crouch, Salvatore Colucchio, Alan Laughlin, Minister Ruth Williams and Sandye Williams. James Island Arts promotes art and culture by providing resources for art education. Our Third Annual Arts Auction was a great success in February 2015 with proceeds benefitting island art teachers and artists. The Helping Hands Program

assists needy island residents with yard care. Neighbors who are unable to maintain their lawns are given assistance through Helping Hands. All of these groups are successful through the efforts of volunteers, so please consider assisting. We appreciate the local businesses and restaurants that support JI Pride. You may visit the JI Pride and JI Arts Facebook page.

Grant Scurry, Chair-JI Pride: Grant.Scurry@firstcitizens.com. Katherine Williams, Chair- JI Arts: kathexis@earthlink.net Mary Beth Berry -Helping Hands: mbberry1996@gmail.com Liaison: Councilman Garrett Milliken: garrettmilliken@jamesislandsc.us

Reuniting our Town - Annexation Update

Our State Representative, Peter McCoy, filed legislation to allow us to reunite the Town. This is different from the bill Paul Thurmond sponsored last year. Rather than create a new method of annexation, it provides an exception to the definition of contiguity.

If a parcel is within the same special purpose district as a municipality, then it will be treated as contiguous to the municipality even if it is separated by an area already annexed to another municipality. We expect hearings soon, though it is already too

late for passage this year. Once this bill is signed into law, the Town can organize a petition drive and hold an election. If the majority of our former residents vote to return, then we will finally be reunited.

New Town Hall

The Town is becoming closer to realizing a long-term goal – building a new Town Hall facility.

In August of 2015, Town Council approved funding for a lease-purchase revenue bond for its new public facility. Later that year, the Town underwent a competitive procurement process and selected Liollo Architecture as the most qualified firm. Liollo has a great deal of experience designing public facilities in the lowcountry and is the recent recipient of the 2016 AIA South Carolina Firm Award. Other members of the project team include ADC Engineering and DWG Consulting Engineers.

To date, Liollo has met with Town staff and

officials, and held a community workshop on the public's vision for Town Hall. At the community workshop, Town Hall was covered with various pictures of buildings and spaces. Attendees were asked to place dots next to the pictures they liked best and conveyed what they felt their Town's new building should represent. Participants were also invited to write their comments down about what they liked, didn't like, and other considerations the designers should take into account. "After all," said Mayor Woolsey, "the Town Hall should be a space the residents are not only proud of, but adequately services the residents' needs."

Based on the public and staff meetings, a needs

assessment and project budget has developed. The project is currently projected to be a 6,000 square foot building. The space doesn't need to be much bigger than our currently facility. There does need to be added considerations such as addressing flexible public meeting spaces and security concerns. The cost of the new facility will be approximately \$2.9 million. Included in that cost are architect fees and construction contingencies. The location identified is located on Dills Bluff Rd. in between Camp and Fort Johnson. More public workshops and input on design will be held once the surveying work is completed and our architects begin the design phase. We expect to be in the new facility by 2018.

Staff Contacts

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Contacts

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Mayor: Bill Woolsey,
bwoolsey@jamesislandsc.us

Town Council: Leonard Blank (Mayor Pro Tem), Garrett Milliken, Darren "Troy" Mullinax, Joshua Stokes

The 2016 Taste of James Island



2015 Arbor Day at FJMS sponsored by JI Pride



2015 Arbor Day at Dock Street Park sponsored by the Camellia Garden Club of Greater Charleston



Sign up for our Weekly Town News Email list by sending an email to info@jamesislands.c.us
It's quick, easy, and keeps you informed!

Contact Phone # is (843) 795-4141 or visit our web site at www.jamesislandsc.us

We also are on Facebook  and Twitter 

Town of James Island Meetings

Town Council meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm.

Planning Commission meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm.

Board of Zoning Appeals meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Children's Commission meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 pm.

James Island Pride meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm.

History Commission meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6 pm.

Neighborhood Council meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm.

Meetings are held at Town Hall, 1238-B Camp Road unless the public is notified otherwise.



1238-B Camp Road
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Mayor
Bill Woolsey

Mayor Pro Tem
Leonard Blank

Members of Council
Garrett Milliken
Darren "Troy" Mullinax
Joshua Stokes

Visit us at
www.jamesislandsc.us and
on Facebook and Twitter

TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND

P.O. Box 12240
James Island, SC
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Town Events – Fun for the Entire Family!

Tree Lighting 2015



The Town of James Island looks forward to celebrating holidays and organizing events that bring the whole community together in fun and fellowship. The Town added two new events this year; National Night Out and Lights On. National Night Out is sponsored by the Town's Neighborhood Council with Council liaison Darren Mullinax in partnership with the Sheriff's Office, and seeks to promote police and community partnerships and neighborhood comradery.

Also new this past year was Lights On, another partnership event that brought together the Town's Children Commission with Council liaison Joshua Stokes and Kaleidoscope Afterschool Programs. The event took place on Halloween weekend, and featured a costume contest with games and prizes. Other events the Town sponsors include Arbor Day celebrations and our Christmas Tree Lighting which features musical acts from the Charleston Performing Arts Center and local schools.

Lights On 2015 sponsored by the Children's Commission and Kaleidoscope

