CITY COUNCIL MEETING
6:00pm, Tuesday, October 24, 2023
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC and
broadcasted live on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms

MINUTES

1. **Call to order**

Present: Council members Hahn, Ward, Bogosian, Streetman, Anderson, Popson, Miars, Pierce, and Mayor Pounds

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Director Kerr, City Attorney McQullin, various department heads

2. **Special Presentation**

Presentation of the Spirit of the Island Award to Susan Hill Smith

Mayor Pounds read from the citizen letter nominating Ms. Smith for the Spirit of the Island Award. Ms. Smith's remarks are attached to these minutes.

3. **Citizen's Comments**

Randy Bell's comments are attached to these minutes.

Laura Lovin's comments are attached to these minutes.

Julie Nestler, 17 22nd Avenue, spoke about the drowning of Mateo Lopez on October 5, 2022. She said nothing was on the dock where he was swimming that could have helped save him. She presented a life ring and information about drownings (attached to these minutes) to Council Member Ward as Chairman of the Public Safety Committee. She asked that the life ring be added to the City's public dock in honor of the City's Public Safety officers.

Gary Nestler, 17 22nd Avenue, expressed concern about differing messages coming from Council members with regards to the City's financial status. He believes it is creating misleading information. He also expressed concern about the pay for Fire Department personnel and believes it needs to be increased. He said he is alarmed about the sharing of personnel information on social media.

Al Clouse's comments are attached to these minutes.

Les Kutcher's comments are attached to these minutes.

Gerald Johnson spoke about the need for unity within the community. He does not believe a cap on short-term rentals is the answer to the issue with short-term rentals. He would like to see the community find a unified solution.

Kevin Cunnane's comments are attached to these minutes.

4. **Approval of previous meetings' minutes**

A. City Council Meeting – September 26, 2023
B. Special Joint City Council & Planning Commission Meeting – September 26, 2023
C. Special City Council Meeting – October 3, 2023
D. Special City Council Meeting – October 10, 2023
E. Special City Council Workshop – October 10, 2023

MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to approve the minutes, and Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Old Business -- none**

Update on emergency beach restoration work between Breach Inlet and 314 Ocean Boulevard

Administrator Fragoso said, "For several weeks now, we have been working with Collins Construction who have been deployed again for several weeks, pretty much since the last storm, Hurricane Idalia, came through. Our efforts continue after City Council approved additional funds for additional beach erosion mitigation efforts. We have been pursuing our project in response to the action taken by Council at that time. Therefore, we have been trucking sand, beach compatible sand, and our contractor continues to scrape from the beach, restoring the dune system and the dry sand beach. We are still waiting for actual numbers from our contractor to account for exactly how many cubic yards of sand have been placed so far. We understand the range would be between 25 and 30,000. The contractor continues, the sandbags, they took a little bit longer than anticipated for them to receive the sandbags. They received them early, late last week, and they have been filling them offsite. They will be bringing them in starting tomorrow. The area that has been approved by OCRM for the placement of sandbags is the area between 120 and 206 Ocean. We have contacted those owners and kept them appraised of any progress updates. We have also finalized the coordination of the public meeting that we will have with the Army Corps of Engineers to talk about the upcoming large project, beneficial use project in coordination with the Corps anticipated to start early next year. That meeting will be hosted on November 13 at 5:00pm, and we will do it at the Exchange Club. We have sent out invitations to folks along the project area to attend. We have also notified owners about the emergency ordinance. We know of a handful of people who may be interested, and we are helping them understand what the ordinance is and the criteria that they would need to follow. So we are working with some people on that end with regards to sandbags." She said about 10 properties are receiving sandbags.

6. **New Business**

A. **Consideration of final design of emergency vehicle access project at the IOP County Park**

MOTION: Council Member Popson made a motion to approve, and Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. **Consideration of engaging Trident and McMillan Pazdan Smith as the Design-Build team for City Hall renovations**

MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to approve, and Council Member Anderson seconded the motion.

Council Member Pierce asked if the motion needed to include the $10,000 option. Administrator Fragoso responded, "Just as background, the scoring from the presentation indicated Trident and the McMillan team have been selected by the scoring. We have included a proposal in your packet that would involve the first phase of a potential project, which would include an assessment and recommendation. There is no design. There are no specifications. It is basically look at our building, understand what the needs are, and make some recommendations for the City. And I think the amount is $69,000."

Director Kerr added, "The alternate would only be needed if we were going to extend significantly outside of the footprint by more than 650 square feet. So there is a possibility that we would need it. So I think I would err on the side of" including it in the motion.

Council Member Miars mentioned that there had been discussion on the Committee level of having both firms come present more information and a basic estimate to City Council.

Director Kerr explained, "I would just respond that our code specifically keeps us from doing a competitive process with design work. This first stage is basically all design work. So I think the way we have done it is the way that is dictated by our code. We would have the option at subsequent stages to go out for more competitive, we could do it competitively then. But at this stage, it is really just working through concepts with us, and it is design work, which we, the State law and the City Code don't allow that to be done competitively.

Administrator Fragoso added, "Specifically for architectural purposes, there is a provision in our code that you have to select a scope of work based on qualifications."

Once City Council decides which path to take with City Hall renovations, then the City can go out for competitive bids.

VOTE: A vote was taken with all in favor.

C. **Consideration of IOP Connector Run contribution**

Mayor Pounds said that City has given $7500 each year to the IOP Connector Run, and after the run, the City receives 10% of the proceeds for support services, which last year came to $8200.

He would like to have the City continue to contribute $7500 to the run but not take the 10% returned to the City. Proceeds from the Run support local charities.

MOTION: Mayor Pounds made a motion that this year the City not accept the proceeds check from the IOP Connector Run and remains with the Exchange Club for sharing with the selected nonprofits of its choosing. Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. **Consideration of replacement of patrol SUV in the amount of $52,000 [Unbudgeted expenditure – vehicle involved in accident and deemed total loss by insurance. Proposed to be funded by Muni ATAX]**

MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed $52,000 for the purchase of a replacement patrol SUV. Council Member Popson seconded the motion.

This vehicle had 110,000 miles on it and was due to be replaced in 2025. The City received $14,000 from the insurance company for the vehicle, and that will be used towards the purchase of the replacement. Some of the upfitting from the totaled vehicle will be placed in the new SUV. The remainder of the purchase price will come from Municipal ATAX funds.

VOTE: A vote was taken with all in favor.

7. **Boards and Commissions Reports**

A. **Board of Zoning Appeals** – minutes attached
B. **Planning Commission** – minutes attached
C. **Accommodations Tax Advisory Board** – minutes attached
D. **Environmental Advisory Committee** – minutes attached

8. **Ordinances, Resolutions, and Petitions**

A. **Second Reading – none**
B. **First Reading – none**
C. **Resolutions and Petitions**

i. Resolution Authorizing Consumption of beer and wine only, amplified noise and street closure at the LOWVELO Bike Ride on November 4, 2023

MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to approve and waive the reading, and Council Member Miars seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Fragoso explained, "For the record, this event as stated will be on November 4. However, the setup of that event will require partial closure of our municipal parking lot B, which is the large one on Front Beach. They are starting the setup of their tents on Tuesday afternoon. There will still be parking available, but part of that parking lot will not because of the tents. And then the road closure will start on Thursday, November 2. Only the southbound lane between 14th and Pavilion Drive will be closed through Saturday night, the date of the event. The

Lowvelo team has been sharing a lot of information with our Front Beach businesses through the Chamber, directly door to door, just to make sure people are aware. This is the fourth year, so I think people have got the hang of it." A final review meeting is being held tomorrow afternoon.

ii. **Proclamation declaring November 16, 2023 as World Pancreatic Day in the City of Isle of Palms**

MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to approve and waive the reading, and Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. **Executive Session -- none**

10. **Adjournment**

Council Member Ward made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Popson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk

Remarks of Susan Hill Smith

Thank you to the City and the Council for this recognition and for spotlighting the need to find solutions for the litter and pollution crisis & to protect the beauty of our island.

This honor is really about Isle of Palms Cleanup Crew, which has always been a group effort, and there are important people I would like to fold into this recognition.

First, my **Cofounder Katrina Limbach**. Her creative spark, hard work and the synergy that we have had together have been critical to Isle of Palms Cleanup Crew's success.

Thank you to **City Administrator Desiree Fragoso** for connecting me with Trina back in 2018 – without that introduction Isle of Palms Cleanup Crew would not be what it is today.

The **South Carolina Aquarium's conservation team**, especially **Kelly Thorvalson** and **Linda Rowe**, have been supporting and guiding us since our very first litter sweep.

Islander Rebecca Stephenson involved her family in the early days. And **Howard Hogue – also known as Beach Santa –** is legendary for cleaning up litter on IOP & around the Lowcountry. They are now wonderful members of our welcome team.

Shoutout to **Paula Kennedy & Team Blue from South Carolina Federal Credit Union**. They have faithfully shown up for us as through their employee volunteer program in many ways.

Shoutouts also to all the island businesses we have engaged as sponsors since 2018 – I wish I had time to list them all, but I will mention that **Windjammer** & **Acme Lowcountry Kitchen** have supported us since the very start.

I cannot leave out the **thousands of volunteers from across the Lowcountry and beyond who have joined us since 2018**, and **all the other people who clean up on their own time.**

For some **– including Sarah Parker Daniel, who nominated me for this recognition** – it's part of their regular routine, something they do nearly every day.

If you pick litter on this island – you are a member of Isle of Palms Cleanup Crew – and this recognition is for all of you, too.

Remarks of Randy Bell

Thankfully this election will soon be over. I am asking that this document as provided to Council be included in the public record and published as citizen comments.

- Obviously, folks know where I stand on the issue of STR limitations.

  - The attempts to confuse and divide this community are beyond belief, and yet the source of community division sits behind the dais. On February 28th the 5-member majority opted to stop any and all discussion on a subject of extreme importance to the residents of IOP.

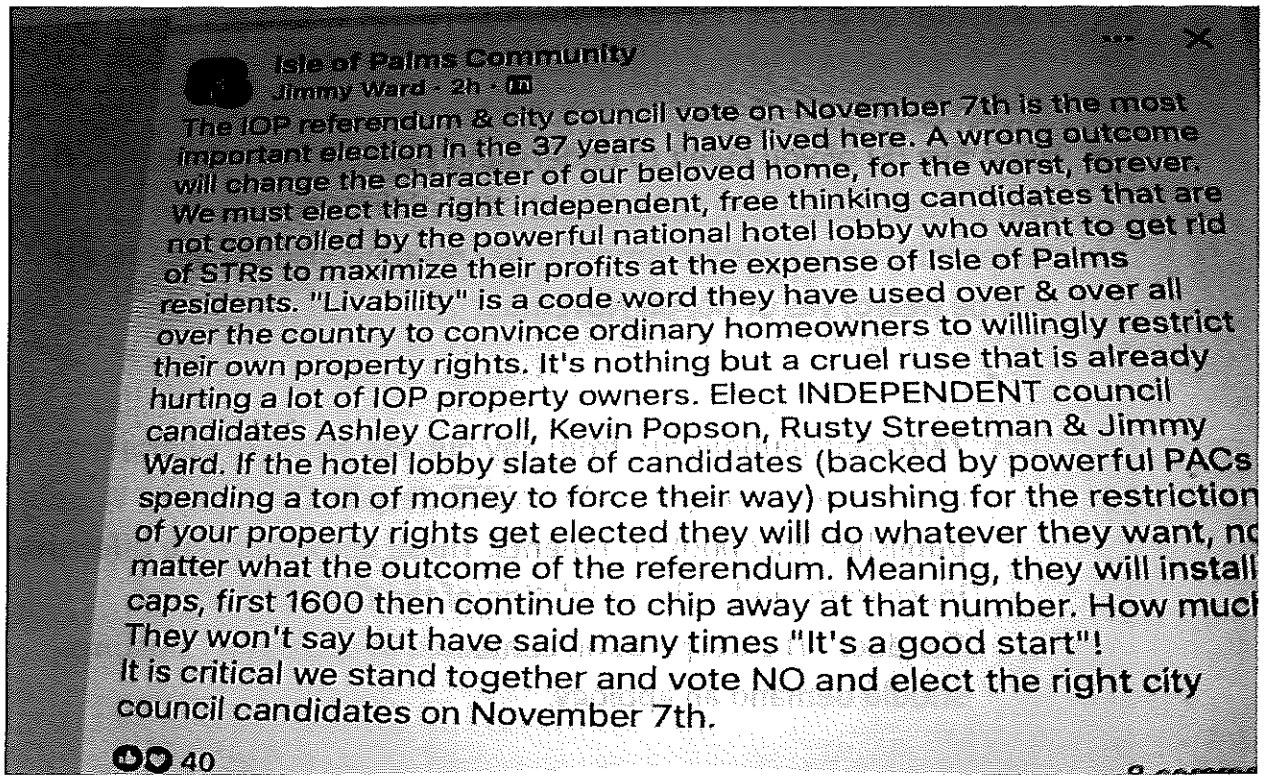
  - What five (5) of you failed to understand was just how determined your constituents were to be heard. You did not believe this community would gather almost 1,200 resident signatures. We will now be heard, yes or no, on November 7th.

    - Zero contributions are from any outside group or commercial interest advocating for a YES VOTE despite Councilman Ward's published Facebook comments. These comments are offensive, inaccurate, and a clear violation of the Council Code of Conduct. The desperation contained in accusatory postings should demand an apology.

    - What happened to the unanimously passed Council Code of Conduct that stated acceptable use of social media, and a level of respect and dignity to all? It would appear that its selective application only applies to Katie Miars?

    - Mayor, this requires leadership and that is on you, and it's time that you act. Citizens can not call for action, but you can.

- Whatever the outcome of this election, and whomever occupies these Council seats may we have a return to civil discourse and debate. The current Council behavior is unacceptable to any reasonable person paying attention.



Isle of Palms Community
Jimmy Ward · 2h

The IOP referendum & city council vote on November 7th is the most important election in the 37 years I have lived here. A wrong outcome will change the character of our beloved home, for the worst, forever. We must elect the right independent, free thinking candidates that are not controlled by the powerful national hotel lobby who want to get rid of STRs to maximize their profits at the expense of Isle of Palms residents. "Livability" is a code word they have used over & over all over the country to convince ordinary homeowners to willingly restrict their own property rights. It's nothing but a cruel ruse that is already hurting a lot of IOP property owners. Elect INDEPENDENT council candidates Ashley Carroll, Kevin Popson, Rusty Streetman & Jimmy Ward. If the hotel lobby slate of candidates (backed by powerful PACs spending a ton of money to force their way) pushing for the restriction of your property rights get elected they will do whatever they want, no matter what the outcome of the referendum. Meaning, they will install caps, first 1600 then continue to chip away at that number. How much They won't say but have said many times "It's a good start"!
It is critical we stand together and vote NO and elect the right city council candidates on November 7th.

40

Randy Bell

Citizen comments 10/24/2023

Comments of
Laura Lovins

Good evening,

I think most of us have heard the expression "there are 2 sides to every story". In the musical, Fiddler on the Roof, Tevya, the beleaguered father of daughters trying to decide how to handle them wanting to marry in non-traditional ways, talked his way through the options – "On the one hand…on the other hand..

But to say there are 2 sides to every story you would assume that both sides are dealing with facts. Unfortunately for the Isle of Palms residents, they are being given inaccurate, even convoluted information by one side of the argument.

To produce signs that say "Vote no to preserve our neighborhoods" is a complete oxymoron. Voting no will allow our neighborhoods to become commercial districts, not residential districts, and will destroy them.

To say that if we pass the referendum, city revenue will suffer and your property taxes will go up, is also a falsehood and a scare tactic. The referendum will not reduce any existing STRs. Our city revenue is very healthy, our property taxes are some of the lowest in the State, as Council Member Ward pointed out at last night's candidate forum, so how would keeping the status quo on STR's negatively affect city revenue and property taxes?

The other side says that limiting STR's will negatively impact our city businesses. Again, another falsehood. In case you all don't remember, there is a new 153 room hotel in Wild Dunes called the Sweetgrass Inn that is generating thousands of new tourists annually. In fact, they are currently booked with events through January of next year. Does the other side think these people do not shop, eat, and spend money in Isle of Palms? Do they think they are not helping our local businesses? And by the way, Lowe and Coral Tree are becoming part of Hyatt's new upcoming short term rental platform – Homes & Hideaway's by World Hyatt. So stay tuned to what will be coming to Wild Dunes.

The other side has suggested that the 1,173 people who signed the STR petition did not know what they were doing. I'm stunned at the level of absurdity of that allegation. I personally walked neighborhoods in Wild Dunes to get signatures for the petition, and I will attest to the fact that <u>everyone</u> was given access to read

the petition and ask questions if there were any concerns. Everyone who signed the petition believed 100% in what it was intended to do.

We have four candidates that care about the facts of not only our current STR issues, but of all of issues – liveability, reducing the impact of tourism on residents, infrastructure needs, and preserving IOP as a family friendly, neighborhood community. Their side of the story is the one that Isle of Palms residents and voters need to listen too.

Thank you

Comments of Julie Westler

Cade Redmond and his dog, Dutch, with a life ring. /Courtesy Elise Redmond

CORNELIUS – Elise Redmond and her son, Cade, watched helplessly as Mateo Lopez drowned off a dock in Lake Norman.

Lopez was part of a crew doing construction on the house next door when it happened.

"He jumped into the lake to swim," Redmond said. "When he got about 10 feet from the dock, he had an issue of sorts and started to struggle. None of his co-workers could swim. They were all on the dock encouraging him to swim to the dock. The construction general contractor saw what was going on and jumped into the water to try to save him, but he couldn't reach him in time and Mateo drowned. It was shocking how quickly it happened."

This occurred Oct. 5, 2022.

"When the foreman came out of the water, he said, 'if I just had something to throw to him, I think I could have reached him,'" Redmond said. "My 13-year-old son who was out there the whole time looked at me and said, 'why isn't there a float? Why don't we have anything on our

dock?' We have them on the boats and at swimming pools, but they're not on the docks."

Drowning deaths are common in the United States with approximately 4,000 per year, 80 percent involving males, according to the Centers for Disease Control. In addition, there are approximately 8,000 nonfatal drowning incidents which can result in long-term health problems and costly hospital stays. Young children aged 1-4 have the highest drowning deaths, which happen most in swimming pools.

"What struck all of us was that there really is no rescue operation in a drowning," she said. "It really is recovery and while this individual didn't have family running around and screaming, which would have been a normal reaction, it shook all of us, 'wow, that's it.' We kept saying, 'where's the rescue, where's the rescue?'"

In October 2022, Elise Redmond and son Cade witnessed a drowning off their Lake Norman dock. /Courtesy Elise Redmond

Cade Redmond, assisted by his mother, took action and started raising awareness. He spoke at a Cornelius town meeting and, after hearing Redmond's initiative, Mayor Woody Washam initiated legislation requiring that floatation be available in public areas. Cade also reached out to a national influencer on boating safety, Aaron Stasiak – known as "The Qualified Captain" – and received his support for his "Float It Forward" vision.

"The two of them partnered up with West Marine who got behind the effort of doing individual distribution and marketing," Elise Redmond said. "It's taken on a life of its own.

"The U.S. Coast Guard has gotten involved in spreading the message nationally. The North Carolina Insurance Commissioner recently surprised Cade and gave him the North Carolina Commissioner's Award. We joke and say it's as simple as the rubber band. It's a commonsense thing that hasn't been thought of. We hope that we never see something like that again."

The Lake Norman Marine Commission (LNMC) has a "Love Where You Lake" campaign to build safety awareness around the lake.

"Elise and I started talking and she told me that she felt like this was something that needed to be addressed," John Johnson, Mecklenburg County's LNMC commissioner, said. "Our mission for the Lake Norman Marine Commission is to work to provide safe access to Lake Norman for public use. It's clearly within our jurisdiction and interest to do this.

"It'd be great if this could be a requirement, but we're not there yet. We're hoping, at some point, to have a regulation. Right now, we're looking at the carrot versus the stick. We've got some funding and will buy the rings and give them away to people. We think people will want to do the right thing and install these on their docks. I don't think a lot of people really think about it."

Johnson added most who have ordered life rings from the LNMC say it' something they hadn't thought about.

For more information or to order a float, visit floatitforward.com or contact the LNMC at lnmc.org.

Related Stories by Lake Norman Publications

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Editor's Note: To learn more about the Float it Forward campaign visit www.thedevotedfloat.com (http://www.thedevotedfloat.com).

On October 5, 2022, a young father of two drowned just 10 feet off a dock on Lake Norman, in Cornelius, North Carolina. One person tried to save the drowning man, but was unable to reach him. It was a tragedy all too common as nearly 4,000 deaths each year are due to drowning.

There to witness this loss of life was 13-year-old Cade Redmond, whose house sits right next to where the incident happened. Shocked by what he saw, Redmond wondered how such a thing could happen so quickly and he was determined to learn more. What he found was that, unlike on boats or by pools, there are no rules or regulations for docks to carry floatation devices, and looking around he realized rescue rings were not on any of his neighbor's docks. A ring might have saved a life.

Despite having the regular busy life of a teenager, Redmond took on the challenge to get life rings in people's hands. "It was my reaction to hearing people say after the drowning if they'd had something to throw, they probably could have saved him. I took that to heart and thought I should make something out of it. I wanted to save lives," Redmond said. He launched the *Float it Forward* campaign in response and in just a few months his efforts have snowballed.

Buy One, Give One

Cade Redmond came up with the Float it Forward campaign.

The concept is simple. He asked dock owners to buy a life ring for their own dock and also purchase one for a friend. With his mother Elise's assistance, the duo began taking orders and delivering life rings around Lake Norman. Their efforts caught the attention of local and state policymakers who have vowed to introduce a bill calling for mandatory life rings on public docks and access points. The Lake Norman Marine Commission's Safety Council already had a "Love Where You Lake" campaign to build safety awareness around the lake, so adopting Redmond's initiative was a perfect fit. The lake police have jumped on the idea of doing duck races to raise awareness of boating and water safety. The races are the draw and while people are at each event they can learn about the importance of flotation. "The police keep saying that flotation saves lives and the duck floats are now out there quacking the message," Redmond said.

Marina DOCK AGE
(https://www.marinadockage.com)

As any teen knows, if an idea is picked up by social media it can grow quickly beyond a local effort. Redmond took his message to Instagram and created the @theDevotedFloat page, which has been rapidly gaining followers. He asks his audience to *Float it Forward*, but also requests they send fun photos that show them with a life ring to make the safety message entertaining.

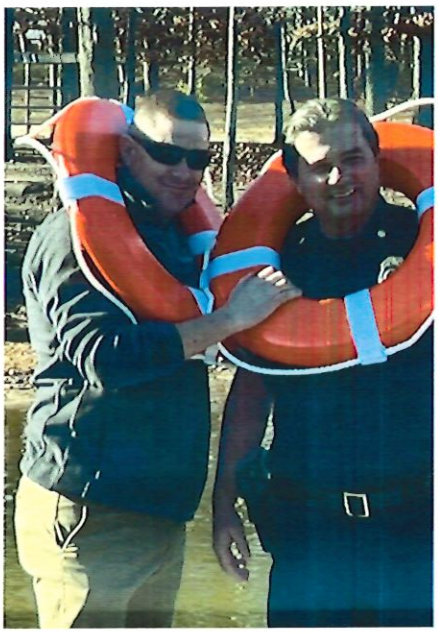
The message is not only that people need to have life rings available, but the goal is to also teach people how to properly throw life rings. "Early on I didn't know how to throw a ring until I saw it on a video. I thought it was like throwing a frisbee, but you don't want to hit someone in distress with the ring. Now that I know how to do it, I want to pass that information to others," Redmond said. Videos on how to throw a ring will be complemented by online video contests for "best throw" to make safety a bit more fun.

A Message of Safety Goes Viral

His work has attracted the interest of social media influencer, Aaron Stasiak, aka The Qualified Captain (https://thequalifiedcaptain.com/). The message of safety often doesn't resonate with young people, the hot doggers, and hipsters who won't read a pamphlet, so the goal is to put out something creative where the audience learns without realizing they're learning. That's the underlying basis for The Qualified Captain. Stasiak was working for Bradley Creek Marina in Wilmington, North Carolina, when he began witnessing the mishaps of boaters who had no training or experience. He began filming these experiences and sharing them online, at first as a joke, but then to warn people what can happen if safety is ignored.

The videos on Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/thequalifiedcaptain/) and Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/thequalifiedcaptainspage/) went viral and now, close to a million followers later, Stasiak has a wide platform to use to tout boating safety. The success of The Qualified Captain was recognized this past year by the Sea Tow

Foundations' Boating Safety Advisory Council. The council created a special award designation, "Top Social Media Boating Safety Influencer," to tout the distinguished performance of The Qualified Captain, highlighting that while others have had success with "boating gone wrong" videos, only The Qualified Captain has tied those videos to boating safety education.



Members of the Cornelius Police Department, includi officer George Brinze (left), supporting the Float it Forward campaign.

Redmond, one of Stasiak's followers, appreciated those efforts and reached out to share his concept. He wanted to see if there was a way the two could work together. "Cade sent me information and I had a conversation with him and knew he was making a good point that we needed to spread. Local docks and ramps are missing life floats, and they should be made aware of why they need them," Stasiak said. The two are hoping through using the platform of The Qualified Captain, their message will spread to both dock owners and to government officials who they believe should be implementing rules for the placement of life rings on public docks and access points. "We want people to realize what can happen on the water. They may laugh when they see it but at the end of the day these mishaps happen and you need to keep yourself aware of the potential dangers on the water," Stasiak said.

With the speed at which social media outreach spreads, both Redmond's *Float it Forward* and Stasiak's The Qualified Captain are gearing up to be busy taking orders for life rings. To help speed the process of getting rings in hands, West Marine has stepped in to partner on the project (https://fox4kc.com/business/press-releases/ein-presswire/623717191/the-devoted-float-and-the-qualified-captain-announce-national-retail-partnership-with-west-marine/) as the ring supplier. They hope to create custom floats with their logos, so anyone who sees the float will be reminded of their educational efforts.

Reflecting on why Redmond wanted to jump into the world of marketing, sponsorship, and public relations he said, "You don't know you need a life ring until something horrible happens. I want there to be a life saved by this, for people to see this is a real issue that can be solved. Such a simple act can save lives."

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MISSION AND HISTORY

On October 5, 2022, a young father of 2 drown 10 feet off a dock in Lake Norman.

Along with others, a 13 year old boy named Cade witnessed the tragedy from his own back yard.

One of the onlookers who had jumped in to save the drowning man but couldn't, said “if only I had something to throw to him I think I could have saved him”!

This sparked the idea in Cade of "The Devoted Float", an awareness and resource organization focused on the importance of installing dockside

lifesaving devices.

Cade is working locally with the Lake Norman Marine Commission, state legislature, law enforecement, The Qualified Captain and West Marine to spread the message of encouraging all dock owners to install a lifesaver ring. Lifesaver rings are often found on boats and at swimming pools, but rarely are they found on docks. This is a simple idea that truly can save many lives.

Cade has also started an instragram page called @thedevotedfloat where he asks people to install dockside flotation as well as send him fun photos of installed lifesaver rings as a way to get the message out in a light hearted way.

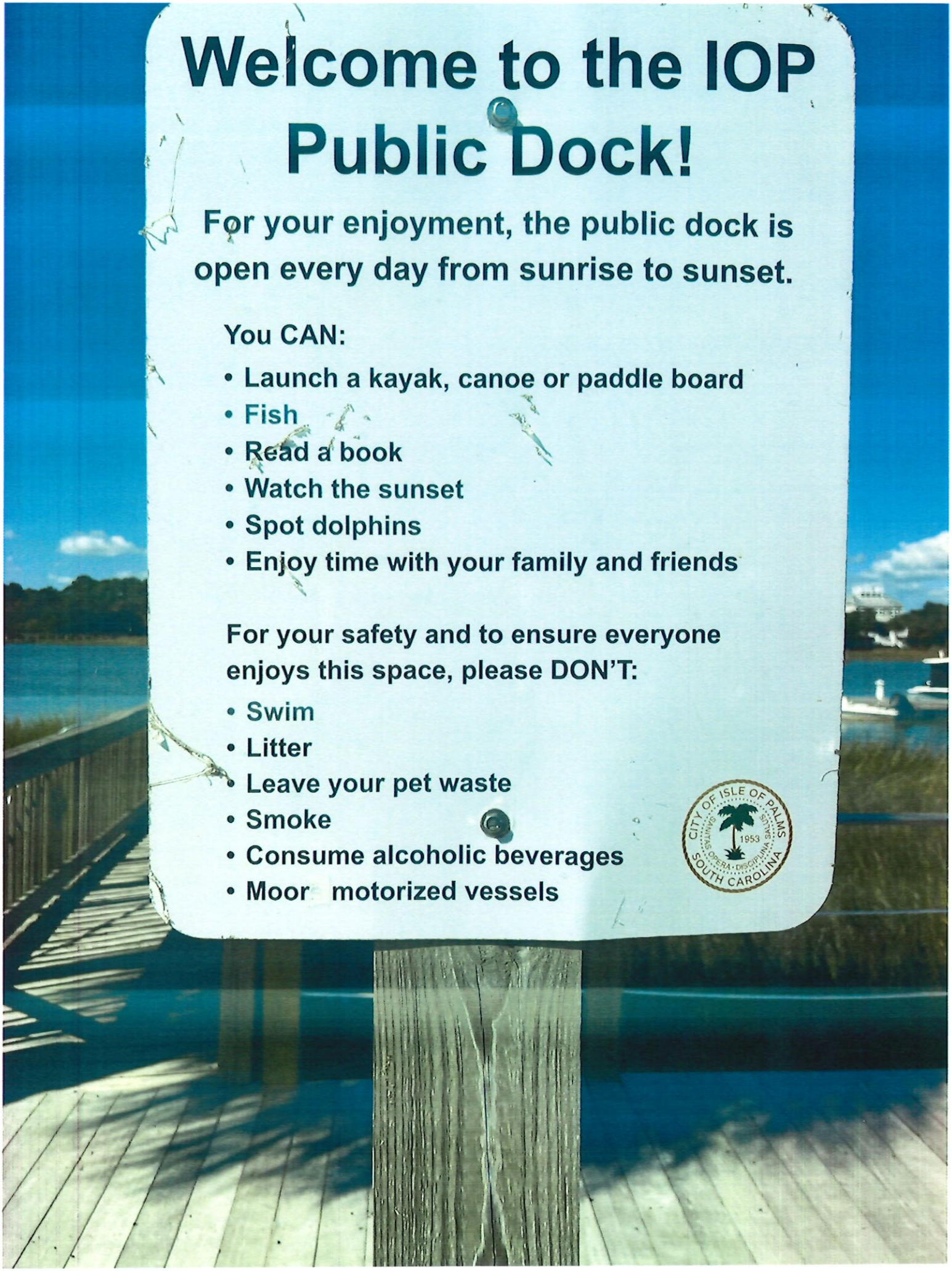
While Cade started the movement in the Lake Norman area, his message has now spread nationally.

1 out of 7 injury related deaths are due to a drowning. There is very little time to rescue someone that is drowning and often those that jump in to save others find themselves quickly in trouble.

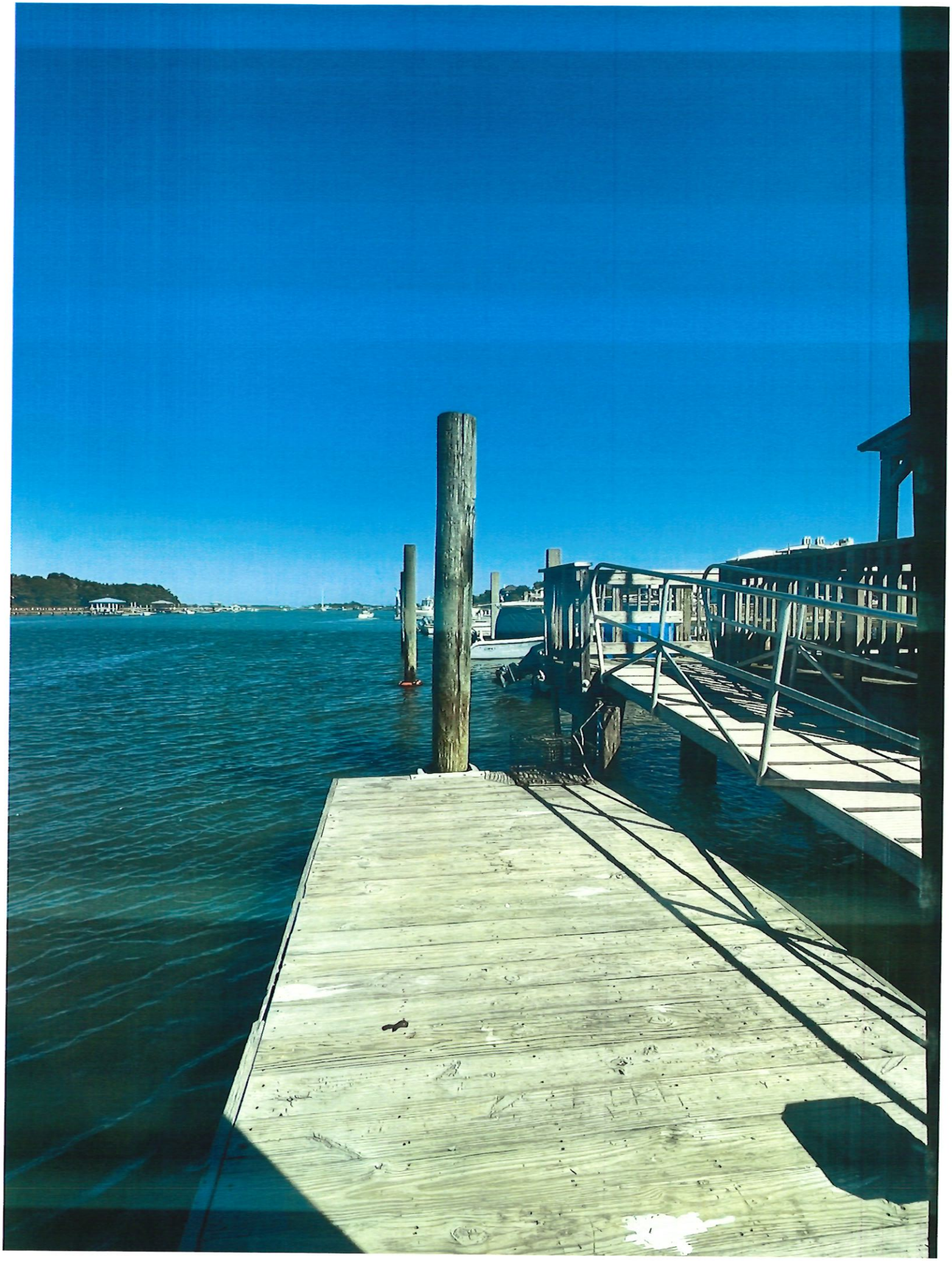
A flotation device is a valuable rescue tool and simple to use.

We appreciate your support in helping

Fig. 5


Welcome to the IOP Public Dock!
For your enjoyment, the public dock is open every day from sunrise to sunset.
You CAN:
• Launch a kayak, canoe or paddle board
• Fish
• Read a book
• Watch the sunset
• Spot dolphins
• Enjoy time with your family and friends
For your safety and to ensure everyone enjoys this space, please DON'T:
• Swim
• Litter
• Leave your pet waste
• Smoke
• Consume alcoholic beverages
• Moor motorized vessels
CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS
1953
SOUTH CAROLINA

CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS
1953
SOUTH CAROLINA
Public Dock
Push to Open
Dock open from
dawn until dusk
For problems, call IOPPD
843-886-6522



Five drownings across South Carolina mark tragic start to summer season

BY ALI ROCKETT AROCKETT@POSTANDCOURIER.COM

JUN 16, 2023

Lifeguard-training candidates run up the beach after completing a swim on Folly Beach on May 19, 2023. File/Henry Taylor/Staff

BY HENRY TAYLOR HTAYLOR@POSTANDCOURIER.COM

A 4-year-old child. A tourist from China. A woman from Norway. A teenager helping another kid struggling on a boogie board. And a man who jumped from a boat to help a child in distress.

All drowned in the two weeks since the unofficial start of summer at some of the Palmetto State's most popular waterways and beach destinations.

Last weekend, two separate drownings were reported in Berkeley and Charleston counties, where water is always close by.

NEWS

Stay safe in the water this summer with these tips from Charleston lifeguards, instructors

BY ALI ROCKETT AROCKETT@POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Around 12:45 p.m. June 10, a 4-year-old from Bonneau, near Lake Moultrie, was found in a pond near the child's home. The death is being investigated as an accidental drowning, according to Berkeley County Coroner Darnell Hartwell.

Drowning is the fifth leading cause of accidental death in the United States, according to the U.S. Lifesaving Association. It is the leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 4, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The child's death marks the third drowning so far this year in Berkeley County, matching last year's total, Hartwell confirmed.

FAMILY NEWS & TIPS

Cool off at public pools in the Charleston area

BY THERESA STRATFORD

Around 3:30 p.m. June 11, lifeguards notified Folly Beach police they were performing CPR on a man they'd pulled from the ocean, according to an incident report.

Chuyang Wang died about an hour later at the Medical University of South Carolina, according to the Charleston County Coroner's Office.

Kari Lavoie, the Charleston County Parks and Recreation emergency services coordinator for aquatic safety, speaks over a walkie-talkie to a fellow lifeguard instructor to mark off a half-mile for the mile run during lifeguard training on Folly Beach on May 19, 2023. File/Henry Taylor/Staff

BY HENRY TAYLOR HTAYLOR@POSTANDCOURIER.COM

A witness, who was with the 27-year-old, told police they were visiting the area from China. He was only wading in shallows because he didn't know how to swim, the witness told police. He didn't know if Wang could swim.

It was Charleston County's second drowning this year; there were eight last year, according to the Coroner's Office.

NEWS

'He truly believed in helping people': Teen drowns trying to save child at SC state park

BY NICOLE ZIEGE NZIEGE@POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Two recent drownings in the state involved victims trying save others struggling in the water.

On June 6, a 16-year-old drowned at Huntington Beach State Park near Murrells Inlet along the Grand Strand.

Tre'Sean Snow of Fayetteville, N.C., was swimming with friends when he noticed another child struggling on a boogie board, according to friends and the Georgetown County Coroner's Office.

While trying to help the child, Snow was overtaken by the ocean current. He was later pronounced dead at Tidelands Waccamaw Community Hospital.

Snow's death is the first drowning this year in Georgetown County, according to Coroner Chase Ridgeway.

HILTON HEAD

Woman accused in drowning death of 6-year-old daughter waives bond hearing

BY TONY KUKULICH TKUKULICH@POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Around 3 p.m. June 5, a woman was found floating in the surf at Edisto Beach, according to a **statement from the town's police chief**. A "good Samaritan" pulled her from the water and a nurse who happened to be nearby started CPR.

The woman, who died shortly after, was identified as 26-year-old Live Andersen, from Norway, Colleton County Coroner Richard Harvey **told The State newspaper**. Harvey did not respond to a Post and Courier request for information.

Around 4 p.m. June 3, Caleb Cohen was on a boat on Lake Keowee in the Upstate when a child swimming nearby appeared to be in distress, according to Oconee County Coroner Karl Addis.

The 35-year-old from Moore jumped into the water and didn't resurface. His body was found several hours later beneath 42 feet of water, according to an incident report.

No other injuries were reported, and the child was pulled back to safety by another adult in the boat.

It is the first drowning in Oconee County so far this year, Addis said. At this point last year, the county had seen four drownings. By the end of 2022, eight drownings were reported, three of which occurred at Lake Keowee.

Reach Ali Rockett at 843-901-1708. Follow her on Twitter @AliRockettPC.

MORE INFORMATION

Tropical Storm Bret could bring further SC rip current risk after NWS advisory expires

Investigation continues into apparent Summerville child drowning

Drowning-prevention program now available in Colleton and Dorchester counties

ALI ROCKETT

Ali Rockett covers crime and public safety in the Charleston area. She previously worked at papers in Virginia and her home state of North Carolina.

My name is Les Kutcher. I live at 9 Ocean Point Drive. Full disclosure, I am a sitting Director on the WDCA Board. My comments and concerns today, however, are mine and mine alone. They do not reflect the positions or opinions of the WDCA Board or of the WD Resort.

My 1st comment has to do with my distaste for spin or manipulation of the facts for no purpose other than to obscure, confuse, and disturb. Those of us who are full time residents and registered voters and who support the referendum that imposes a fair and reasonable cap on STRs, have been labeled a "special interest group" by those who oppose any STR Cap. Those that so stridently oppose the Cap, are, for the most part, well funded, deep pocketed commercial entities that include, but are not limited to, the IOP Chamber of Commerce, CTAR, Isle of Palms United, IOP Nation, and the WD Resort. These commercial interests all benefit directly and significantly from revenues generated by STRs. They are clearly not motivated by such quality of life considerations as traffic, congestion, safety, noise, or preservation of the environment. Those that support a Cap, such as Preserve IOP, and Silent Majority IOP, are constituted entirely by IOP homeowners of all owner classes, and are funded by volunteer contributions from individuals who live, and/or own homes on the IOP. Candidates Scott Pierce, Elizabeth Campsen, Tim Ahmuty, and Brian Duffy, all of whom support a Cap, are themselves, self funded. Not a dime is generated by any of these organizations or candidates from any commercial interest. How can such a grass-roots effort entirely funded by locally residing individuals, be labeled "special interest." In fact, those that profit from STRs and do not live, vote or own homes on IOP are the "Special Interest."

I will not endeavor, at this time, to refute the wearied talking points shared by those that oppose the Cap. These have already been thoroughly and honestly addressed by

Preserve IOP and Silent Majority IOP. What I will say is that such talking points are a testament to the adage, often put to practical use by those who wish to cling to power, control, or the status quo, "if you keep them uninformed and afraid, they will follow you anywhere."

As long as we are on the topic of spin, I would like to congratulate the author of those street signs asking voters to preserve our neighborhoods by voting "No" on the referendum. You have successfully pushed the limits of what is believable to a heretofore never imagined height.

Finally, I have a question for Mayor Pounds and the Council.

On the "Support Wild Dunes Resort" website, the following is highlighted:

On November 15, 2022, the City of Isle of Palms passed five ordinances that stripped Wild Dunes LLC's remaining development rights. These ordinances were passed without due process and proper procedure and were created to address issues unrelated to Wild Dunes that resulted from years of poor infrastructure management and poor code enforcement. As a result of the City's actions, ownership was left to seek protection of its rights through litigation. While the lawsuit is ongoing, the City is legally required to enter mediation proceedings within 300 days of the lawsuit being filed, which took place January 12, 2023. 300 days from the filing date is November 8, 2023, and at present, with a city council election scheduled for November 7, 2023, the city has yet to enter mediation proceedings.

In response, it has been learned from City Administration that "no scheduling order is in place and thus no mediation deadline" exists.

Can you address this obvious and troubling inconsistency? I expect you will say you are unable to discuss ongoing litigation, but the Resort obviously does not feel similarly encumbered.

City Council 10/24/23; Clouse Comments (Meeting No. 26 since 4/13/2022)
Regarding NOISE ORDINANCE; NUISANCE.

Requesting for the **eighteenth (18th) time** (twice in writing) to provide us written assurances regarding enforcement of **§ 9-2-5 (b)(c)**. **"Amplified Music"** from Sweetgrass has resulted into a "**Nuisance",** which is being perpetrated by the City, as a result of not enforcing the ordinance.

Regarding the **Livability Statistics** report: Constructively, we would like to see a number of detailed footnotes at the bottom of said report regarding definitions and column explanations. We are not writing to our audience; we are writing to ourselves.

All of you are fully apprised of the **"White Wedding"** event at the **Sweetgrass Event Center** this past Friday night (10/20/23). Based on our documentation, this is an epitome of a **Nuisance.** How does someone with this behavior keep their license?

Called the Police beginning at 7:48PM continuing until 11:37PM, for a total of **seven (7)** times (see attached). Three (3) officers, very polite, rang our door bell around 8:15PM. They informed us they had issued a citation. While talking on our **front porch** for a few minutes, the noise continuing, they stated the noise was too loud, they were going back and issue another citation.

Hooping and hollering continued until 1:16AM.

All the above resulted in **one (1) citation. Enforcement? Livability?**

Now we know why the Empire is not responded to our **"Back to the Future"** proposal.

For the first time since November 2022 we are **increasing our denominator** from **5 to 6**.

Narratives: Since we are living in the **Official Rumor Mill Capital of the World ("RMCW")**; we have been strongly encouraged to reiterate the following:

We purchased **Lot 1** in the Grand Pavilion in **1988;** based on a title issue, orchestrated a like kind exchange for **Lot 3** in **1991**. Moved from Indiana to South Carolina in **2013.** Executed a building contract in early **2017;** received a Certificate of Occupancy on **12/31/2018** (our personal residence).

The Math: thirty-six (36) years of **uninterrupted ownership in IOP.** Thirty **(30)** years at **6%;** six **(6)** years at **4%**. Rumor Mill CEO, please **delete our account.**

Final Point: We are not entitled. Our livability can not be a derivative based on years of ownership. Whether **thirty-six (36) years** or **thirty-six (36) days**.....one's livability needs to be equal for all.

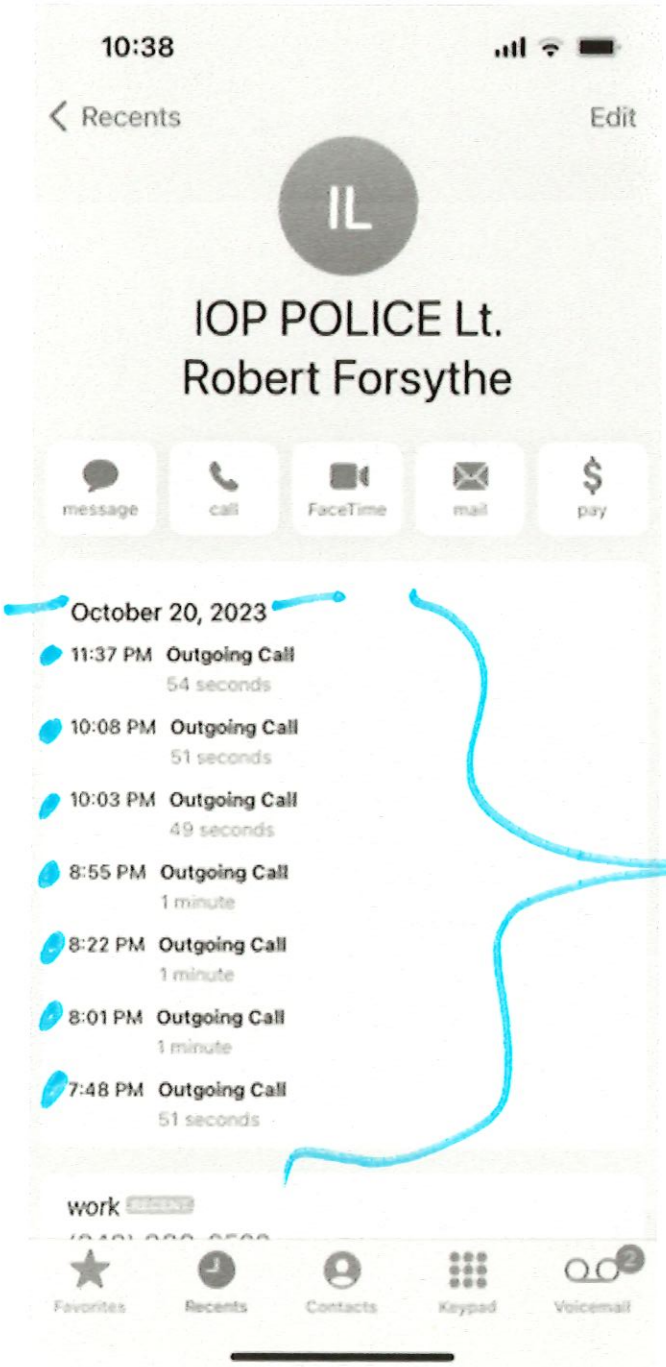
The Crowes were no where to be heard last Friday night.

(No Subject)

From: al clouse (awclouse@yahoo.com)

To: awclouse@yahoo.com

Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 10:41 AM EDT



= 1 CITATION

: ENFORCEMENT?

Remarks of Kevin Cunnane

Thank you for the opportunity to speak, remarks copied below.

I was asked to speak by local first responders and citizens.

First Responders need proper staffing, equipment and pay, not just accolades.

Firefighter staffing is measured by a minimum standard called NFPA 1710. IOP does not meet the standard and neither do its closest back ups in the mutual aid system.

Mutual aid is not a primary response strategy, it is a back up for major events and multiple incidents simultaneously. Recently the IOP Ladder truck responded as second ladder to Dunes West in Mount Pleasant. Thank you for that, but look at the travel time and ask if your family was waiting to be rescued would you want the ladder coming from Dunes West? Its 11 miles away and about a 23 minute response time. In a situation where seconds count... That. Is. An. Eternity.

Pay for first responders has a critical impact upon the retention and skill level of your responders. Low pay leads to retention problems and constantly training new employees impacting morale, and efficiency of your emergency services, both Police and Fire.

How has responder pay kept up with the increasing tax base and budgets?

Please look into the history of horrific Beach house fires such as the one in 2007 in Ocean Isle NC where 7 college students died. Being near the ocean brings higher winds and faster fires that's just a fact.

Responders always step up and do the right thing. They make tremendous sacrifices for all of us. The least our local governments can do is do right by them at budget time.

Thank you.