

Foley Newsletter

Summer reading goes virtual with the Foley Public Library

Join us for an Elephantails and Piggie Palooza! Through the month of June, Foley's library will virtually present 13 of our favorite Elephant and Piggie books and skits. They will be available at www.cityoffoley.org, Foley's municipal Facebook page and the Foley Public Library Storytime Facebook page! Check in every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for more stories. Stop in the library for book logs, stickers, bookmarks and more information about the 2021 summer reading program. ■



Foley Elementary receives Leader in Me Lighthouse School designation

Congratulations to the administration, faculty and students of Foley Elementary for being named a Leader in Me Lighthouse School. The Lighthouse Certification is a highly regarded standard set by FranklinCovey for Leader in Me schools. The certification is evidence that schools have produced outstanding results in leadership development. The certification is a four- to five-year process. ■

Foley attractions reopen

The Holmes Hospital Museum located at 117 W. Laurel Avenue, which was damaged heavily during Hurricane Sally, plans to reopen its doors in early June. The museum is located in the same building as the first hospital that served this area from 1936 to 1958, when the South Baldwin Hospital was built. The museum showcases many medical instruments used during that period, and tells the stories of local doctor W.C. Holmes and his wife, Philomene, a nurse, as well as the other medical staff that provided modern medical treatment during that time. The museum will be open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is free.

Another downtown favorite, the Model Train Exhibit, will also reopen on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays beginning in June. This exhibit features a museum-quality, O gauge model train layout that is operated by volunteers who call themselves the Caboose Club. The extensive layout provides room to operate numerous trains at once, that speed past model-sized cities, farms, lakes, a circus and a drive-in. Admission is free.

Foley's park train, which gives free rides to children around Heritage Park, begins a summer schedule of rides on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. from June through August. Volunteer train drivers are needed. Contact the welcome center at 251-943-1200. The Caboose Club, which operates the model trains, is also looking for volunteers. ■

Foley Fire Department Fire and Home Safety

As we were all impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foley Fire Department had to adjust its fire prevention and safety strategies in order to keep our personnel safe and healthy. We are working to resume our in-home smoke alarm and fire safety visits for those who need assistance in replacing alarm batteries. We remind everyone that smoke alarms are rated for 10 years of service, so replacement of older units is recommended. We are also working to resume our normal schedule for CPR and First Aid training with limitations on class sizes, so attendees should pre-register with our office. Also, as we enter the summer months, we remind you to prepare for hurricane season and other severe weather events. Please download a reliable weather app for your mobile devices or purchase a weather radio with local alerts. Contact our office at 251-943-1266 for more information on these items, and Turn Your Attention to Fire Prevention! ■

Outdoor Burn Ban

The Foley Fire Department reminds you that the annual Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) Burn Ban for Baldwin County goes into effect May 1 in an effort to improve air quality. Open burning of debris is prohibited until Nov. 1 with only a few exceptions (recreational/ceremonial/cooking fires; agricultural/silvicultural burns). These exceptions may also be restricted by the fire chief via a local burn ban when drought or weather conditions make it necessary.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT October 2020-March 2021

- **353 Single-family Permits—\$67,527,132 valuation**
- **21 Multi-family Permits (66 Units)—\$7,123,560 valuation**
- **1 New Commercial Permit—\$190,000 valuation**
- **103 Commercial Addition/Remodel Permits—\$9,425,523 valuation**
- **3,299 Total Permits—\$103,503,972 valuation**

The complete annual report can be found on the city website: cityoffoley.org/Community-Development. Planning Commission and other agendas and minutes are posted at cityoffoley.org/CityBoards/Agendas&Minutes. We welcome your comments and questions at 251-952-4011. ■



407 E. Laurel Ave.
P.O. Box 1750
Foley, AL 36536

Upcoming Events

All events are subject to change due to COVID-19 regulations.

Foley Events Updated Daily VisitFoley.com

Foley Public Library FoleyLibrary.org

Foley Senior Center CityofFoley.org

Foley Sports Tourism FoleySportsTourism.com

Graham Creek Preserve GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market

Local produce, fresh seafood, homemade goods and more. Open Sat. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 20733 Mifflin Rd. www.CoastalAlabamaMarket.com

Observe and Explore Days

First Wednesday and third Saturday each month, 10 a.m.-noon. Free activities for children 10 and under. Graham Creek Nature Preserve, 23460 Wolf Bay Dr., Foley. www.grahamcreekpreserve.org

Brandon Styles 1-Man Variety Show

Comedy, Magic, Impressions! Brandon Styles LIVE at OWA is a classy show that has something for the whole family! For dates and times: VisitOWA.com.

May 7-9 Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival

A family-friendly event with tethered balloon rides, balloon glows, balloons in flight, artisan and food vendors, live music and more! Downtown OWA. gulfcoastballoonfestival.com

May 8 Hobbit Tea: The Journey Home

Copper Kettle Tea Bar. 251-609-2832 www.thecopperkettleabar.com

May 8-9 Art in the Park

Over 100 artists showcase their talents while providing unique cultural experiences and shopping opportunities for hand-crafted items. John B. Foley Park.

May 14, 21, 28, June 4 & 11 Heritage Park Marketplace

Fridays 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Offers a variety of arts and crafts, handmade items, plants and much more. Heritage Park. www.VisitFoley.com



May 14, 21, 28, June 4 & 11 Music and a Movie

Fridays 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy a movie, music and entertainment under the stars. Free to the public. Concessions are

available for purchase. Heritage Park. www.VisitFoley.com

May 29 Memorial Day Fireworks at OWA

8:45 p.m. Downtown OWA VisitOWA.com

May 30 Cornhole Classic

4-8:30 p.m. Downtown OWA. VisitOWA.com

June 4-6 Christian Comedy Fest

90 minutes of clean, family-friendly comedy featuring Andy Forrester and Lee Hardin. Downtown OWA. For times and tickets: VisitOWA.com.

July 4 4th of July Celebration and Fireworks

Celebrate Independence Day with family-friendly activities and live entertainment in Downtown OWA, followed by an epic fireworks show at 8:45 p.m. VisitOWA.com

Aug. 5-7 Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation Annual Rodeo

Foley Horse Arena
113 East Rosetta Avenue
www.jennifermoorefoundation.com

MAYOR
Ralph G. Hellmich

COUNCIL
J. Wayne Trawick
Council President
District 1

Vera J. Quaites
District 2

Richard Dayton
District 3

C. Rick Blackwell
District 4

Charlie J. Ebert III
President-protempore
District 5

CITY ADMINISTRATOR
Michael L. Thompson

407 E. Laurel Ave.
P.O. Box 1750
Foley, AL 36536

(251) 943-1545
(251) 952-4014 - fax

www.cityoffoley.org



Welcome to spring! It is a time of renewal in many ways. As our area bounces back to normal, it's time to enjoy the many outdoor amenities our city offers. One is Foley's Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market that features a wide variety of local vegetables plus freshly caught seafood from nearby coastal waters. It has been recognized as one of the top 20 Farmers Markets in the country by USA Today. Congratulations and thank you to the area farmers, craftsmen, and those who manage this great market.

I'm often asked why our area is so popular. The answer is simple: nice people, a safe place to live, low taxes, we're close to the beaches, nice amenities and a beautifully landscaped downtown. Baldwin County also places among the top in the country in the categories of high quality of life and a resilient economy. We've all known these things, but now the nation knows it, too.

So it is not a surprise that we are seeing rapid growth across the county. It's not just Foley. The city is putting extensive work into planning and updating infrastructure regulations in order to maintain our quality of life and mitigate the effects of growth. Construction is currently underway on safety upgrades for the intersection of County Road 12 and the Foley Beach Express. I have requested that the engineering department recommend design modifications for several intersections around Foley to make them safer also.

Your council continues to focus on the downtown area. Two new butterfly gardens initiated by the Beautification Committee will soon be completed adjacent to the Wilbourne Antique Rose Trail. A sidewalk cleaning project for the heart of downtown was recently approved



**Mayor's
Notes**

by the council. You may have already noticed that sidewalks were recently cleaned around Heritage Park and city hall. It made a big difference.

The city has been very successful with obtaining grants over the past year. We are receiving almost \$12 million total for projects that include highway intersection upgrades, land purchases to expand our nature parks, and most recently, \$3 million to construct a "safe building" to house essential city personnel during

a natural disaster. I'd like to congratulate Superintendent Eddie Tyler, Baldwin County Board of Education, for his excellent leadership of the county school system over the past year. Baldwin County's board set high standards that were a good example for the state and the nation during the pandemic. These actions protected our students, provided options for families and kept our schools open, which was a great accomplishment.

Foley Elementary School was recently nationally recognized for becoming a Lighthouse School. Also, Teacher of the Year Joanna Worch created a nationally recognized program called Pet Pals. The program serves as a traditional pen pal program between students and pets across the country.

We all look forward to this coming summer. Please remain vigilant. Rules may be relaxed, but we still have a personal responsibility to keep ourselves and others safe. I encourage every citizen to get vaccinated when the opportunity presents itself.

Ralph G. Hellmich

Mayor Ralph G. Hellmich

What is Foley Main Street?

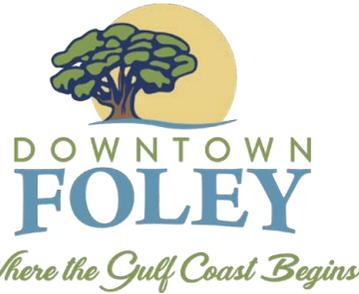
Foley Main Street is a nonprofit organization run by a volunteer board and an executive director. The mission? To protect, enhance and grow Foley's authentic, welcoming, wonderful downtown. Downtown Foley is the heart of our city and provides a special sense of place.

What does Main Street do? Through a promotion committee, the organization focuses attention on the downtown area and its businesses. A design committee works to improve the appearance via street signs, street banners and assistance with façade grants. The group is also raising money for public art projects. The first wall mural, "The Foley Butterfly" by artist Victoria Cirilli, was just completed. It is located in the alley behind Stenz Florist. Future projects include lighting and alley

improvements. An economic vitality committee strives to strengthen existing businesses and fill empty spaces with new businesses. Economic development is a major component of the plan.

When will this be done? Baby steps lead to big steps. The city has done much, but there is more to do. Main Street is working in concert with the city to set new projects in motion.

How can you become a part of the Downtown Foley renaissance? Like Foley Main Street on Facebook and Instagram and share the posts. You can also become a Friend of Downtown Foley or a Business Partner. Contact us at foleymainstreet@gmail.com.



Our city was accepted into the national Main Street America program in 2018 through Main Street Alabama. ■

Baldwin County cities rank high nationally for building fortified homes

The number of named storms and hurricanes last year broke records. The year also saw record growth in FORTIFIED Home™ Designations. FORTIFIED is a nationally recognized construction standard that reduces damage from hurricanes and severe weather. Many remember seeing photos from Hurricane Michael, a Category 5 hurricane that struck the Florida panhandle a few years ago. Among blocks of devastation, several houses with little to no damage were standing amid the rubble. Those were FORTIFIED homes.

There are 3 levels of FORTIFIED Home™ designation – Roof, Silver and Gold. A FORTIFIED Roof™ is a roofing method that effectively withstands the wind and rain of up to Category 3 hurricanes or higher.

After Hurricane Sally tested the largest

Rank	City	State	Count of FORTIFIED Designations
1	Mobile	AL	3,345
2	Fairhope	AL	3,057
3	Foley	AL	2,336
4	Daphne	AL	2,300
5	Gulf Shores	AL	1,609

concentration of FORTIFIED homes and FORTIFIED roofs in the nation in coastal Alabama, many expect an even greater uptake in stronger construction methods in many coastal areas. The superior performance of these homes and roofs during the long-duration Category 2 storm has convinced many homeowners to build back stronger using these standards.

In some states, these standards qualify homeowners for discounts on their

insurance policies and provides tax credits.

The City of Foley adopted a Coastal Supplement to the Building Codes several years ago that required more stringent standards in construction to protect citizens. To obtain information regarding a FORTIFIED designation, visit smarhomeamerica.org or contact the Community Development Department at 251-952-4011. ■

All local calls made in the 251 area code will soon require 10-digit dialing

Everyone in the 251 area code will want to get into the practice of dialing the area code and telephone number for all local calls, including those within the same area code. Beginning October 24, 2021, the full area code and phone number is required to complete any local call. From that date forward, calls dialed with only 7 digits may not be completed.

The reason for this new dialing requirement is that, in October 2020, the federal government passed the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act which provided for the creation of 988 as the

new nationwide 3-digit number to reach the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline. This was done in an effort to make it easier for all Americans to access potentially life-saving resources in an emergency situation.

As of right now, cellular customers may dial either 988 or 1-800-273-TALK (8255) to reach the Lifeline. Landline customers please continue to dial 1-800-273-TALK (8255) to reach the Lifeline until July 16, 2022. ■

Butterfly migrations—a natural wonder in our backyard

Foley's Beautification Committee is creating butterfly gardens that are not only beautiful, but also provide resources to sustain monarch butterflies during their annual migration. Each fall, hundreds of millions of monarch butterflies migrate from the U.S. and Canada to Mexico, and then return in the spring. The monarch migration is described by Monarch Watch as one of the world's greatest natural wonders, yet it is threatened by habitat loss. Development and use of herbicides has caused milkweeds and nectar sources to decline significantly.

In Foley, two beautiful gardens that are also monarch butterfly habitats are in the works. The first, recently completed, is located adjacent to the Wilbourne Antique Rose Trail near the solar panels at Section Avenue and Hwy. 59. The brightly colored flowers in this garden are already being visited by monarchs.

The second garden is still in the planning stages. It will also be located adjacent to the Wilbourne Antique Rose Trail, on the southern section, near the Foley Dog Park at Orange Street.



Both gardens serve as Monarch Waystations that provide shelter from the elements and nectar for the butterflies. Anyone can help the butterflies by creating a Monarch Waystation. This is as simple as adding milkweeds and nectar sources to existing gardens or maintaining natural habitats with milkweeds. For more information, visit monarchwatch.org. ■

City of Foley information at your fingertips

Do you know the estimated population of Foley? What about the size of the city? Who is your city council representative? Are you interested in city revenues and where they come from?

The answer to these questions and more are available each year, online, in the city's Comprehensive Annual Financial

Report. Few copies are printed, as the report is almost 150 pages long.

New this year is a 10-page Popular Annual Financial Report, created as a user-friendly summary of the city's financial operations. It is designed to make the city's finances easier to understand and to communicate to citizens where dollars

come from and how they are spent.

Both of these reports have received awards for excellence in financial reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association. You can find these reports online at www.cityoffoley.org/finance. ■

49th Annual Art in the Park on Mother's Day Weekend

Saturday, May 8, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 9, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Heritage Park in Downtown Foley

Enjoy a Mother's Day tradition with a visit to Art in the Park, presented by the Foley Art Center. This juried art show, featuring fine arts and crafts, offers a unique, laid-back atmosphere. Guests, artists and vendors chat while sipping lemonade during the two-day event held in Foley's beautiful Heritage Park. The event offers light food, entertainment and free children's activities. Artwork from 11 area schools will also be displayed.

Free parking is conveniently located around the park and throughout the downtown area. ■



OWA/Foley Sports Tourism/Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival share weekend



GULF COAST HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL
FOLEY, ALABAMA
May 7-9, 2021

FESTIVAL LEGEND

- RESTROOMS
- PET AREA
- MOTHER'S ROOM
- FOOD TRUCK
- GUEST SERVICES
- ATM
- AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR
- SOFT DRINKS & WATER
- SMOKING AREA
- LOCKERS
- BAR
- SOUVENIRS
- FOOD

TRAFFIC LEGEND

- ENTER THIS WAY
- EXIT THIS WAY
- ROAD CLOSED TO THRU TRAFFIC
- PEDESTRIAN WALKING PATH

Learn more:
GulfCoastBalloonFestival.com

The grounds at Foley Sports Tourism and OWA are the site of several overlapping events from Thursday, May 6, through Sunday, May 9. There will be lots to do, including the Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival; OWA's offerings of amusement park, shopping, restaurants and shows; and three events at the sports tourism complex.

The combination of these events will have a huge impact on traffic. Those traveling along County Road 20 between Hwy. 59 and the Foley Beach Express and on East Pride Blvd., South Juniper Street, Kenny Stabler Avenue and the surrounding area are asked to pack their patience as there may be delays. Temporary traffic patterns will be assigned to accommodate the influx of visitors. Please see the above map for event weekend traffic patterns.

The Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival begins on Thursday, May 6, with a balloon glow and continues through

Sunday. Watch for beautiful balloons in the sky during early morning hours and at dusk, weather permitting. Tethered balloon rides and a balloon glow are scheduled nightly (weather permitting) at 7:30. Enjoy special entertainment, arts and crafts displays and more at the festival site daily. More than 50 hot air balloons, including two special, shaped balloons, will participate this year. For details and tickets, contact gulfcoastballoonfestival.com.

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Women's Soccer National Championship is wrapping up with the title being awarded at the Foley Sports Tourism Championship Field on May 3. The event drew 10 teams from around the country. All games were live streamed, drawing a huge spotlight onto the city.

The USA Pickleball South Atlantic Regional Championship is poised to draw

hundreds of players from around the country. This event will be held at the Foley Event Center May 6–9, while the Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival is taking place at OWA.

The Big Wave Classic soccer tournament will also be taking place May 8–9, at the FST Fields. The event reached its registration capacity of more than 150 teams weeks ago and has an active waiting list as its popularity has grown exponentially with teams from around the country.

OWA—a 520-acre family fun destination in Foley that includes an amusement park with 23 rides, a selection of restaurants, a variety of unique shopping venues, and live performances—is situated along a beautifully landscaped 14-acre lake. For details and tickets, contact www.visitowa.com. ■

Check us out online:

- www.CityofFoley.org
- www.VisitFoley.com
- www.CoastalAlabamaMarket.com
- www.FoleyLibrary.org
- www.FoleyRecreation.com
- www.GrahamCreekPreserve.org

New businesses in Foley:

- Mama Bear's Bakery - 116 W. Laurel
- LeMarché (Interior Design) - 108 E. Laurel
- Amedisys Home Health
- Murder Creek Distillery (OWA)
- Coco's Italian Ice (OWA)