

Foley Newsletter

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Ralph G. Hellmich

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It's summer folks! In Foley that means rain showers to cool things off and lots of the locally grown farm produce that we all love. The Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market is a fantastic place to visit on Saturdays. This market is one we can all be proud of. Don't forget other local farm markets, like Krupinski's. Enjoying fresh summer produce is a local tradition.

The city is working to accelerate road projects in response to growth in our area. Currently, we are fast-tracking several intersection improvements. Work on intersections along Michigan Avenue at Juniper, Cedar and Hickory is moving into the design phase. The Michigan/Hickory intersection is a joint project between Foley and Baldwin County, as it is located in the county. We are also working closely with the county on several projects to improve cross-drainage issues. The County is studying possible improvements along the County 65 corridor from County Roads 10 to 28, which will affect north/south connectivity on the west side of the city. The city's yearly repaving schedule, which keeps our roads in good shape, is being increased from \$500,000 to \$1 million.

I get questions asking if Foley is ok after Hurricane Sally. The answer is, absolutely. It has taken a lot of work by outstanding city employees. And we are thankful for patience from our residents. We can say we are back. Foley's finances are sound. The city council learned from experience to keep adequate savings to weather storms that come our way. We continue to work with FEMA, going through the processes of working with a federal agency.

Recently, traffic lights along Hwy. 59 in Foley from County Road 28 to County Road 10 were synchronized as a part of an Alabama Department of Transportation project to



Mayor's Notes

shorten the time drivers spend at red lights. Foley was one of the first to receive these updates because of our high traffic volumes. Some say they can see improvement, although we can still expect congestion during peak travel times.

After shutdowns over the past year due to COVID 19, all city facilities have reopened.

The pitcher plants are in full bloom at Graham Creek Nature Preserve.

These unique plants are carnivorous and eat insects. We are fortunate to have a park with access to these rare plants.

I invite you to take a moment to walk through our downtown and Heritage Park. The landscaping is incredible this year, thanks to the efforts of the Horticulture and Parks Departments and the work of the Beautification Committee. Downtown sidewalks have been cleaned. We continue to work closely with Foley Main Street to improve our downtown and promote the businesses in that area. Soon you will notice new signage which will help identify the Main Street area and also signage to help visitors navigate our downtown.

Lastly, we are working to implement an Impact Fee in response to the explosive growth we are experiencing. This is a fee that developers will pay that will offset the increased spending needed for infrastructure to accommodate the growth. These fees will be used to offset the pressure on our Parks and Recreation Department and also for road improvement. Over the past three years, Foley has been rated as one of the fastest growing cities in Alabama. What a dynamic place to live!

Mayor Ralph G. Hellmich

Programmable lights enhance performances



Stage performances at Foley's Civic Center may outshine previous shows thanks to a major stage lighting upgrade. The stage lights were changed from high-wattage incandescent bulbs to energy efficient multi-colored LED fixtures that can be programmed, according to Pam Harris, Foley's municipal complex director. When programmed, the new light fixtures can create special effects that completely change the mood for a stage presentation. Thank you to Keith Nelson for an outstanding job working with groups to enhance individual events using the new lighting. The project was completed thanks to a \$40,000 grant received through the State Energy Program. This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy's, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), under the State Energy Program Award Number DE-EE0008279. ■

Foley Senior Center fully reopened

Interested in taking a class on Tai Chi? Ballroom dance lessons? Playing Pinochle? These are just a few of the activities offered at the Foley Senior Center. The center, which closed in March last year because of COVID-19, is now fully reopened based on the guidelines established by the Alabama Dept. of Senior Services. A full calendar of activities is available to you. For more information, call the Senior Center at 251-943-1877, or visit the Foley-Senior Center on Facebook for more details. The coffee pot is always on and we hope you will join us. ■



Expanding Christmas Village



Foley's Beautification Committee is working to increase the number of small buildings in the Christmas Village Display placed in the park each December. Organizations, businesses and residents who wish to participate by creating a new addition to the village, or do maintenance work on a current building can call Brenda Shambo at 251-943-1545 for more details. ■

Foley Municipal Airport receives grant

The city received a grant for \$574,797 from the Federal Aviation Administration for improvements at the Foley Municipal Airport. This funding will be used for runway and taxiway pavement maintenance which will consist of crack and joint repair, application of an FAA approved seal coat and new markings. The taxiway and connectors surface is 4,700'x35' and the runway surface is 3,700'x75'.

"Airport infrastructure impacts overall economic success, and as a result of this funding, 12 of Alabama's airports will receive the upgrades and advances needed to continue serving communities and driving development," Sen. Richard Shelby said when announcing the grants. ■

Check us out online:

CityofFoley.org VisitFoley.com FoleyLibrary.org
GrahamCreekPreserve.org CoastalAlabamaMarket.com
FoleySportsTourism.com FoleyRecreation.com

Foley Library events return to the calendar

Foley Public Library is getting back into the swing of things by bringing back many of its previous programs such as Makersaurus Time, the Doki Doki Anime Club, Adult Art/Craft Classes and Bingo (which will now be held every other month.). The library is also adding many new monthly programs like the Know Your Author scavenger hunt, Summer Saturday Family Movies, Family Book Reads, and Coffee & Donuts with an Author.

The Know Your Author scavenger hunt actually began a few months back, but it is new to our library this year. Each scavenger hunt begins on the first day of the month that the library is open. Ten hardcover books are selected and a question about their author must be answered to discover the “place-holder” book which can be exchanged at the Circ Desk for a hardcover copy for the patron to take home. Any questions about this program can be answered by Circulation staff at the library or by calling the library at 251-943-7665.

Our Summer Saturday Family Movies are on the third Saturday of the month at 11 a.m. These will migrate into a John Hughes Film Festival from September through December 2021. All films are rated either PG or PG-13. Movie titles can be found at www.foleylibrary.org, or by calling the library.

Family Book Reads are a new addition where an author or character from a book performs a book read in our upstairs meeting room. Parents and their children are encouraged to attend. A light snack will be provided. These are scheduled on the last Saturday of the month in August, September and October at 10 am. There will be no Family Book Reads in November and December of this year due to library closings for holidays.

Coffee & Donuts With an Author is an exciting program where local authors will talk about their latest publications or their writing process. These are scheduled on the last Wednesday of each month at 10 am. A Q&A session will follow each presentation and of course, coffee and donuts will be served. More info can be found on our Events Calendar at the library's website.

The library is considering an Adult (ages 18 +) Anime Club once a month on a Friday night and also a Mario Gaming Night, hosted by Mae Bryant. If you are interested in either of these, please contact Melanie at 251-943-1031, or email mschnieders@cityoffoley.org. ■



The Foley Public Library held its Summer Reading Program finale' in June. Many families attended and were anxious to get Elephant and Piggie books autographed by Elephant & Piggie themselves!

Working smoke alarms save lives

The Foley Fire Department reminds you to make sure your smoke alarms are operational. This means testing smoke alarms monthly and replacing batteries twice a year or when a low-battery alarm chirps. With much more time spent at home during the last year, many residents may have disabled alarms that were a “beeping nuisance”. Reminder: A smoke alarm disabled because of nuisance alarms provides no protection at all.

Storm Preparedness and Safety

As we are now in another active hurricane season, the Foley Fire Department reminds you to stay alert and prepared for storm events. Please download a reliable weather app for your mobile devices or purchase a weather radio with local alerts. Also, after Hurricane Sally, many more residents purchased portable generators to use at home during extended power outages. We remind you to only use these devices in well-ventilated outdoor areas, never inside the home or closed garage. Also, working carbon monoxide detectors are important when running generator engines for extended periods of time near the home, especially during overnight hours. Contact our office at 251-943-1266 for more information on these items, and Turn Your Attention to Fire Prevention! ■

RECYCLING REMINDERS

Clean = Green

Don't forget that your recyclables must be **CLEAN** and free of any food contamination in order to be accepted at the recycling center. A single cart contaminated with food garbage could cause an entire truckload of recyclables to be rejected. ■

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

October 2020–June 2021

- 490 Single-family Permits—\$94,013,421 valuation
- 30 Multi-family Permits (190 Units)—\$17,210,241 valuation
- 1 New Commercial Permit—\$190,000 valuation
- 144 Commercial Addition/Remodel Permits—\$14,733,552 valuation
- 4,401 Total Permits—\$150,840,928 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.
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Upcoming Events

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

Downtown OWA

Live shows: Brandon Styles, magician/
comedian and Legends in Concert.
For info and times VisitOWA.com

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.
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.
grahamcreekpreserve.org

Aug. 7–9 Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation Annual Rodeo

Gates open 5:30 p.m.
Foley Horse Arena
113 E. Rosetta Ave.
jennifermoorefoundation.com

Sept. 4 4th Annual Labor Day Car Show
8 a.m.–4 p.m.
visitowa.com

Sept. 4 Labor Day Celebration Fireworks
8:45 p.m.
visitowa.com

Sept. 11 thru Oct. 30th Island Movie Night (Saturdays)

Free, family-friendly series of movies.
visitowa.com

Oct. Weekends Town of Terror

Downtown OWA haunted house
experience. visitowa.com

Oct. Weekends Park after Dark

A variety of kid-friendly trick-or-treating,
events and activities.
visitowa.com

Oct. 7–10 49th National Annual Shrimp Festival

10am – 10pm
Gulf Shores, AL

Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30 Haunted Forest

7 p.m.–10 p.m.
23030 Wolf Bay Dr., Foley
grahamcreekpreserve.org

Oct. 14 Shred It Day

3–5 p.m. Behind the Foley Civic Center
visitfoley.com

Oct. 15 Chicago Street Supper Club

6 - 10 p.m.
southbaldwinchamber.com

Oct. 9 Stan Mahoney Youth Fishing Tournament

Weigh-in at noon
Pirate's Cove

Oct. 23 Halloween Extravaganza

5–8 p.m.
foleylibrary.org

Oct. 28 Hometown Halloween

5:30–8 p.m.
visitfoley.com



Nov. 6 Nachtspiele OWA

German entertainment, food, and brews in
Downtown OWA.
visitowa.com

Nov. 12 Trim-A-Tree Opening Day

Tanger Outlet Mall Suite TBA
9am – 7pm daily through Dec 21st
Foleyartcenter.com or Facebook

Nov. 13 Chocolate and Cheese Festival

10 a.m.–7 p.m.
Heritage Park

Nov. 20 Creek Crawl

23460 Wolf Bay Dr., Foley
grahamcreekpreserve.org

Nov. 20 Tree Lighting Ceremony

Enjoy a snowy Tree Lighting ceremony with
Christmas music
visitowa.com