

Foley Newsletter

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John E. Koniar

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Vera J. Quaites
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Mayor's Notes

Spring is here and it's that time of year when our cars turn that "lovely" pine-pollen yellow. None the less, it is a great time to enjoy our longer days of sunlight and warmer temperatures.

I've noticed that the South Baldwin Chamber has been particularly busy on the ribbon cutting front. This is reflected in business license revenues already being ahead of what we budgeted for the entire year. It is encouraging to see the amount of confidence people have in our community.

With the warmer weather, we will be seeing an increase in outdoor events, now and throughout the summer. The Performing Arts Association will have their annual Art in the Park show on Mother's Day weekend. They are experiencing a lot of interest this year, with over 100 artists already signed up. June brings the Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival on Father's Day weekend, which is always a regional favorite.

Music & a Movie will kick off in May and our Chicago Street Farmers Market in Heritage Park will resume on Fridays also. Speaking of the farmers market, we are moving forward with the Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market project on property owned by the city on Baldwin County 20, adjacent to Wolf Bay Lodge. We

are currently advertising for a market manager. We plan to continue having a market at Heritage Park, but adding the new market location will provide space for more vendors and additional products. This is all made possible by a \$317,500 grant from BP.

Foley was successful in getting two grant applications approved by the ATRIP program recently. One application, submitted in conjunction with the county, will allow us to make improvements on Baldwin County 20 East, between Hwy. 59 and Hickory Street. The second, a city application, will allow us to extend Pride Drive to Juniper, and make additional improvements in the Juniper area to Baldwin County 20. These changes should allow some school traffic to avoid Hwy. 59.

We are looking at applying for the next round of ATRIP grants from the Alabama Department of Transportation. Discussions are underway with landowners to allow the extension of Fern Avenue from Hwy. 59 to the Beach Express. This would be particularly beneficial to public safety by expediting emergency vehicle traffic heading north to South Baldwin Regional Medical Center. Emergency vehicles could utilize the Foley Beach Express and not have to travel through the middle of downtown Foley. This round of applications will take place in June and is subject to the city council's approval.

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“Do ya Dig Reading!” is the theme for this year’s Children’s Summer Reading Program at your Foley Public Library!

Each Thursday in June, children ages toddler to eight and beyond, will gather in the Foley Civic Center at 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. for a fabulous time of fun! Nationally recognized entertainers will encourage your child to read and use their imaginations. Bring blankets or pallets as the children’s seating is on the floor. The schedule is as follows:

- June 6 - Paul Miller of Flow Circus digs juggling, magic and lots of laughter. Join him as he tells the story of how a visit to the library inspired him to learn his skills. Paul’s show has been showcased on Disney Cruise Lines.
- June 13 - Charlie Williams, the “Noise Guy”, invades again. As a comedian and vocal impressionist, Charlie teaches humor as a life skill and shows kids how he digs crazy noises. Come be amazed as Charlie brings the noise!
- June 20 - Monty Harper digs writing and performing

award-winning children’s songs about science, reading and creativity. His audiences laugh, clap, sing, wiggle, shout, roar, giggle, jump, hoot, pop, snap, and most of all... think!

• June 27 – Mark Seymour brings “Be-At Your Best”, Alabama’s premier program offering a high-energy, interactive program encouraging and inspiring students! This is a program that motivates, encourages, captivates and inspires you to be-at your best! Can you dig it?

• Also, children of all ages are invited to free movies, with popcorn and drinks, showing three Thursdays in July at the Foley Civic Center, starting at 10:00 a.m. Bring chairs or blankets/pallets. The schedule includes: July 11 - “Judy Moody & the Not So Bummer Summer”, rated PG; July 18 - “Wreck-It-Ralph”, rated PG and July 25 - “Brave”, rated PG. ■

Lt. David White attends FBI National Academy

Foley’s police Lt. David White has been selected to train at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. The two and a half month long course is very physically and academically challenging. The FBI National Academy trains leaders and managers of state and local police, sheriffs’ departments and federal law enforcement agencies. Participation is by invitation only, through a nomination process, according to the FBI website. Only two percent of the nation’s police officers are selected to attend.

The course is very rewarding, life changing and a high point in a police officer’s career, according to Foley Police Chief David Wilson. “We are proud of Lt. White’s enrollment and we know that he will do well,” said Wilson. ■



◀ Lt. David White serves Foley Police Department as the commander of the Criminal Investigations Division.

Foley receives lots of compliments for the beautiful flowers that grace our downtown area. Flowers enjoyed during the winter and early spring included white, lavender and red violas; lavender, light blue and red pansies; white snapdragons; Amazon dianthus in cherry; white snapdragons and peacock red kale.



Foley’s Current Flowers

include
white caladiums, lavender and gold lantana, blue angelonia,
dragonwing begonia, rudbeckia, purple fountain grass, strobilanthus, vinca, plumbago,
Cuban oregano, pentas, purslane, verbena, duranta, and coleus.

Mayor's Notes

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Speaking of the Beach Express, Gov. Bentley was down recently for the ribbon cutting for the exchange that will connect the Baldwin Beach Express to I-10. This project is expected to be completed in 2014 and will take a lot of pressure off Hwy. 59. There are plans to extend the Beach Express from I-10 to I-65 as well.

Don't forget to enjoy the Wilbourne Antique Rose Trail, just north of Heritage Park. The trail is blooming and the spring weather makes it a very enjoyable "walk in the park".

Shop Foley first!

Best regards,



Mayor John Koniar

Centennial Committee Report

Foley's Centennial Committee reports that fundraising efforts are moving along as anticipated and the project continues to move forward. Foley will celebrate 100 years in January of 2015. A public/private partnership has been formed between community leaders and the city to build a memorial plaza in Heritage Park that will include a 52 ft. clock tower with 32 brass bells.

The fundraising committee has raised almost half of the amount of money needed to complete the project by selling plaques that will be located on the stages, pillars and walkways of the plaza, according to JaNay Dawson, chair. There are still a number of opportunities, including plaques on columns, engraved cast-stone pavers and commemorative bricks that families and businesses can buy to be included as part of this new historic landmark. The largest and the smallest columns are sold out, according to Dawson, but there are still medium columns remaining, at \$2,000 each. Cast-stone pavers, which will be used to cap the top of the steps leading up to the stages, are still available at \$750 each. Medium bricks (8 x 8) at \$125, and small bricks (4 x 8) at \$50, are also available for purchase. These bricks will form the walkways around the plaza, and make great Mother's Day, Father's Day and graduation gifts. When an order is placed, a certificate can be generated on request that can be presented for the occasion.

For more information, stop by Foley City Hall to pick up a brochure with all the details. ■



*Each legacy brick paver includes an individually numbered keepsake certificate suitable for framing

Foley Steps Up Recycling Efforts

Foley is working to make it easier for residents to recycle household garbage by phasing in larger 64 gallon recycle containers with wheels that hold more than the current blue recycling tubs. This change could potentially save the city a lot of money, because Foley sells some of the materials that residents recycle, while the city pays a landfill to take garbage that is collected, according to Dan Hellmich, Foley public works superintendent.

"The carts hold more, and with wheels they will be easier to get out to the street. We hope people will think about recycling more. Nobody wants a landfill in their backyard. The one we use is going to fill up one day," said Hellmich.

There are a number of benefits to recycling. Recycling reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills. It also saves energy because it takes more energy to create something from scratch than it does to reclaim materials by recycling.

Foley will phase in the new recycle containers over time. They will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis. Residents can call 943-8897 to get on the list for a new container. It may take some time to get a new bin for everyone in the city, according to Hellmich.

Recycle items that are currently collected in Foley are: cardboard and boxes (broken down to 2' x 2'); newspapers, magazines, junk mail, office paper (shredded paper must be contained in a plastic bag); tin cans (rinsed); aluminum cans – soda and beer; and plastic containers – milk jugs, soda bottles and bleach bottles.

Benefits of Recycling

- Reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills
- Conserves natural resources such as timber, water and minerals
- Prevents pollution by reducing the need to collect new raw materials
- Saves energy – requires less energy to recycle paper than to cut a tree
- Helps sustain the environment for future generations ■



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Upcoming Events

Fridays in May and June

Chicago Street Farmers Market

3 pm – 6 pm, each Friday except May 10.
See details inside.

Fridays in May and June

Music and a Movie in the Park

Music begins at 6 pm, with a movie following at dusk, each Friday in May and June, except May 10 and June 14. See the enclosed insert for a complete list of entertainment and movies, or visit www.VisitFoley.org

May 11 & 12

41st Annual Art in the Park

Presented by the Performing Arts Association in Foley.

125 Heritage Park, Foley. 9 am – 5 pm.

This show is a home-town favorite, held in Heritage Park in the heart of Foley each spring on Mother's Day weekend. The show displays an amazing variety of art forms - from fine arts in oil, watercolor and pen and ink, to pottery, stained glass, wood carvings and artfully creative objects from flower pots to bird houses. Bring mom and begin your own tradition. The event

supports scholarships for local students. For more information, visit www.foleyartcenter.com.

June 14 – 15

9th Annual Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival

Father's Day Weekend

Foley Sports Complex

18507 U.S. Hwy. 98 West in Foley.

See the complete list of activities inside or visit www.gulfcoast-balloonfestival.com

May – August

Youth Baseball & Softball Tournaments

Many USSSA and NSA-sanctioned regional youth baseball and softball tournaments are held at the Foley Sports Complex or the Melvin Roberts Cedar Street Park throughout the year. Come on out to the ballpark and enjoy watching teams from across the region in play-off competition. Visit www.Foleysports.com for the complete schedule.