

Foley Newsletter



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Greetings,

Hope your summer is going well. We certainly experienced some unusual weather this year - from the unseasonable hard freeze to the almost 24-inch rain event earlier this spring. We are now into our traditional summer weather. I would like to encourage you to review your hurricane plans with your families. We are headed into the peak season for these types of events. Hopefully we won't experience any "tropical events" this year, but we all need to be prepared.

Construction of our Centennial Tower is under way. We are looking at a December timeframe for completion. Also, work on two additional soccer fields for the Foley Sports Complex on U.S. 98 is underway.

We recently traveled to New York for bond ratings of our upcoming bond issues. I am pleased to report that both Standard & Poor's and Moody's raised their ratings for Foley.

Our staff did a great job of preparing the data for our presentations. Each presentation lasted about two and a half hours. These increased ratings reflect very favorably on the city council's stewardship of your tax dollars.

Funds from these bond issues will go toward infrastructure projects such as road improvements, bike paths and sidewalks. We also are building a new baseball 5-plex at the Foley Sports Complex. The city is experiencing tremendous growth. We need additional fields to accommodate the children who are here and those who will be arriving as our growth continues.

We are seeing a large amount of interest from retailers and restaurants. Hobby Lobby and Big



**Mayor's
Notes**

Lots will open soon. Whataburger had a very successful grand opening. Popeye's has broken ground and many are looking forward to another option for dining in Foley.

The Gulf Bowl recently added a laser tag game area to their facility on Juniper Street that has been well received. We are expecting more announcements for our retail sector soon.

We continue to work with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) on several projects. We are hoping the Pride Drive extension will go to bid in September of this year. This will allow us to kick off construction of 12 multi-purpose ball fields and one championship field, along with our 100,000-square-foot indoor event center on Baldwin County 20. There will be two hotels associated with the event center.

I want to congratulate Butch Stokes, our former city engineer, on his retirement. Thank you, Butch, for all you did for our citizens over the years.

Butch's replacement is now on board. We welcome Chad Christian, who joins us from the city of Tuscaloosa. Chad is a licensed professional engineer, with an extensive background in drainage.

Have a safe summer and remember to "shop Foley first".

Regards

Mayor John Koniar

“Slugger” donated to Mel Roberts Park

A bronze statue of a child playing baseball at Mel Roberts Park on Cedar Street is the first of several that will be included in a public art initiative sponsored by the city’s Revitalization and Beautification Advisory Board. Pat Davis, daughter of Mel Roberts and chair of the advisory board, was instrumental in getting the program started. The Davis family purchased and donated the statue to the city, which provided the foundation and signage. Future statues will be placed at the Foley Public Library and the new dog park, thanks to public/private funding for the project. Pictured with the new statue are Pat and Skip Davis, with granddaughter Leslie Faison and great-grandchildren Molly and Sam Faison, youngest son Randy and wife Lori Davis, and oldest son Richard and wife Margaret Davis. Roberts, who died at the age of 97 in 2009, worked in the city parks department for about 30 years.



Graham Creek Nature Preserve - Off the Beaten Path

Graham Creek Nature Preserve is Foley’s 484-acre park, complete with creek crossings, open turf grass fields, pine savannas and pitcher plant bogs. Off the beaten path, the park is located off Baldwin County 12 on Wolf Bay Drive. Activities that can be enjoyed in the park include launching kayaks and paddleboards, throwing discs on the 18-basket disc golf course, picnicking, enjoying the butterfly garden, hiking or biking along the many miles of nature trails, racing in a 5K obstacle course, or playing and learning in the outdoor classroom.

The outdoor classroom is a recent addition that consists of several stations: a nature art area, messy materials, building blocks, climbing, sand digging for “artifacts”, Preserve Peak, raised vegetable garden bins, herbs and flowers, fruit trees and a gathering area. “Explore and Observe Days” are held at the preserve twice a month for children age 10 and under, and their families. Foley hosts the free event every first Wednesday and third Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. until noon. Each Explore and Observe Day, designed to extend environmental education in an outdoor setting, kicks off with a nature-themed story, followed by an art project and activity.

Examples of Explore and Observe Day themes are butterflies found on the preserve; soils in the preserve and the animals that live in them; and on Aug. 16, oceans and tides and how they affect the Wolf Bay Watershed.



Foley has gained state and national recognition for the park, in the areas of environmental stewardship, outdoor recreation and environmental education, thanks to the work of Leslie Gahagan, environmental manager for the city.

The preserve is open to the public from dawn until dusk throughout the year. Keep up with the preserve on the following blog: grahamcreeknaturepreserve.wordpress.com. ■

Foley Library Offers Kindle E-Readers

People who love to read but have impaired vision will appreciate a new program offered by the Foley Public Library. Kindle E-Readers are electronic devices permitting readers to choose from thousands of titles that can be accessed from the Foley library website. The beauty of the Kindle E-Reader is that it allows people who love to read but have impaired vision to enlarge the

font size so that they can comfortably read again.

The Foley Public Library hopes that offering the Kindle E-Readers will extend the circle of users for the library. For more information or to make an appointment, interested patrons can contact the Foley Public Library at 251-943-1031 or 251-943-1032. ■

CENTENNIAL TOWER

GOING VERTICAL



Foley's Centennial Plaza, planned to honor Foley's first 100 years, is now visible in Heritage Park. The majority of the underground work has been completed, including the concrete footings and foundations for the plaza walls and tower base, according to designer Chad Watkins of WAS Design, Inc. The columns and tower base are under construction and the footprint of the plaza is now visible. The clock tower is scheduled to be installed on the base in the fall.

Centennial committee members report that the first order for engraved bricks has been placed. The initial order of bricks that contain personal messages from people in the community was placed in time to be installed for the official celebration on Jan. 8, 2015.

Engraved bricks are still available for purchase, and make great gifts. Order online at www.brickorder.com/cityoffoley or at city hall. Bricks ordered now will be installed in sections that may not be completed until after the dedication. Larger cast stone pavers are also available. Centennial Plaza is an integral part of Foley's centennial celebration. Watch for details of events that are planned throughout 2015 to celebrate this special milestone. ■

Foley Library's Summer Reading Program



The Foley Public Library Summer Reading Program was another fabulous success, thanks to the support of the community and the Friends of the Library. Hundreds of children participated in the weekly events that included juggling, magic, puppets, spiders, snakes and creatures of all kinds in presentations that encouraged local children to read and to use their imaginations. Thank you to the entire library crew, and especially Ms. Kelley!

Turn Your Attention to Fire Prevention

Alabama has suffered more than 60 fire fatalities in the first six months of 2014, making our state fifth in the US for residential fire deaths. Alabama's fire fatalities for all of 2013 were 81. Fire chiefs from across Alabama have united to reverse this disturbing trend through an information and education campaign to promote personal responsibility and awareness of fires and fire prevention – 'Turn Your Attention to Fire Prevention.'

The Foley Fire Department has joined in this campaign, and will be putting out monthly and seasonal fire prevention messages via our Facebook page and other media sources. We encourage all of our citizens and visitors to help us in this life-saving mission. Ask us how you can be more proactive in preventing fires. For more information, call our office at 251-943-1266, message us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/foley.firedepartment>, or send an email to our fire prevention coordinator at kbarnwell@cityoffoley.org or our fire inspector at nbauer@cityoffoley.org ■





407 E. Laurel Ave.
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WEEKLY – Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market

Local produce, fresh seafood, homemade dishes, honey, eggs, jams and jellies, plants. Each Friday from 2 pm – 6 pm, Each Saturday 9 am – 2 pm. Co. Road 20 between Ala. 59 and Foley Beach Express

Aug. 15 – 3rd Friday Art Walk

Downtown Foley. 5 pm – 7 pm. Call 251-979-6087 for details.

Aug. 22 – a Meet'n'Greet – Geocaching Event

Foley Public Library. 6 pm. Call 251-943-7665 for details.

Aug. 23 – Cache in Trash out – Geocaching Event

Foley Public Library. 10 am. Call 251-943-7665 for details.

Sept. 18 – Fall Film Series

Foley Public Library. 6 pm. Call 251-943-7665 for details.

Sept. 19 – 3rd Friday Art Walk

Downtown Foley. 5 pm – 7 pm. Call 251-979-6087 for details.

Sept. 27 – Foley Library Quiz Night

6 – 9 pm. Teams of 4 compete for prizes. Sign up at 251-943-7665.

Oct. 4 – Creek Crawl Obstacle (Mud) Run

Graham Creek Nature Preserve; 5 mile and 5 K individual and team runs. First race 8 am. Register at www.Active.com

Oct. 4 – 1st Annual Gulf Coast Gospel Jubilee.

Foley Sports Complex. 10 am – 6 pm. Call 251-943-8955 for details.

Oct. 14 – Community Shred it Day

Foley residents may bring any papers they would like to have shredded to a shredding truck parked behind city hall, for free. This is a great way to dispose of sensitive documents that need to be destroyed. Documents are destroyed while you watch. 3 pm - 5 pm.

Oct. 17 – 3rd Friday Art Walk

Downtown Foley. 5 pm – 7 pm. Call 251-979-6087 for details.



Oct. 18 – Alabama Festival of Flavor

Celebrate Alabama Food – locally grown produce, beer/wine from Alabama, cooking demonstrations. Held in the streets of downtown Foley. southbaldwinchamber.com

Oct. 19 – Dia de la Raza Festival

“Sharing our Cultures” event - presented by the Baldwin County Hispanic Society. Music, dance, food, inflatables and more. Call 251-424-8185 for details or to register.

October 23 – Downtown Foley Halloween Party

The best Halloween event ever, held in the streets of downtown Foley. Booths by local merchants, costume contest, food and fun. 5:30 pm - 8 pm. Call 251-943-1300 for details.

Oct. 25 – Halloween Extravaganza

Costume contest for all ages, stuffed animal walk, scavenger hunt and ghost storytelling. Foley Public Library. 6 pm-9 pm. Call 251-943-7665 for details.

For a complete listing of area events Visit Foley.org