

Foley Newsletter

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Welcome to a New Year!

2014 is off to a good start with lots of activity in our area. Foley hosted a snowbird coffee in January. Approximately 650 of our northern friends participated in the event. I got to visit with a number of them and it was a pleasure to spend some time with them.

Sen. Richard Shelby recently toured the UTC Aerospace Systems operation in Foley. He is very supportive of their needs and was very impressed with the facility. UTC employs approximately 800 people, making it the largest manufacturing facility in Baldwin County. UTC employees are active in our community, and even have a group of volunteers who drive a Meals on Wheels route. Thanks to UTC for all they do.

In early January, I was able to attend the swearing in ceremony of our newest congressman, Rep. Bradley Byrne in Washington, D.C. While I was there I visited with his new staff, which is a blend of a few who worked for Rep. Jo Bonner and several new staffers.

Rep. Byrne has been assigned to two committees that are very important to us in the south Baldwin area - the House Armed Services Committee (Defense) and the House Natural Resources Committee (Fisheries). We look forward to working with Rep. Byrne and his staff in 2014.

We were very successful in receiving infrastructure grants in 2013. Foley was awarded almost \$30 million in grants, with a required city match of \$8 million. This is an excellent leverage of city funds to provide additional roads, as well as bike and walking paths that will improve pedestrian safety and provide a positive economic impact.

Two public hearings were conducted in January for projects that will be going to bid later



**Mayor's
Notes**

this spring. They are the Pride Drive extension, which will extend Pride Drive across Alabama 59 to Juniper Street and then connect to Baldwin County 20, and the Tiger Grant, which will help promote a more walkable city by providing additional pedestrian paths and bike lanes, improve intersections and include a pedestrian bridge over Alabama 59.

Economic activity continues to trend upward in our community. Sales, lodging and rental taxes all are ahead of last year's record breaking numbers.

Jeff Rouzie, director of economic development, has been working hard the past few years on bringing additional retail to Foley. Hobby Lobby has announced plans to locate south of Lowes on Alabama 59. Whataburger has also purchased property near Lowes.

We welcome John Jackson, newly appointed director of the Foley library.

The Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermen's Market continues to be very popular. Plans are under way to expand the facility by this summer. We will update this as things are firmed up.

Mark your calendars for March 22 and 23, when the Foley Caboose Club will co-sponsor a model train show at the Foley Civic Center. Visitors will see operating model train layouts in several scales from throughout the Gulf Coast area.

Please support our local businesses and **SHOP FOLEY FIRST!**

Best regards,

Mayor John Koniar

Foley Police Department Honors Two Employees

Chief David Wilson recently announced the recipients of two awards to honor the top performers given annually within the Foley Police Department.

Wilson announced that Corrections Officer Gail Pettibone has been named the Public Servant Employee of the Year for 2013 for her long-term dedication and exceptional work performance. Pettibone, who has worked with the city for 16 years, is part of a 13-person corrections staff that manages Foley's 55-bed municipal jail.

Detective Corp. Glenn Hartenstein was named Police Officer of the Year for 2013. Hartenstein, a seven year veteran of the Foley Police Department, is a supervisor in the Criminal Investigations Division. Wilson praised Hartenstein's commitment and reputation as an excellent detective known for producing results. "The city has a high solve rate and Glenn is a major contributor to that," said Wilson.

Hartenstein was also the recipient of a monetary award in the amount of \$1,000 from the David and Sue Vosloh Foun-



▲ Pictured from left to right: Mayor John Koniar, Detective Corp. Glenn Hartenstein, Corrections Officer Gail Pettibone, and Police Chief David Wilson

dation, established to provide cash bonuses to recognize civil servants who serve in the most difficult jobs in our community. ■



Foley's New Fire Truck

The Foley Fire Department recently took delivery of a 2014 KME Custom Fire Pumper to update our fleet of fire suppression and response vehicles. This new truck is equipped with a 1500 gpm pump, LED scene lighting, and a full complement of firefighting and rescue equipment. It is assigned as a first-out engine at Fire Station #1 and is staffed 24/7. At a cost of \$380,000, this purchase has enabled us to maintain a state of the art fleet of response vehicles, giving our firefighters safer and more effective equipment to provide fire and rescue services. ■

C O A S T A L A L A B A M A



FARMERS AND FISHERMENS MARKET

Winter visitors at the Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermen's Market have been pleasantly surprised at the variety of fresh vegetables available in Baldwin County even in the winter months, according to Heather Pritchard, market manager.

"We've had a lot of customers looking for strawberries. We will have strawberries, but due to the recent extreme cold snap, they will come in much later than usual," said Pritchard.

Some of the most popular products at the market are the fresh lettuce, double-crust pies and fresh seafood, according to Pritchard. Other items available this time of year include eggs, honey, broccoli, brussel sprouts and greens of every description.

Spring hours for the market will begin Tuesday, March 25, when the market will change from Saturdays only to Tuesdays and Fridays from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Get more information online at coastalalabama-market.com ■



Check us out online:

CITY OF FOLEY

www.CityofFoley.org

www.VisitFoley.org

www.CoastalAlabamaMarket.com

www.FoleyLibrary.org

www.FoleyRecreation.com

www.grahamcreekpreserve.org

Foley Public Library Has a New Director

Foley welcomes John Jackson, new director of the Foley Public Library. Jackson, a native of Cleburne County, Ala., comes to Foley after serving as the director of the Baldwin County Department of Archives and History in Bay Minette. Jackson holds a master's of Library Science from the University of Alabama. He has also completed classwork for his Ph.D. in Library Science at Auburn University.



Jackson is excited about the opportunities that are offered at the library.

"We get to do a lot more than check out books. This library hosts lots of activities and community events," said Jackson. Jackson invites everyone to visit the library. ■

Books, Magazines, Newspapers

Digital Library: eBooks and eAudiobooks

Alabama Virtual Library access

Children's Storytime

Digital interactive children's books

Free movies

Book Signings

Computer Lab



319 E. Laurel Avenue

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www.Foleylibrary.org

WELCOME TO FOLEY



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Upcoming Events

March 15 *BBQ and Blues*

Welcome spring with the annual BBQ & Blues Cook-Off. Enjoy live music, silent auction bidding, arts and crafts, and children's activities. Mostly, enjoy the delicious, finger-licking, grilled concoctions from BBQ teams competing for bragging rights in multiple categories from Best "Q", Best Sauce, or Anything "Butt". Funds raised support the South Baldwin Chamber Foundation. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Heritage Park, Foley.



March 22-23 *Model Train Show*

A two-day train show is coming to Foley that will include operating model train layouts in several scales. Train collectors and folks who enjoy model trains are welcome. Sponsored by the Caboose Club and South West Alabama Railroad Modelers. Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Foley Civic Center \$2 (Children under 10 - Free)



Mid-April *Peak Bloom for the Wilbourne Antique Rose Trail*

Make a note to see the Wilbourne Antique Rose Trail during peak bloom this year. Each spring the roses are at their very best in April. This is the best time to experience the beauty and fragrance of hundreds of roses, planted along a nicely landscaped walking trail, right here in downtown Foley. The trail runs parallel to Alabama 59, one block east of the highway. Easy parking is available on the north side of Heritage Park. The north section of the trail begins just north of the pavilion in Heritage Park and extends to Section Street. Don't miss the trail's shorter southern section, located just south of Foley's U.S. Post Office. Follow us on Facebook for photos and updates at Visit Foley Alabama.



April 22 *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.