

Foley Newsletter



MAYOR

John E. Koniar

COUNCIL

J. Wayne Trawick
Council President
District 1

Vera J. Quaites
District 2

Ralph G. Hellmich
Council Vice President
District 3

C. Rick Blackwell
District 4

Charlie J. Ebert III
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 2015! We are going to have a very busy year in 2015. We officially kicked off our centennial celebration with the dedication of Centennial Plaza in Foley's Heritage Park on Jan. 8. It was a cold, blustery day, so the ceremony was held indoors at the Civic Center. We had a great turnout, standing room only, and were able to recognize a number of people who were critical in making this project a success. There are a number of centennial events scheduled throughout the year. Pick up a schedule at the Welcome Center or online at www.VisitFoley.org. I encourage you to come out and participate.

We will be opening bids for the pedestrian bridge across Highway 59 on Feb. 5. That project should be underway in a couple of months.

Another major project that will be bid this spring is the extension of Fern Avenue from Highway 59 to the Foley Beach Express. This will help northbound emergency vehicles to access the hospital faster and provide citizens with another east/west option between the Foley Beach Express and Highway 59.

Many of you may have seen that the city recently acquired 89 acres from the Blue Collar group, which will allow us to move forward with our youth sports tourism project. The scope of that project has been expanded slightly, with a planned increase from 13 multi-use fields to 16. The indoor multi-use event center will be moving forward as soon as the hotel commitments are formalized, which should happen in the next 30 days.

Foley's retail activity continues to be strong. Big Lots and Hobby Lobby are open and doing



Mayor's Notes

well. Academy Sports construction is well under way. The developer is actively working on adding additional retail and restaurant venues. Shoe Station will also be opening this spring. We hope to have additional announcements soon.

Graham Creek Nature Preserve is continuing to increase the educational opportunities for our children with play days at the outdoor classroom.

Another amenity recently added at the preserve is a new archery facility. Foley schools archery programs have won competitions on a national level.

The Farmers and Fishermens Market is doing well and continues to expand. The second phase, which will include Moe's BBQ and Forland Farm Market, are on track to open this spring. We are also promoting a new "Fresh from Foley" distribution hub in conjunction with Gulf Coast Produce that occupies part of the old Peavey building. This will help our local farmers to be more profitable and bring more jobs to our community and surrounding areas.

**Great things are happening
in your community!
SHOP FOLEY FIRST!**

Best regards,

Mayor John Koniar

New center will connect local farmers with local markets

Fresh, locally grown produce is considered by many to be one of this area's best assets. A proposed aggregation center currently in the works in Foley will make it easier for local farmers to get their freshly grown produce into large local markets, such as schools, restaurants and stores. The new center will include equipment funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that will grade, sort, size, wash and package whole fruits and vegetables, which is required by large volume accounts.

The aggregation center is coming about through a partnership between the Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market and Gulf Coast Produce of Alabama, a large volume distributor now located in Foley.

"It is not economically feasible for the average farmer to put in this type of equipment," said Heather Pritchard, market manager for the Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market. By acquiring the equipment and partnering with an already successful distribution company, the city is providing a pipeline for local farmers to get their produce

into considerably larger markets.

Locally grown produce will be identified with the brand "Fresh from Foley". Customers who frequent the Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market on Saturdays are already familiar with the advantages of purchasing locally grown food, including better taste and knowing their food dollars are supporting the local economy.

The aggregation center will provide benefits for farmers and consumers, according to Pritchard. She predicts the opportunity for increased income for farmers, and the creation of more jobs associated with farming. The benefits for consumers include increased availability of food that it is fresher, while reducing the amount of energy required for shipping food from another state or country.

Mike Murphy, sales manager of Gulf Coast Produce of Alabama, says there is potential to reach \$132 million in produce sales when the center becomes fully established. Potential customers include restaurants, healthcare institutions, grocery stores, military installations and schools. ■



Above: Ribbon cutting of the new Archery Park at Graham Creek Nature Preserve. Left: The park has targets placed at a variety of distances.

Archery Park Opens at Graham Creek Nature Preserve

Mayor John Koniar, city council members and archery enthusiasts joined the Foley Recreation Department at the December grand opening of Foley's new archery park, located at Graham Creek Nature Preserve. The facility – the first in southwest Alabama – includes target ranges for youth

and adults. The park supplements existing recreational opportunities for archery enthusiasts. With archery programs in all four Foley schools, the archery park provides an additional practice facility for school archery teams to hone their skills. ■



Foley Fire Station No. 3 under construction

As construction on Foley's newest fire station goes vertical, residents of Glenlakes subdivision and other residents in south-east Foley can look forward to seeing reduced response times for fire and emergency service in the near future.

The new Station No. 3 is located at 9920 Fairway Drive, near the intersection of Fairway Drive and Baldwin County 20 at the Lakewood Estates at Glenlakes entrance, on property donated by David and Sue Vosloh.

Having a station located in southeast Foley will allow the fire department to significantly reduce the current average response time from the downtown fire station to these southeast areas, according to Foley Fire Chief Joey Darby. The average response to all areas of Glenlakes will reduce to less than 5 minutes with response times to the Graham Creek area cut in half.

Darby expects construction to be completed within six months. The nearly 5,000-square-foot-station will include two truck bays and a living area. The new station will be staffed 24/7 by three firefighters on three shifts, for a total of nine. The building will also provide space for a satellite police office, according to Darby.

G.M. Stuart Inc. is the contractor. They were awarded the project with the low bid of \$868,000. ■

Keep up with local events and news from Foley right in your inbox. Every other month, we will send you the local news you can use in our E-Newsletter. All you have to do is go to www.visitfoley.com and sign up. It's that simple!

**Check us out online:
CITY OF FOLEY**

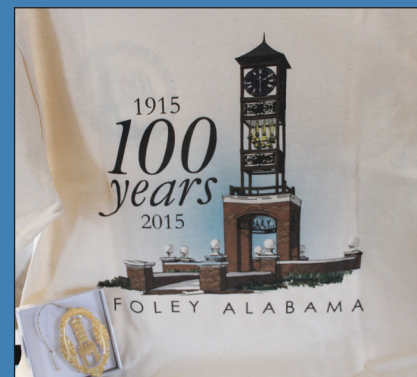
www.CityofFoley.org www.VisitFoley.org
www.CoastalAlabamaMarket.com
www.FoleyLibrary.org www.FoleyRecreation.com
www.GrahamCreekPreserve.org

New at the Foley Public Library

The children's department at the Foley library now includes books about Autism Spectrum Disorder. This includes items, books and materials for parents, teachers, friends and caregivers to help encourage those working with special needs children. There are books for all ages. The library also has toys, games and puzzles that can be checked out to help with hand/eye coordination and memory. This area was funded by a grant awarded through Dollar General and the city.

In 2015, the Foley library is also providing a gift to each newborn child born at South Baldwin Regional Medical Center through the "Welcome to the World of Reading" program. Each baby is given a bib that says I ♥ books!, a baby's first year calendar, information on the importance of reading to a child and a baby board book. SBRMC reports that on average, there are approximately 500 children born at the Foley hospital each year. That's a lot of new patrons! The library's goal is to help Foley's future leaders get a great start in becoming great readers. This program is funded through the Friends of the Library and the city. ■

Pick up
your
Centennial
T-shirt and
ornaments
at the Foley
Welcome
Center.





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

Celebrating Foley's Centennial 1915 – 2015

Foley's official 100th birthday celebration was Jan. 8, 2015. Check out our Facebook page at Visit Foley Alabama to see photos of the big day. The celebration will continue throughout the year with special events planned to mark the occasion. Check for special events below, or online at www.VisitFoley.org.

Upcoming Events

WEEKLY – Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market

Local produce, fresh seafood, homemade dishes, honey, eggs, jams, jellies and plants. Each Saturday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Baldwin Co. 20 between Ala. 59 and Foley Beach Express

Feb. 20 – 3rd Friday Artwalk

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

Feb. 24 – Hometown Heroes, Black History Month*

Foley hometown heroes will be honored for their service and contributions. 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at Foley Middle School Cafetorium. Contact tkratzer@bcbe.org.

Feb. 28 – Arbor Day

The public is invited to attend a brief program and receive free trees. 10 a.m. – noon at the Foley Civic Center.

Feb. 28 – Geocaching Rally

Meet at Graham Creek Nature Preserve. Rally ends at Foley Public Library. 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

March 1 – Geocaching CITO

Help us thank the city of Foley for co-sponsoring this weekend of events by cleaning up the preserve. Contact Melanie at 251-943-1031 for details. 10 a.m. at Graham Creek Nature Preserve.

March 2 – Easter Egg Hunt and Play Day

Graham Creek Nature Preserve. 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Ages ten and under.

March 20 – 3rd Friday Artwalk

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

March 21-22 – Model Train Show

Enjoy model trains, layouts and train paraphernalia in many sizes on display and for sale. Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Foley Civic Center.

April 4, 11, 18 & 25 – Historic Downtown Walking Tours*

Tours will feature historical points of interest in downtown Foley. Tours begin at 10 a.m. each Saturday in April at the Foley Welcome Center and last approximately one hour. 943-1200

April 11 – 12th Annual Magnolia Run

5k run, 5k race/walk and one mile “fun run” begin and end at Jesse's Restaurant, 14770 Oak Street, Magnolia Springs. 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

April 17 – 3rd Friday Artwalk

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

April 17-18 – Foley Library Military Show

Show features outside exhibits of trucks, jeeps and artillery pieces in the south parking lot of the library and exhibits inside the library. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

April 18 – Earth Day at Graham Creek Nature Preserve

Come out to the preserve for “Jog the Bog”, a 5k trail race, followed by a brief Earth Day festival to include local vendors, environmental educators, along with children's activities. 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

April 19 – A Centennial Celebration Picnic*

Heritage Park. 4 p.m. Bring your own food, or purchase from a vendor in the park. Live entertainment by Foley Elementary School Choir FAME.

April 19 – Baldwin Pops concert in Foley's Heritage Park*

The Pops will be joined by selected seniors from Baldwin County high school bands. 6 p.m.

May 1-3 – Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival

For more details and a complete listing
of area events VisitFoley.org

*Signature Centennial Event