

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

These are busy times for your community. We recently opened the Foley Dog Park. This is a beautiful facility and is being enjoyed daily by residents and their furry friends. We have received many compliments on this project.

Saturday, April 9, the new 5-Plex located west of town on Cater Lee Way was officially opened. This facility, located next to the original 5-Plex, doubles our capacity for youth baseball and softball. Combined with ball fields at Mel Roberts and Max Griffin Parks, the new facility gives Foley a total of 15 fields for growing our city youth sports programs.

The growth of our youth sports programs reflects the growth we are seeing in the city, as well as throughout Baldwin County. During 2014–2015, Baldwin County was the fastest growing county in the state of Alabama. This growth presents both challenges and opportunities. This administration is being proactive in meeting these challenges.

Don Staley continues to be successful in scheduling tournaments for the soon-to-be completed soccer fields near Juniper Street. His latest addition is the NJCAA D1 Women's Soccer Championship to be held in 2018. This tournament is estimated to bring a \$1.1 million economic impact on our area.

Progress continues on the soccer fields. We are close to having 14 of the 16 fields sodded. Construction of the field house associated with the fields is underway also. Opening day and the inaugural event is the Memorial Day Showdown Soccer Tournament, May 27-30, for youth soccer teams from across the Southeast.

The ALDOT road project to extend Pride Drive from Hwy. 59 to Juniper Street has begun. Pride Drive will eventually cross Juniper and continue past the new soccer fields before



**Mayor's
Notes**

making a big right turn to the south to connect with County Road 20. Another part of this project is the widening of Juniper Street from County Road 20 to Riviera Blvd. This project will play a big role in connectivity for our future.

Two major events are scheduled for Mother's Day weekend this year. The Foley Art Center will present the 44th annual Art in the Park at Foley's Heritage Park. The South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce will host the Gulf Coast

Hot Air Balloon Festival at the sports complex on Highway 98. Come out and enjoy these two wonderful events.

Construction is under way for the Panda Express restaurant in front of Walmart on Hwy. 59. Ross Dress for Less, located near Academy Sports, will be opening this month.

Relay for Life of South Baldwin is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, at Foley's Heritage Park. I encourage you to come out and support this wonderful fundraising event. Cancer, unfortunately, touches most of our lives, either directly or indirectly.

We are blessed to be part of such a wonderful area.

**Don't forget to support our
local merchants and
SHOP FOLEY FIRST!**

Best regards,

Mayor John Koniar

Foley becoming a pedestrian-friendly city



With 15 miles of new sidewalks, plus 14.5 miles of bike and walking paths and a pedestrian bridge under construction, Foley is about to be transformed from a city that almost requires a car to move around safely into one of the most pedestrian-friendly cities in Baldwin County. This soon-to-be-realized achievement has taken years of planning.

In 2007, Baldwin County Trailblazers hosted Dan Burden, a nationally recognized expert in the field of walkable communities. During this visit, Mr. Burden conducted a walking audit of Foley along with citizens to determine the best routes to connect various destinations.

Citizens participated in an extensive public planning process in 2008 to create a common vision to be used by city officials as a guide to manage the challenges of future growth and development. This is Foley's comprehensive plan, required by the State of Alabama code, to provide the framework for future development.

Public meetings were held, and one of the things city officials learned was that residents wished for greater walkability, not only for ease of getting around town, but for health reasons as well. Another item identified by residents was a desire for a bridge over Highway 59 to better connect Foley's historic downtown with the park and the library.

Following policy recommendations from the comprehensive plan, Foley TRIPS (Transportation Regional Infrastructure Pedestrian System) was developed by Volkert, Inc., city officials and the city's community development and engineering departments, to identify existing infrastructure and best locations for the proposed sidewalks, walking and biking paths, and the pedestrian bridge.

Based on the comprehensive plan, the city began applying for grants for funding for the projects. The city applied three times for a federal TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Grant, and in 2013, was awarded \$4.7 million. Foley's 25 percent match, at \$1.6 million, brought the project total to \$6.3 million.

The TIGER grant was divided into



three projects. The first, TIGER 1, includes widening roadways to include 4-ft.-wide bicycle lanes, and in some places also added 5-ft.-wide concrete sidewalks. An example of this can be seen along W. Azalea Ave. This phase is 94 percent complete, lacking only markings, striping and bollards.

The second component, TIGER 2, includes construction of 12.9 miles of shared use paths, which are 8- to 10-ft.-

wide bicycle and pedestrian paths that are not attached to the existing roadways. This portion is about 72 percent complete. An example of this can be seen along Hwy. 59 and E. Berry Ave. Shared-use paths are also planned along U.S. 98.

TIGER 3 is the work for the pedestrian overpass over Hwy. 59, located about a quarter mile north of the intersection of U.S. 98 and Hwy. 59. The overpass is scheduled for completion by August 30, depending on the weather. This feature will include elevators and stairs on each side, supporting a pedestrian overpass with a floor 18 ft. above the highway.

The TIGER grant covers a significant portion of the walkability components identified in the comprehensive plan, but not all of them. Additional grants, including a TAP grant from the Alabama Department of Transportation, is being used for sidewalks connecting County Road 12, the Foley Beach Express, and County Road 20. City officials plan to apply for TAP grants in the future to continue implementing walkability components identified in the comprehensive plan.

With almost 30 miles of safe walking and biking paths connecting the city, Foley is making great strides in enhancing not only the pedestrian friendliness of the city, but also improving quality of life for residents. Let's celebrate this accomplishment with a walk or a bike ride!

A copy of Foley's Comprehensive Plan can be found online at www.cityoffoley.org/Portals/cityoffoley/PZ-COMPPLAN.pdf ■



New 5-plex has Opening Day

Mayor Koniar and Foley city council members Wayne Trawick, Rick Blackwell, Ralph Hellmich and Vera Quaites help celebrate opening day at Foley's new 5-Plex, which gives the city a total of 15 baseball/softball fields for the youth recreation program. ■

Let's work together to keep mosquitoes under control

Foley follows a plan for using pesticides that follows state and federal regulations to help control mosquitoes and combat the diseases they carry. As diseases carried by mosquitoes are on the rise, there are also steps that homeowners can take to help keep mosquitoes under control.

Mosquito spraying occurs systematically within the entire city limits of Foley every week. This technique kills adult mosquitoes that it contacts. Mosquito larvacide briquettes that prevent larvae from developing are also placed in public areas that contain water features, such as detention ponds.

Homeowners can help by eliminating standing water in and around homes once a week. Keep mosquitoes out of homes by having screens on windows and doors. Help prevent mosquito bites by using an EPA-registered insect repellent with one of the following active ingredients: DEET, Picaridin (KBR 3023), Bayrepel, Icaridin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE) or Para-Menthane-diol (PMD).

As talk of the Zika virus, which produces symptoms including fever, rash and joint pain, continues to increase, the mosquitoes that carry this disease (*Aedes aegypti* and *A. albopictus*) are not commonly found in Alabama. They are aggressive daytime biters and typically lay eggs in and near small standing water containers such as buckets, bowls, tires, animal dishes and flower pots. They do not lay eggs in larger water bodies, including drainage basins, wetlands, ditches or flowing water.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/zika/index. For mosquito complaints, please call Foley Public Works at 251-943-8897. ■

CITY OF FOLEY online

www.CityofFoley.org www.VisitFoley.org

www.CoastalAlabamaMarket.com

www.FoleyLibrary.org www.FoleyRecreation.com

www.GrahamCreekPreserve.org

www.FoleySportsTourism.com

Join us in the park on Fridays

Heritage Park Marketplace begins May 13, continuing through June 24, offering a variety of arts and crafts, baked goods, handmade soaps, plants and more. The market is open from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Bring a blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy free entertainment that begins at 6 p.m., followed by a movie projected on a huge, 40-ft. screen at dusk. Concessions are available for purchase, or bring your own picnic. Visit our website for movie and music details. ■

Music and a Movie SCHEDULE

MAY 13

Christina Christian Duo
Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo

FINDING
NEMO

MAY 20

Shelby Brown

INSIDE
OUT

MAY 27

Cornbred Band

DESPICABLE
ME 2

JUNE 3

Baldwin Pops
Foley Police
Canine Unit Demo

MAX

JUNE 10

One Fair Trio
Foley Fire Dept. Demo

PLANES
FIRE & RESCUE

JUNE 17

Sugarcane Jane

CINDERELLA

JUNE 24

Danny "D" Band

STAR WARS
THE FORCE AWAKENS



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

Upcoming Events

WEEKLY Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market

Tuesdays and Saturdays. 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
Local produce, fresh seafood, homemade dishes, honey, eggs, jams, jellies and plants.
Baldwin County 20 between Ala. 59 and the Foley Beach Express.
www.coastalalabama.com

May 3 Hurricanes, Flooding and Fires: Community Preparedness Expo

10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Public expo on disaster preparation and recovery. Vendors will be on hand with information on safety in the event of disasters, assistance after disasters, rebuilding, insurance and more. Free to the public.
Foley Civic Center

May 5 Balloon Glow at Tanger Outlets

6 p.m.–7 p.m.
Get up close and personal with 10 hot air balloons as they light up the sky. Talk with pilots and see inside the balloons. Free to the public.
Tanger Outlets
www.gulfcoastballoonfestival.com

May 5 Mayors' Prayer Breakfast

7:30 a.m.
Guest speaker Chett Williams, Auburn University Chaplain. \$20
First Baptist Foley Christian Life Center
251-943-3445

May 6–7 12th Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival

Friday 2 p.m.–10 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.–10 p.m.

Featuring nearly 50 balloonists from across the country. Activities include balloon glows and flights, tethered rides, frisbee dog show, arts and crafts, live entertainment, festival food and carnival fun!
Foley Sportsplex. 18507 U.S. Hwy. 98 W.
www.gulfcoastballoonfestival.com

May 7–8 44th Annual Art in the Park

10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Over 100 artists showcase their talents while providing unique cultural experiences and shopping opportunities for hand-crafted shopping items.
John B. Foley Park
www.foleyartcenter.net/art-in-the-park/

May 13, 20, 27; June 3, 10, 17, 24

Heritage Park Marketplace

4 p.m.–7 p.m.
Offers a variety of arts and crafts, baked goods, handmade soaps, plants and much more. Heritage Park. www.visitfoley.com/events or 251-943-1300

May 13, 20, 27; June 3, 10, 17, 24

Music and a Movie

5:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
Bring a blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy a free movie, music and entertainment under the stars. Concessions are available for purchase. Free to the public. Visit our website for movie and music details.
Heritage Park
www.visitfoley.com/events
251-943-1300

May 13 Business Enrichment Class

10 a.m.–11 a.m.
Learn how to prevent credit card, personal

check and travel check fraud.
Foley Police Department Court Room
RSVP 251-943-4431

May 27–30 Memorial Day Showdown

10 a.m.–11 a.m.
Youth soccer athletes compete in the inaugural Memorial Day Showdown Soccer Tournament. The tournament will be the first event at the new Foley Sports Tourism Complex, with 16 full-sized, newly constructed soccer fields.
www.foleysportstourism.com/events/

June 6, 16, 23, 30

Foley Public Library Summer Reading Program

10 a.m.
These programs for children promote reading and feature special entertainment from balloon art to magicians. Foley Civic Center
www.foleylibrary.org
or 251-943-7665

June 13–17 Pioneer Day Camp

8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Environmental Day Camp for ages 10-14.
\$100 per camper.
Graham Creek Nature Preserve
www.grahamcreekpreserve.org/
251-952-4011

June 20–24 Explorer Day Camp

8 a.m.–noon
Environmental Day Camp for ages 5–9.
\$50 per camper.
Graham Creek Nature Preserve
www.grahamcreekpreserve.org/
251-952-4011