A recent fundraiser for the 15-month-old son of one of our Foley firefighters was very successful. Easton Carraway was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and is now at St. Jude's Hospital in Memphis receiving treatment. Over $20,000 was raised to assist Easton and his family. We have a very caring and generous community. Please keep Easton and his family in your prayers.

Spring is upon us and Foley provides many resources for enjoying the great outdoors. The Rose Trail is always a favorite, along with numerous city parks and walking trails. There are now about 35 miles of walking, bike and multi-use trails available for your enjoyment.

The Foley Dog Park (200 E. Orange Ave.) has also become a real favorite and we are working to make it an even more enjoyable experience. Bring your four-legged “children” out to enjoy this beautiful park.

Good progress continues on construction at the sports event center. It is on schedule to open in late June. The nearby Marriott TownePlace Suites being built by Owa will be opening in conjunction with the event center.

The sports event center is bringing a great deal of interest. In December, we will be partnering with Alabama USA Gymnastics and the Bama Bounders to host the 2017 Alabama Compulsory Championship. This event is the culmination of the compulsory gymnastics season in Alabama, and serves as the state gymnastics finale. We are excited to be hosting an event at this level of competition in Foley.

The Owa development continues to make swift progress. The amusement park area with 21 rides is on schedule to open mid-summer. The development is already having a positive economic impact on our community, with more than 1,100 construction workers on site daily.

In February, Foley hosted a very successful archery event at Graham Creek Preserve. Over 2,000 participants competed for prizes. The event brought lots of dollars to our restaurants, retail stores and hotels.

East Pride Boulevard connecting Hwy. 59 with the Foley Sports Tourism Complex’s new soccer fields and event center is now open. We still have some landscaping to finish up, but this project will help ease traffic for visitors and locals alike.

We continue to work on resurfacing streets and drainage projects throughout the city. Maintaining infrastructure is a high priority for this mayor and council.

Two of our community’s favorite events are coming up in May. The Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival is May 5 and 6. Currently, some 48 balloons have signed up to participate. The ever-popular Art in the Park is on Mother’s Day Weekend, May 13 and 14. Come out and enjoy these events with your families.

SHOP FOLEY FIRST!
Best regards,

Mayor John Koniar
For the past year or so, many visitors who stop in at Foley’s Welcome Center are not just looking for information for a vacation. Many say they want to move here. When asked what draws them to Foley, the top responses are that it’s close to the beach, and they like the city. The people are friendly, housing costs are affordable, and there is plenty to do.

Foley is a growing city and predictions are that it is likely to continue. Since 2010, approximately 2,880 have chosen Foley to be their home.

Baldwin County is the fastest-growing county in the state. According to Census Bureau statistics, growth was up by 14.4 percent between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2016. This represents over 26,200 people moving into Baldwin County over six years.

A report by MarketGraphics Research Group says that while many people are choosing to live along the coast, Baldwin County is growing much faster than not only Mobile County, but also the Florida Panhandle counties of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton.

A recent University of Alabama research project predicts that Baldwin County is expected to increase in ranking from the seventh most populous county in the state in 2010 to fourth in 2040. The report credits continued unprecedented growth in the Daphne-Fairhope-Foley metro area as the driver.

The growth is increasing permit requests for residential housing in Foley. Residential permits issued rose from 152 during the 2014/2015 fiscal year to 249 in 2015/2016, an increase of 64 percent. During the first six months of 2016/2017, 154 new housing permits have been issued, a year-to-date increase of 34 percent. Foley’s Community Development Department forecasts that this trend will continue.

Foley, a good place to live...

Population Foley Alabama

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>4,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>7,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>14,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>17,218 (estimated)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census Bureau

Residential Housing Permits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year (Oct. 1–Sept. 30)</th>
<th>Residential Permits Issued</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014/2015</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/2016</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/2017 YTD through March 2017</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Foley Community Development Department

Under construction and opening soon

Foley’s event center is on track for completion this summer. The building’s 90,000 square feet of floor space can be used for indoor sports as well as meetings.

The 150-room Marriott TownePlace Suites located near Foley’s Sports Tourism Complex is also expected to open by early summer.

Owa’s amusement park, scheduled to open this summer, boasts 21 rides that include teacups and a roller coaster.
The Foley Fire Department recently took delivery of a new 2017 KME Custom Fire Pumper to enhance fire and emergency response capabilities. This state-of-the-art fire engine has a 1500 gpm pump and 750 gal. water tank. The new Engine 3 is assigned to Fire Station 3 in the GlenLakes community.

Foley Welcome Center Gift Shop
The Welcome Center gift shop is the perfect place to get Foley merchandise such as T-shirts, hats, ornaments, phone pockets and other cool Foley stuff. Open Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Upcoming Events

Find more events on these websites:

Foley Public Library  FoleyLibrary.org
Foley Senior Center  CityofFoley.org
Foley Sports Tourism  FoleySportsTourism.com

Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market
Local produce, fresh seafood, homemade goods and more. Open Tues. and Sat. 9 a.m.–2 p.m. 20733 Miflin Road, Foley.  www.CoastalAlabamaMarket.com

Observe and Explore Days
First Wednesday and third Saturday each month, 10 a.m.–noon. Free activities for children 10 and under. Graham Creek Nature Preserve, 23460 Wolf Bay Dr., Foley.  www.GrahamCreekPreserve.org

April 22 Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market Earth Day Family Fun Day
9 a.m.–2 p.m.
Pottin' and plantin', beaducation, live music, adopt a pet, face painting and vegetable painting. 20733 Miflin Rd., Foley.

May 3 Are You Prepared Expo
10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Check out resources available in case of hurricane, flood, fire or wind events. Free to the public. Foley Civic Center.

May 5–6 Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival
Featuring 45 balloons from across the country. Activities include balloon glows and flights, festival food and live entertainment. Foley Sportsplex, 18507 U.S. Hwy. 98 W.  www.GulfCoastBalloonFestival.com

May 13–14 Art in the Park
9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Featuring over 100 artists showcasing fine art and hand crafted items. John B. Foley Park.  www.FoleyArtCenter.org

April 21 & 28; May 19 & 26; June 2 & 9 Heritage Park Marketplace
4 p.m.–7 p.m.
Offers a variety of arts and crafts, handmade items and plants. Heritage Park.  www.VisitFoley.org/events or 251-943-1300

April 21 & 28; May 19 & 26; June 2 & 9 Music & a Movie
5:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
Bring a blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy a free movie, music and entertainment. Concessions available. Free to the public. Heritage Park.  www.VisitFoley.org/events or 251-943-1300

Graham Creek Nature Preserve
June 12–16 and 26–30 Explorer Day Camp
June 19–23 Pioneer Day Camp
June 29 International Mud Day
23460 Wolf Bay Drive, Foley.  www.GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Summer Reading Program
June 8 Hoop For Fitness
June 15 Animal Science
June 22 Gene Cordova
June 29 Charlie Williams
10 a.m. at The Foley Civic Center. Presented by Foley Public Library.  www.FoleyLibrary.org