

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

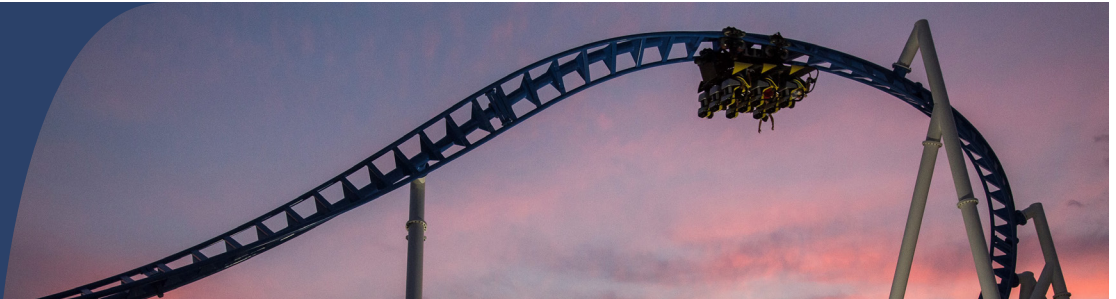
CITY

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



Lots of exciting things are going on in your community. The much anticipated opening of the amusement park at OWA took place in July. The park features 21 rides accommodating toddlers to the thrill seekers who enjoy the Rolling Thunder, one of the finest roller coasters in the nation. The Marriott Towne Place Suites near OWA also opened in July.

The park is providing good jobs and wages for our citizens. Additional dining, retail and entertainment venues will be opening over the next several months. Other ventures being considered are additional hotels, an RV park and a water park. These projects will continue to provide construction jobs for our area.

The city's 90,000-square-foot event center held its first event, a gymnastics competition, earlier this month. The event brought in a large number of young people who enjoyed the new facility while staying in our hotels and shopping and dining throughout our community.

Fall soccer is coming up, and teams that travel to Foley to play on our sports fields will bring additional revenues to local businesses.

We recently received great news from the Baldwin County Board of Education: Foley has been selected to receive a new elementary school. As many of you know, Foley's existing elementary school is the largest in the state, housing some 1,500 students. A new school will be constructed behind the current intermediate school on 9th Avenue. Housing up to 900 students, it will take pressure off our existing elementary school and help with the exploding growth in our city. Thank you, Baldwin County Board of Education!

With the new school, the city is planning to extend 9th Avenue to South Hickory Street to provide better access for students, teachers and parents.

As we approach the height of hurricane season, I encourage you to review your preparedness checklist and be sure you have all the supplies you



Mayor's Notes

need on hand. If a hurricane shows up in the gulf, supplies will move off the shelves quickly!

Improvements to the intersection of County Road 20 and the Foley Beach Express are currently underway. We ask your patience and caution when traveling through all road construction projects.

The United Technologies expansion was recently opened. This is a wonderful event for our region and is bringing an additional 250 high-paying jobs to our area. UTC is a community-minded company. Many of you may not know they have a team that volunteers to deliver meals via the Meals on Wheels program in our community.

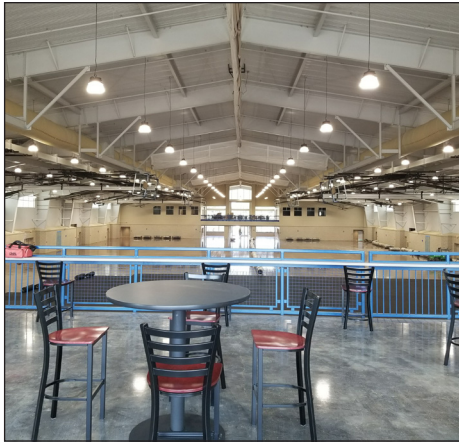
The Foley Rocks program has really taken off. It has brought out the artistic talents in many youth and adults. No doubt many of you have run across these hidden gems as you have strolled through our community.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank Jeff Rouzie, director of economic development and member of the Foley Planning Commission, for his many contributions during his tenure. Jeff will be retiring at the end of September. Through his leadership, sales tax revenues have almost doubled and hundreds of jobs have been created. Best wishes to Jeff and Sarah. Thank you for a job well done!

SHOP FOLEY FIRST!

Best regards,

Mayor John Koniar



Foley Events Center opens

Foley's new 90,000-square-foot, multi-use indoor facility, located adjacent to the city sports fields and OWA, opened in early September. The first event held in the facility was the Bounders Beach Bash gymnastics tournament. The event brought 500 participants and their families from across Alabama to Foley for the weekend.

An open house will be held on Thursday, Sept. 28. Tours of the new facility will be given from 3 - 5 p.m.

The new facility offers 60,000 square feet of floor space, as well as offices and concession areas. Setup for basketball and volleyball games is automated; six basketball goals and twelve volleyball nets are suspended from the ceiling and can be deployed with the push of a button.

A mezzanine in the building offers an unrestricted view of the entire floor space, as well as a view of the OWA development.

The indoor facility offers ample space for basketball, volleyball, cheerleading, dance and gymnastics competitions. Being a multi-use facility, the Foley Events Center is also able to accommodate concerts, banquets, conventions and trade shows. ■



TownePlace Suites Foley at OWA now open

Foley's newest hotel is a 150-room extended-stay facility located near the Foley Sports Tourism Complex and OWA. Each room in Marriott's TownePlace Suites includes a small kitchen with a refrigerator, microwave and sink where families can prepare a quick meal. Many rooms include living areas with a sofa and wide-screen TV. Visiting sports teams especially benefit from the hotel's convenient location adjacent to the city events center, sports fields and OWA.

The hotel offers a free hot breakfast buffet, and an indoor pool with a large outside terrace that overlooks the OWA development.

OWA officials have announced plans to open several more hotels on the 520-acre property. Future plans under consideration include an RV park, a water park and conference/meeting space.

The new 150-room facility brings the total number of available hotel rooms in Foley to 866. ■



The Park at OWA opens

OWA's 21-ride, themed amusement park, simply called The Park, opened on July 21, 2017, to the delight of many who watched with anticipation as it rose from the ground over the past nine months. In addition to the rides, The Park features a gift shop, a number of midway games, and two casual dining options. The Park is situated on 14 acres of the over-500-acre parcel being developed by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

General admission tickets are available for \$34.99, and a 12-month annual pass is available for \$89.99. Additional admission prices and park hours can be found on the OWA website at www.visitowa.com. OWA officials state that The Park will be open year-round.

Additional retail and dining tenants at OWA are set to begin opening later this fall. Tenants include Wahlburgers, Groovy Goat, Sunglass World, Fairhope Soap Company, Alvin's Island, Hershey's Ice Cream Shop and Utopia. The retail and dining parts of the development do not require an admission fee. ■

UTC Aerospace Systems Foley expansion completed

UTC Aerospace Systems recently celebrated the completion of an 80,000-square-foot manufacturing and nacelle assembly facility in Foley. With the addition, 260 new jobs are expected to be added, bringing the Foley workforce to more than 1,000 employees, according to company officials.

The plant will manufacture fuel-efficient engine components used by the Airbus assembly plant in Mobile. Components manufactured in Foley will also be shipped to facilities in France and Germany.

The new building features innovative manufacturing technology, including automated material movement of large nacelle component platforms along an assembly line, an overhead rail system with vacuum lifts, and an automated painting system. The advanced manufacturing system will increase the efficiency of operations required to assemble and paint nacelle systems, and provide ergonomic benefits for employees, according to a company press release.

The new building is LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)

certified by the U.S. Green Building Council, and features a sanitation system that incorporates rainwater collection. As the third manufacturing building on the Foley campus, it will serve as a complement to the site's existing 230,000-square-foot original equipment plant and 210,000-square-foot MRO facility, according to company officials.

In February, the Foley plant was named one of IndustryWeek magazine's 2016 Best Plants in North America. ■

City receives Alabama Tourism Organization of the Year 2017

The City of Foley was recently presented with the Tourism Organization of the Year award from the Alabama Department of Tourism. The award commended the city for its commitment to Alabama's sports tourism market, with the opening of the city's new state-of-the-art sports complex featuring 16 outdoor fields and a 90,000-square-foot indoor events center. The award was presented to city officials at the Alabama Governor's Conference on Tourism, held in Birmingham.



"Foley is honored to receive this award," said Mayor John Koniar. "We've been working for several years to give visitors more reasons to come to Foley. Our partnership with the Poarch Creek Indians has created a project that is transforming our city. The city is providing playing fields and an events center adjacent to their new OWA destination resort. We appreciate their partnership, and the opportunity it provides for us all. We feel this is an investment in tourism that will benefit not only Foley, but the Gulf Coast area, and the state as well. We appreciate this recognition from the state tourism department acknowledging our efforts."

The Park, OWA's 14-acre theme park, was named the 2017 Attraction of the Year. ■

Foley's comprehensive annual report receives award

For the fourth consecutive year, Foley's comprehensive annual financial report was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting.

The certificate recognizes governmental entities who publish easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial reports. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A complete copy of the report is posted on the city website at www.cityoffoley.org.

An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement was also awarded to the city's finance division, who is primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning document. ■

Foley upgrades sanitation ordinance

F.Y.I.

Foley's Public Works Department recently upgraded guidelines for homeowners regarding the pickup of yard waste and bulk waste.

Yard waste

- Only waste generated by the homeowner will be collected.
- Landscaping and tree contractors will remove waste they generate.
- Garbage, plastics and metals may not be mixed with yard waste.
- Yard waste such as leaves and grass clippings may be piled at curbside or placed in biodegradable bags. (Not plastic bags. Available at most home stores.)
- Yard waste is limited to six cubic yards per week. Excessive yard waste will be charged \$100 per load.
- Waste should not be placed in drainage ditches or next to storm drains.

Bulk waste

- Bulk waste is typically collected on Mondays. To schedule a pickup, place items at the curbside, then call Public Works at 251-943-8897.
- Bulk waste includes furniture, appliances and other large items.
- Items shall not be placed on curbside earlier than three days before pickup
- Waste may include up to four cubic yards of minor home repair construction/remodel debris produced by the homeowner.

For more details, call 251-943-8897, or pick up a brochure available at the Public Works office and the Foley Public Library. More details available online at www.cityoffoley.org. ■

Carbon monoxide home safety

The Foley Fire Department wants you to know the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning in your home. Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless and toxic gas. Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes, CO can kill occupants before they are aware it is in their home. At lower levels of exposure, CO causes mild effects that are often mistaken for the flu. If your home has fuel-fired appliances or an attached garage where vehicles are stored and operated, the Foley Fire Department recommends that you install a carbon monoxide alarm. The carbon monoxide alarm can be located near the smoke alarm required in the immediate area of the bedrooms.

Please contact the Foley Fire Department at 251-943-1266 if you have any questions regarding smoke or carbon monoxide alarms. ■



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

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

Tues. 2 p.m.–6 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
Local produce, fresh seafood, homemade goods and more. 20733 Mifflin Rd., 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

Sept. 28 USPCA National Field Trials (K-9)

6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. National USPCA Field Trials K-9 Demonstration. See police dogs in action. Foley Sports Tourism Complex.
www.FoleySportsTourism.com

Sept. 28 Foley Events Center Open House

3–5 p.m. Stop in to tour Foley's newest facility. 1001 E. Pride Blvd.
www.FoleySportsTourism.com

Oct. 3–31 Through The Artist's Eyes: Exploring Our Places

Tues.–Fri. 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Exhibit opening Oct. 3, 5–7 p.m. Exhibit showcasing artwork of area landmarks, an Alabama 200 Bicentennial event.
Foley Art Center, 211 N. McKenzie St.
www.FoleyArtCenter.com

Oct. 7 Tour de Foley

6 a.m.–2 p.m. Bike ride through southeastern Baldwin County. Routes from 16 miles to 102 miles. Sponsored by Foley Lions Club and Foley Kiwanis Club. Starts/ends at OWA.
www.active.com/foley-al/cycling/tour-de-foley-2017

Oct. 7 Alabama Festival of Flavor

Noon–5 p.m. Festival showcasing local food, craft beer and football. Downtown Foley
www.AlabamaFestivalofFlavor.com/tickets

Oct. 20, 21 & 28 Haunted Forest Trail Walk

6:45–10 p.m. \$15 admission. 23030 Wolf Bay Dr. 251-923-4267
www.GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Oct. 21 Pumpkin Play Day

10 a.m.–noon. Pumpkins to paint, games to play and treats/prizes for children.
www.GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Oct. 26. Uptown Halloween

5:30–8 p.m. Community celebration includes costume contest, jumpy houses, hay rides and booths compliments of area merchants, organizations and the City of Foley. Free.
Downtown Foley.
www.VisitFoley.org

Oct. 31 Walk the Wicked Woods

8:30 or 9:45 p.m.
40 tickets available at \$20 ea. 18 or older.
20733 Mifflin Rd. 251-923-4267
www.GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Nov. 10–Dec. 21 50th Annual Trim-A-Tree

Over 150 artists showcase their talents while providing unique shopping opportunities for hand-crafted items sold on consignment. Tanger Outlet Mall, Suite 446
www.FoleyArtCenter.com



Nov. 18 Creek Crawl

8 a.m. Four-mile obstacle and mud race. Benefits Graham Creek Programs. Registration at www.active.com. 23030 Wolf Bay Dr. 251-923-4267
www.GrahamCreekPreserve.org