

Foley Newsletter

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'Tis the season. Hurricane season, that is. We were fortunate to dodge a bullet in Tropical Storm Alberto, but this year's season is expected to be a very active one. I encourage you and your family to prepare now for this hurricane season. There is an excellent website, www.HurricaneSafety.org, with suggested lists of actions to ensure your safety.

On a happier note, Foley is one of three cities selected to participate in the Main Street program. Four of us traveled to Birmingham to make our presentation. Main Street works with community leaders to help downtowns "create long-term economic transformation through small incremental improvements one step at a time." The goal is "to support and grow locally owned businesses, cultivate and develop entrepreneurship and create inclusive, accessible communities for all."

We are in the process of creating a board to oversee the process and move forward. Exciting times for historic downtown Foley!

Foley Sports Tourism, working with GlenLakes Golf Club, hosted the 2018 Division II Men's Golf Championship in May. GlenLakes did a wonderful job as the host club and received many compliments from the participants on the condition of the course and the hospitality extended them. It was an exciting competition, with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College winning by one stroke!

Our long-awaited Fern Avenue extension is finally underway. This project will connect Highway 59 to the Foley Beach Express, giving citizens another east/west alternative, but more importantly, giving emergency vehicles improved access to the South Baldwin Regional Medical Center. The extension should be completed by



**Mayor's
Notes**

next spring.

In May, a groundbreaking ceremony marked the beginning of the highly anticipated 22-acre expansion by the Burton Property Group, located south of Academy Sports. Once completed, it will bring 122,000 square feet of additional space, and an estimated 250 jobs. New retail venues there will include Marshalls, HomeGoods, ULTA Beauty, Five Below, Tuesday Morning and Publix.

A groundbreaking was held on May 11 for a much needed, second Foley Elementary school. With almost 1,500 students, Foley currently has the largest elementary school in the state, so this addresses a serious need. The new school is expected to be ready for the fall of 2019. The city will extend 9th Ave. from S. Cedar St., to S. Hickory St. to create the needed access points for the new school.

Speaking of Foley Elementary, long-standing principal Dr. William Lawrence retired after serving 29 years. I personally want to thank him for all his hard work to benefit our children and our community. He will be missed.

We are proud to have recently completed the replacement of four tennis courts at Mel Roberts Park. The new courts include state-of-the-art LED lighting.

Regards—and shop Foley first!

Mayor John Koniar

Foley embraces Main Street

Foley received Main Street, Alabama, designated city status in June. The Main Street organization has proven itself to be a successful vehicle for improving historic downtown areas in cities across the United States.

“This is a very big deal for Foley,” City Administrator Mike Thompson said. “I’m very excited about becoming a Main Street city. Both our community members and our city put a lot of time and effort into our downtown, but I think what we’ve missed so far is that organization that helps us crystallize our vision, and somebody waking up every day focused on that vision and seeing us move forward.”

“Downtown is a very important element. It’s the heart and soul of the community,” said Foley Mayor John Koniar. “As it gets older, as do we, it begins to have heart problems, and we’ve had our problems in downtown Foley. Hopefully, Main Street will be the medicine that will bring it back into rhythm and back to a vibrant downtown.”

Main Street officials will be spending time learning about Foley over the next few months “to understand who you are and who you want to be,” said Mary Helmer, Main Street statewide director. “You want to be Foley. You want to be authentic. We’re excited to discover more about what that is for you guys. Main Street is a way of life. It’s a way to manage the changes in your downtown over time.”

In September, a resource team will bring in experts from across the nation in each of the four points identified by Main Street, which include organization, promotion, economic vitality



and design. The community will be invited to join in this process. A public presentation will be held afterwards to announce the results.

The city, with support from the South Baldwin Chamber, worked to achieve the designation, and will continue to jointly support the program until it can become self-supporting. The kickoff was a starting point. According to city officials, a non-profit 501(c)(6) will be formed, an executive director will be hired, and a board will be seated. At that time, committees will be formed within each of the four points to oversee the work that will need to be done. Anyone who is interested in seeing Foley’s downtown revitalized is invited to serve on a committee. ■

Meet the newest member of the Police Department

Meet the newest member of the Foley Police Department, Chief David Wilson proudly announces the newest member of the department. K-9 Xedhor, a 1-year-old Belgian Malinois, and his handler, Officer Luke Hixon. Officer Hixon joined the FPD in 2016. Prior to moving to Foley, he served for 10 years in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where he was also a K-9 officer.

“I am very proud of our canine squad. These officers and their K-9 partners work very hard every day. They train hard and do all the real life things you see on TV shows.

“These officers and their canine partners are a critical part of the Foley Police Department,” said Chief David Wilson. ■



Ride Foley’s new event train

Spend a Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday near Heritage Park and you may catch a glimpse of one of Foley’s top attractions. Ask any youngster in Foley, and they can tell you about the train that gives free rides around the park. Foley received a beautiful new event train in June. The new train has a more powerful motor, allowing it to carry more people on each trip. It is also ADA accessible, with a ramp built into the caboose for easy wheelchair access. Other features include a whistle, a smokestack with real smoke, and a variety of tunes to accompany your ride.

The city plans to keep the old train also, and will trade them out on designated ride days so both are used. With so many folks who would enjoy a ride, volunteers who drive the trains could use some help. If you are interested in becoming one of the most popular persons in town, call the Foley Railroad Museum to get a list of the driver qualifications.

The event train runs on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. during the summer, and on Saturdays only during the school year. Also visit Foley’s model train exhibit, open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. all year long. The Caboose Club is also looking for additional volunteers. Contact the Foley Railroad Museum at 943-1818 for information. ■

Sports Tourism's Fall Game Plan

Foley Sports Tourism (FST) has had a successful 2018 so far. The team is looking to continue driving tourism in Foley with a packed calendar including gymnastics, soccer, archery, and more.

The Bama Bounders Beach Bash gymnastics meet will take over the Foley Event Center September 7–9, with 500 youth gymnasts expected to compete.

An anticipated 200 youth soccer will compete in Foley over two weekends when the Publix Super Cup returns for its third consecutive year. The girls will play September 8–9, while the boys will take their turn September 15–16.

Graham Creek Nature Preserve will host the USA Archery Collegiate/ 3D October 26–28 and is expected to showcase the best college archers from around the country.

The Sun Belt Conference Women's Soccer Championships return for the third straight year from October 31–November 4. All games will be broadcast nationally on ESPN3. At the same time the Alabama Soccer Association's (ASA) State Cup will bring an anticipated 100 youth soccer teams from around Alabama.

Collegiate soccer returns later in the month with the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Women's Soccer National Championship, November 12–18. The month wraps up with 96 intramural collegiate soccer teams from all over the U.S. descending on Foley Sports Tourism for the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) Soccer Championships November 28–December 2.

Anyone interested in volunteering at Foley Sports Tourism events should email foleysportstourism@gmail.com, or fill out the volunteer form at foleysportstourism.com. ■

Foley continues to grow

The Community Development Department has issued 173 new single family permits, 4 duplex and 382 multi-family units since Oct. 1, 2017. Several new businesses are under construction, including Culver's (restaurant), Hattie's (restaurant), Home2Suites by Hilton, Mike Ohayon, Foley Holdings LLC (OWA) and Professional Collision.

Foley's Planning Commission has also been busy. Since Oct. 1, 15 subdivisions are under construction, containing 921 lots in the city and 281 lots in the extra-territorial jurisdiction. Nine subdivisions have received final plat approval, with 212 lots in the city and 78 lots in the extra-territorial jurisdiction. A total of 598 apartment and duplex units have received site plan approval.

City leaders, planning commission and staff always strive to maintain and improve the quality of life in Foley. We continue to upgrade regulations and have some of the highest standards in the state. Our leadership has supported adoption of the State Low-Impact Development Manual as part of our Subdivision Regulations and Construction Manual. Foley's Environmental Department has written several ordinances, including Best Management Practices for construction, a tree protection ordinance, wetland and stream buffers, landscaping requirements, and other similar protective regulations. We require open space requirements in all new subdivisions and commercial developments. The Zoning Ordinance is amended annually to improve standards.

The Community Development Department monthly reports are posted on the city website: cityoffoley.org/community-development. Planning Commission and other agendas and minutes are posted at cityoffoley.org/city-boards/agenda-and-minutes. ■

Support Wolf Bay Watershed Plan

The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) has secured funding to assist with the development of a Wolf Bay Watershed Plan. Wolf Bay covers approximately 44,700 acres on the Gulf of Mexico in Baldwin County. It is a valuable state resource providing a diverse ecosystem for plant and animal life. The Volkert/AllenES Team is working with entities and stakeholders within this important watershed to better identify issues to be addressed in the planning process. This will help in developing best management practices for the implementation phase, and to ensure a comprehensive approach is adopted to support sustainable growth and conservation of our natural resources. We ask you to please take a moment to provide your thoughts and input: www.surveymonkey.com/r/WolfBay. ■

The Foley Fire Department reminds you that smoke alarms save lives

Please practice the following guidelines with your smoke alarms and remember to replace any smoke alarms that are more than 10 years old.

It is important to have not just one smoke alarm but smoke alarms in every location required by NFPA standards. These shall be located on each level of your home, outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom. Tens of millions of U.S. homes are estimated to have smoke alarms but not enough smoke alarms to meet the standards and effectively

protect their homes.

Interconnect your smoke alarms so that a fire detected by any smoke alarm will sound an alarm at every location where a smoke alarm is installed. Interconnection can be done using hard-wiring or wireless broadcast technology. Interconnected smoke alarms provide audible notification throughout the house, not just at the activated device.

Develop and practice an escape plan so that everyone in the home knows what to do if a smoke alarm

sounds. This includes planning a secondary means of evacuation from every room in your home. Every household that develops and practices an escape plan (with two ways out from every location) improves its time to escape in every type of fire encounter.

Contact the Foley Fire Department at 251-943-1266 for questions or assistance with your smoke alarms and turn your attention to fire prevention! ■



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City of Foley updates website

Foley has updated its website to provide residents easier access to city information. The site is now responsive, which means it automatically recognizes whether it is being accessed by phone, tablet or desktop, and adjusts to be most efficient for that device. The comprehensive redesign is easier for citizen interaction and for staff to administer. The updated look

includes larger photos and an event/calendar toggle on the first page. Check it out at www.CityofFoley.org and get a wealth of information about Foley. For visitor information such as restaurants, events, attractions and accommodations, access www.VisitFoley.org. Both sites are managed by Foley's marketing department. ■

Upcoming Events

Find more events on these websites:

Foley Public Library FoleyLibrary.org

Foley Senior Center CityofFoley.org

Foley Sports Tourism FoleySportsTourism.com

Graham Creek Preserve GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market

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

Arts at the Market

2nd Thursday each month 3–7 p.m.
Arts and crafts from 30 local artists.
Live music and food.
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. GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Aug. 2–4 Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation 21st Annual Professional Rodeo

5:30–10 p.m. Barrel racing, calf roping and bull riding. Foley Horse Arena, 113 E. Rosetta Ave. jennifermoorefoundation.com

Aug. 8 A Night with the Red Planet "Mars"

7:30–9 p.m. Presentation by David Kriegler. View Mars through a 10-inch telescope afterwards. Foley Public Library Upstairs Meeting Room, 319 E. Laurel Ave. FoleyLibrary.org

Aug. 9 Marty Haggard Tribute to My Dad Tour

7–9 p.m. Join Marty Haggard, the oldest son of Merle Haggard, as he shares some of the greatest country music ever recorded. Foley Civic Center, 407 E. Laurel Ave. martyhaggardtickets.com

Sept. 6 Cello Concert with Della Grigsby

6:30–7:30 p.m. Foley Public Library Upstairs Meeting Room, 319 E. Laurel Ave. FoleyLibrary.org

Oct. 6 Alabama Festival of Flavor

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

Oct. 13 Shootout Disc Golf Tournament

23030 Wolf Bay Dr. GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Oct. 19, 20, 26 & 27 Haunted Forest Trail Walk

7–10 p.m. \$15 admission. 23030 Wolf Bay Dr. GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Oct. 23 Shred-It Day

7–10 p.m. Foley Civic Center VisitFoley.com

Oct. 25 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. VisitFoley.com

Oct. 30 Walk the Wicked Woods

Limited tickets available at \$20 each on eventbrite.com. 18 or older. 20733 Mifflin Rd. GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Nov. 9–Dec. 21 51st 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. FoleyArtCenter.com