

Foley Newsletter

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John E. Koniar

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We are blessed to have a lot going on in our community.

Foley is applying to participate in the Main Street Alabama program. This national program has a proven history of success in helping communities across the nation revitalize their downtowns. We are working with the South Baldwin Chamber to initiate this project and hope to be approved by this summer. One benefit of the program is the hiring of a director who will focus each day on bringing new businesses to our downtown. This will bring in more people to visit Foley and also provide job opportunities for our citizens.

The program will complement many investments the city has already made in our downtown. This includes the streetscape project, which widened sidewalks, added street lamps with hanging baskets and seasonal banners, provided improved parking, and made downtown easier to navigate.

We received many compliments on how beautiful our downtown looked at Christmas this year. Thank you to Brenda Shambo for helping make this happen.

Foley Sports Tourism continues to grow. We recently hired Don Dukemineer as deputy director of sports tourism. He joins us after serving more than ten years as the Convention & Sales Manager for the Huntsville Madison County CVB. Welcome to the team.

March will bring back the BBQ & Blues Cook-off. March 17 to be exact. It includes great food and music, and the proceeds go to



**Mayor's
Notes**

helping the South Baldwin Chamber Foundation improve area children's educational experiences.

Each Saturday in April, an hour-long historic walking tour of downtown Foley is offered. The free tours begin at the welcome center and are led by area residents. Join a tour and learn more about Foley's rich history.

We have received a lot of questions about the renovation of the building located at the northwest corner of Hwys. 59 and 98. The new owners say the building will become a candy store, offering saltwater taffy, flavored popcorn and a light lunch.. Plans show a new façade now under construction. We are excited to see this vacant building come to life.

We hope to make an announcement soon regarding several new retail businesses coming to Foley.

SHOP FOLEY FIRST!

Best regards,

Mayor John Koniar

“Get on Board” with Main Street Alabama



Foley is applying to become a designated city in the Main Street Alabama program. We are asking residents to help by signing a citizens' letter of support.

The following is a description of the Main Street Program:

In Alabama, our downtowns are the heart of our communities. They are the core of our architectural and cultural heritage, the places where people gather to celebrate, the places where communities big and small are reinventing the way Alabama does business.

Main Street Alabama guides small towns, cities and commercial districts across the state into a network of volunteers, professionals and partners with these simple goals: to provide training, networking and educational opportunities to galvanize community leaders, merchants and citizens with tools necessary to help turn their downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts into powerful economic development engines. Downtowns in Alabama are once again becoming centers for life.

We encourage you to visit the Foley Welcome Center and sign a letter of support to be filed with Foley's application. This

signifies a community willingness to work with and support the local program. If you have questions regarding the Main Street Alabama program, please visit mainstreetalabama.org

“Get on Board” with the City of Foley's application for the Main Street Alabama Program! ■



Officer of the Year, Public Servant of the Year announced

Chief David Wilson of the Foley Police Department recently announced that Labron Williams, school resource officer, has been selected as Officer of the Year for 2017, and Nicole Phillips, chief correction officer, has been selected as Public Servant Employee of the Year for 2017.

Williams, who became a member of the Foley Police Department in 2007, serves students, teachers, the department and the city as one of four school resource officers serving in Foley schools. His daily interaction, through his presence, attitude and demeanor, contributes greatly to good relations between children and law enforcement.

Chief Correction Officer Nicole Phillips became a member of the Foley Police Department in 2012. Phillips has a reputation of running a tight ship, and also being compassionate and fair. Her leadership, commitment and professionalism contribute to a great corrections staff and a well-run 55-bed municipal corrections facility.

The city congratulates these employees on an exceptional year. ■



Labron Williams
Officer of the Year



Nicole Phillips
Public Servant of the Year

Sports Tourism Department announces staff changes

Foley Sports Tourism is continuing to gather steam and build a reputation as a world-class sports destination. In Foley, sports tourism now encompasses all sports events held around the city, including those at Graham Creek Nature Preserve and the Foley Sports Complex. As the events hosted here continue to grow, the department is adding new people to complement its current staff.

Long-time city employee David Thompson has been named the director of Recreation and Sports Tourism. Thompson is familiar with the Foley area thanks to his time as the head of recreation for the city, and also has a strong background in sports tourism and event operations. Thompson has spent the last eight years working with national baseball and softball tournaments hosted by the Foley Sports Complex.

Don Dukemineer is joining the team after more than ten years as the convention sales manager for the Huntsville/Madison County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Also the current chairman of Alabama Sports Initiative, Sports Alabama, he will utilize his strong understanding of the industry to captain the sales and marketing arms of Foley Sports Tourism.

The event operations side of the department will also be changing. Former Executive Assistant Angie Johnston will move back into her role as event operations manager. Hired to assist her is new Event Operations Coordinator Luke Persall, who comes to Foley from the University of Missouri. His six years in recreational sports have given him a strong understanding for managing events.

Other departmental changes include former Event Operations Manager Christy Raley moving into a new role as sports and sponsorship sales manager. Rhett Brown has been promoted to field superintendent, responsible for the care of the Foley Sports Tourism fields.

The new director and staff are all working toward fulfilling the department's mission of bringing economically impactful sporting events to Foley. To learn more about upcoming events, visit www.FoleySportsTourism.com. ■

Feb. 27–March 1 Coastal Alabama Pickleball Club Tournament Series

Foley Event Center

March 2–4 Snap Soccer Beach Shootout Girls Weekend

Foley Sports Tourism Fields

March 9–11 Snap Soccer Beach Shootout Boys Weekend

Foley Sports Tourism Fields

March 10–11 USSSA Baseball Tournament

Foley Sports Complex

March 24–25 Spring Fling Volleyball Tournament

Foley Event Center

March 26–27 GlenLakes Spring Invitational

GlenLakes Golf Club

April 5–8 Southern Coast Cup Soccer Tournament

Foley Sports Tourism Fields

April 7–8 Battle of the Bay Volleyball Tournament

Foley Event Center

April 14–15 Snap Soccer Gulf Coast Invitational

Foley Sports Tourism Fields

April 14–15 USSSA Baseball Tournament

Foley Sports Complex

Foley Fire Department Ends 2017 on a Positive Note

F.V.I.

Many may have noticed the small green wreath located on the miniature fire station located in Foley's Christmas Village in Heritage Park during the holidays. The wreath symbolizes a campaign called Keep the Wreath Green for December, which monitors residential fire losses. The wreath displayed only green lights, meaning that Foley had no fire department responses to fires resulting in residential property loss for the entire month.

While overall responses to emergency incidents remain steady due to continuing growth of our city, the Foley Fire Department completed 2017 with fewer responses to incidents of significant property loss from fire.

Much of this good news is a direct result of citizens practicing fire safety and FFD's aggressive education and inspection programs. Throughout 2017, Foley firefighters made more than 13,000 positive community public education/relations contacts. The department completed more than 3,800 fire and life safety inspections. These efforts in fire prevention are having a definite positive impact in reducing fire losses in Foley.

As the cold weather season ends and spring begins, the fire department reminds everyone to continue to practice fire safety in all aspects of daily life, from proper use of heating equipment to outdoor open burning and cooking.

Most importantly, remember that working smoke alarms save lives! For more fire safety information, contact the Foley Fire Department at 251-943-1266 and remember to #TurnYourAttentionToFirePrevention. ■



Engraved bricks to be installed in the walkway surrounding Centennial Plaza in Foley's Heritage Park are available for purchase year round. They can be ordered at the Foley Welcome Center. The city orders and installs bricks when a minimum number of orders have been placed. Engraved bricks make great gifts. ■



407 E. Laurel Ave.
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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 Sat. 9 a.m.–2 p.m. and Tues. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. in March, 2 p.m.–6 p.m. April–October.
20733 Mifflin 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

March 9–11 Foley Geocaching Weekend

Check out the events listed at www.geocaching.com for the weekend or call 251-943-1031.

March 18 BBQ & Blues Cook-off

10 a.m.–4 p.m. Heritage Park. Enjoy delicious BBQ concoctions. Live music, arts and crafts, and children's activities. Visit FoleyBBQandBlues.com for tickets. 251-943-3291

Mar. 23 Foley Spring Break Movie In The Park

6 p.m. Heritage Park
Bring a blanket or lawn chairs, relax and enjoy. www.VisitFoley.com



Mid-April Peak Bloom for the Wilbourne Antique Rose Trail

April is the best time of year to visit Foley's rose trail. Hundreds of roses bloom along a walking trail in the heart of town, located one block east of Highway 59. Parking available at Heritage Park.

April 7, 14, 21 and 28 Historic Downtown Walking Tours

10 a.m. Meet at the Foley Welcome Center. Walking tours feature historic points of interest in downtown Foley. Tours cover six blocks and last approximately one hour. 251-943-1200

April 14 Forward City Con

10 a.m.–6 p.m. Foley Public Library. Foley's second mini comic/anime/gaming convention. FoleyLibrary.com

April 24 Shred It Day

3–5 p.m. Behind City Hall. VisitFoley.com



April 20 Music and a Movie/Heritage Park Marketplace

Details at VisitFoley.com or call 251-943-1200.

April 27 Music and Movie/Heritage Park Marketplace

Details at VisitFoley.com or call 251-943-1200.

May 5–6 Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival

www.GulfCoastBalloonFestival.com

May 13–14 Art in the Park

www.FoleyArtCenter.org

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