



FOLEY Newsletter

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John E. Koniar

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Mayor Pro-Tem

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MAYOR'S NOTES

Going Places



Things continue to go well in the City of Foley. We are ending the year with a strong finish in sales tax collections. There will be some final adjustments, but as things stand right now, Foley will have numbers that are among the best we've ever had. This reflects approximately \$11,360,536 in sales tax revenues. Lodging tax revenues, totaling \$345,027, are the best since 2007.

There are many projects planned to improve the quality of life for Foley citizens, including a new fire station for the eastern part of our city in the Glen Lakes area, two new tennis courts in Mel Roberts Park, a skate park in Max Griffin Park, as well as additional bike paths and sidewalks. And, the list goes on.

The Barin Field Industrial Park has been declared an "Advantage Site" by the state of Alabama, as mentioned in the last newsletter. This mayor and council are continuing proactive efforts to recruit industry. The city has recently acquired the Peavey building in the industrial park located next to the Vulcan complex. This 94,000 square-foot facility has tremendous potential for one business or multiple businesses. We will be promoting this

property utilizing the Alabama Department of Commerce, the Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance and our own economic development manager, Jeff Rouzie.

The council and I are working with several developers on retail and manufacturing opportunities and hope to have good news to share with you in the coming weeks and months.

We are headed into the time of year where we have many festivals and events on our schedule. By the time you receive this, Foley will have celebrated both "Uptown Halloween" and the first Alabama Festival of Flavor in late October. After Thanksgiving, we will be gearing up for the Christmas season with Christmas in the Park and the Foley Christmas parade, followed by "Let It Snow" in Heritage Park. The Performing Arts Association will also host their annual "Trim-a-Tree" event in November and December.

May you and your families have a joyous holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Shop Foley first!!!

Best regards,

Mayor John Koniar

CENTENNIAL PLAZA

Foley Plans Centennial Celebration

Foley will celebrate its centennial on Jan. 8, 2015. Plans to observe this one-hundred year milestone include the building of a memorial plaza that will include a 52 ft. clock tower complete with 32 brass bells, all located in Heritage Park. The plaza will intersect with the Wilbourne Antique Rose Trail on the west side of the park, near the current water fountain. The plaza will provide two stage areas, graceful landscaping and seating. The rose trail will pass through the base of the tower.

The building of Centennial Plaza, as it will be called, is a public/private partnership. The city has purchased the bells and the tower. The balance of the money for the plaza is being raised through the Centennial Committee, which consists of representatives from throughout the community and is chaired by Carolyn Hollis and Gary Pitts.

A number of opportunities are available for individuals, businesses and organizations who would like to commemorate the centennial and create a lasting memorial. These include plaques that will be built into the columns of the structure, engraved bricks and pavers that will become a part of the walkways and stages, songs that can be played on the bells and keepsake Christmas ornaments depicting the Centennial

tower. The project provides an opportunity to create a lasting legacy with an engraved brick bearing your personal message featured in the walkways of Centennial Plaza.

An online order form is available for all brick pavers and replica bricks at www.brickorder.com/cityoffoley. For more information about opportunities and pricing, please visit www.CityoffFoley.org to see a brochure with descriptions and pricing. Keepsake ornaments and brick paver orders will be available for purchase at City Hall and most downtown merchants. Please call city hall at 943-1545 for additional information. ■



Foley industrial park named AdvantageSite by EDPA

In September, city officials announced that the Foley Beach Express Industrial Park has been named an AdvantageSite by the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama. The designation means that the site is “shovel ready,” according to Foley Mayor John Koniar.

AdvantageSite certification assures that a comprehensive site documentation process has already been completed, giving AdvantageSites a competitive edge for recruiting new industry.

“Having our Foley Beach Express Industrial Park certified is a great mar-

keting tool to increase its exposure to businesses outside the state,” according to Jeff Rouzie, city economic development director. “It will be a great asset in recruiting efforts.”

“We are committed to making Foley a great place to live, and this allows us to afford our citizens the potential for great paying jobs in our hometown,” said Koniar.

The AdvantageSite program is a voluntary industrial site preparedness program created in an effort to make the state more competitive for companies considering a location in Alabama.

AdvantageSites are included on EDPA’s buildings and sites database, a statewide listing of industrial buildings and sites used by site selection consultants, state economic developers and companies considering Alabama for expansions.

The 176-acre Foley Beach Express Industrial Park, located south of Hwy. 98 on the Foley Beach Express, is zoned for light industrial. The Foley site is the 38th site to be named in Alabama, and only the second AdvantageSite located in Baldwin County. ■



Recreational Development

Residents will soon have more recreational opportunities, thanks to two major construction projects planned by the Foley Recreation Department. The city is adding two new tennis courts to Mel Roberts Park. The construction is scheduled to be completed in early November. Additionally, the city will be upgrading the four existing courts with new fencing and gate repairs. Starting Nov. 12, the city will begin installing ramps for the new skate park, located at Max Griffin Park, adjacent to the swimming pool. The installation will take approximately one week and the new skate park is scheduled to open just in time for Thanksgiving. Thanks to all of the local skaters who helped with the design and construction of the new park. ■



▲ Gary Deisner was awarded the Extra Mile Award by Mayor John Koniar at the annual employee appreciation luncheon. This award recognizes employees who go above and beyond what is required to further the work of the city. The recipient is chosen by fellow employees. Deisner, who has worked for the city for 20-plus years, is assistant superintendent for the Parks Department, which maintains all city parks. ■



◀ The city recently held its first wellness fair for city employees to increase awareness of available health benefits and help keep healthcare costs down. The theme for the event was "Pirates Paradise – Treasure your Benefits". ■

HOLIDAY TRAVEL, SAFETY AND HOUSE CHECKS

"Crime usually increases over the holidays, in most places, from November through the Christmas holidays," according to Chief David Wilson with the Foley Police Department.

If you are traveling over the holidays, please do your best to make your home look "lived in" while you are away. You can have a trusted friend check on your house each day and alternate leaving different interior lights on. Have a friend or family member pick up the newspaper. If you have several newspapers piled up in your driveway, you are advertising that you are not home and haven't been home for a few days. Burglars often look for these type indicators.

The Foley Police Department also offers "House Check," a service to citizens who live within the city limits, whereby a police officer will check on your home while you are away. Foley residents can register for this service by filling out a form at the police department.

As the holidays approach, Chief Wilson and the entire police department would like to wish everyone a great Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas. ■



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We have moved.

The Foley Welcome Center, formerly the Convention and Visitors Bureau, has moved into new-for-us offices on the northeast corner of Hwy. 59 and U.S. 98. This is the building that formerly housed the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce, and also the Foley Public Library. Please stop in to say hello, and take time to pick up discount coupons and information on attractions, restaurants, events and accommodations. Visit us online at www.VisitFoley.org.



Upcoming Events

Nov. 10 – Dec. 22 - Trim-a-Tree

The Performing Arts Center presents a dazzling display of unique Christmas ornaments, decorations and gifts, all created by local artists and members. For more information call 251-943-4381.
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mon. – Sat.

Nov. 10 - Foley Rotary Oyster Run

5K/Walk & 1 Mile Fun Run start in Orange Blossom Square in downtown Foley. Register at www.foleyrotary.org. Call 251-943-4948 for more information. 8 a.m. 5K Run, 9 a.m. One-Mile Fun Run.

Nov. 30 – Dec 2 - Coastal Chorale Christmas Show

Enjoy the annual choral presentation of Christmas favorites, presented by talented vocalists from across Baldwin County. Three performances are held at the Foley United Methodist Church Spirit Center. Tickets are available online at www.payitsquare.com/collect-page/8005.

Dec. 7 - Christmas in the Park

The community comes together to enjoy music, refreshments and the official lighting of holiday lights at 6 p.m. in Foley's Heritage Park. Children can visit with Santa. Free admission. For more information contact Linda Hula at 251-943-1300. www.visitfoley.org

Dec. 8 - Foley Christmas Parade

The parade begins behind City Hall at 10 a.m., winds through downtown Foley via Hwy. 59, and ends at Max Griffin Park. Enjoyed by young and old, the parade includes music, floats, tractors and even a glimpse of Old St. Nick. Call 970-4146 for more information. www.visitfoley.org

Dec 8 - Let it Snow

We are predicting snow in Heritage Park at 11 a.m. following the Foley Christmas Parade. Food, music, activities and SNOW! Something fun for all ages. Free admission. For more information contact Linda Hula at 251-943-1300. www.visitfoley.org