

Foley Newsletter

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John E. Koniar

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MAYOR'S NOTES



It's a new year and we continue to see things moving forward in the "Forward City." The new skate park and tennis courts are now open and they are already seeing lots of activity.

We are continuing with downtown improvements. These improvements will benefit our existing businesses and allow us to recruit additional businesses for downtown.

We were pleased to see our recent bond issue receive an AA rating. Foley is one of only 14 cities, out of 400-plus cities in Alabama, to receive an AA bond rating. This reflects positively on how your city is being run. The council, city staff and employees should all be commended for their efforts that resulted in our receiving this outstanding rating.

Recently the council approved embarking on an aggressive "green initiative" for our city. Schneider Electric has been retained to do an extensive energy audit of all city facilities. There is more detail on this project on page 3.

We have recently acquired additional property for the Foley Sports Complex on Hwy. 98. The first parcel is approximately five

acres located on the west side of Schumacher Lane, close to Hwy. 98, where we hope to add additional soccer fields in the future. The second parcel is approximately 40 acres on the northwest corner of Schumacher Lane along Cater Lee Way. This parcel will give us additional parking capabilities for the balloon festival.

Revenues continue to be strong. Within the first three months we are seeing sales tax receipts up over 7% when compared to the same period last year. Keep in mind that last year was one of our best years, so this is very encouraging.

Please keep the family of Daphne's Mayor Bailey Yelding in your thoughts and prayers. Mayor Yelding passed away on January 22nd.

Spring is not too far away. It is one of my favorite times of year. Make plans to get out and enjoy our wonderful community.

Don't forget to "shop Foley first"!

Best regards,

Mayor John Koniar

Foley Boasts Fresh New Image

Foley will soon be sporting a fresh new image that includes new symbols and updated colors to represent the city. Gateway signs with the new image are scheduled to be posted near the city's northern and southern boundaries in the near future.

The new design includes a rising sun over an elongated green base, representing Foley's agricultural history, followed with a blue section representing Foley's nearness to the Gulf of Mexico, paying tribute to its history as a city heavily influenced by its proximity to the coast.

"The two things that stand out to me are the modern and crisp look that this design projects for the city, and the fact that the concept allows for flexibility of presentation. The goal was to standardize our design in terms of font and color, and also allow for flexibility based on specific need, and I think this does both of those really well," said Mike Thompson, city administrator.



The city of Foley is noted as a tree city, for example, which is recognized in the standard design concept used for the gateway signs. The design can be modified to incorporate a depiction related to the sign location, such as at the airport, where a plane is placed in the design rather than the tree. The color scheme, font and overall design concept stays the same, while allowing flexibility of use.

The new design will be incorporated into the city's overall branding efforts, including signage, stationery and website. The artwork was designed by Fletcher McKinney, graphic artist, who works in the city marketing department. ■

Coastal Alabama Farmers/Fishermen's Market coming to Foley

Plans are underway for a new market in Foley where local farmers and fishermen can sell their products directly to the public, thanks to a \$317,500 grant funded by BP. Plans for the market are being developed for a site adjacent to Wolf Bay Lodge on Co. Rd. 20 and will be presented to council for approval. Slated to open in the fall of 2013, the market will be a permanent, one-stop shop, open year-round with hours based on the seasonal harvest cycle, providing fresh, locally-grown fruits, vegetables and seafood and related products such as eggs, herbs, honey, jams and preserves and flowering plants.

"We believe this market will be a win/win in terms of providing a central place for local farmers and fishermen to sell their products and also provide a convenient place for

both locals and visitors to pick up fresh, local produce," says Jeff Rouzie, Foley economic director. The market will also include a demonstration kitchen that will provide educational offerings on food preparation and healthy eating choices that showcase locally grown products. Planners are also exploring options to include additional booths to sell plants, and outdoor living products such as cookers, grills and furniture, according to Rouzie.

The Chicago Street Farmer's Market, held annually in Foley's Heritage Park, will continue. This market, held on Fridays in May and June, has provided a central downtown location for local farmers to sell fruits and vegetables and related products since 2009. ■

Foley's new skate park is located at Max Griffin Park next to the city pool, built on the site of two old tennis courts that were closed. The park has been very busy since it opened and all of the skaters have been very appreciative of having a new area designed specifically for them to enjoy. ■





Foley Police Department Cpl. B. Erwin (left) is pictured with Brittany Conner-Burgess (center) and Jeffrey Berg (right). Conner-Burgess and Berg are the first interns to participate in a new partnership between the Foley Police Department and Faulkner State Community College's criminal justice program for students leaning toward a criminal justice career.

Foley Police Department Interns

The City of Foley Police Department is proud to announce a new partnership with Faulkner State Community College, which offers two internship positions in the criminal justice program for Faulkner State students who have expressed an interest in a law enforcement career. Jeffrey Berg and Brittany Conner-Burgess are the first students to take advantage of this unique opportunity to witness firsthand how a municipal police department operates.

Chief David Wilson and Tammy Hollenkamp, director of the Criminal Justice Program at Faulkner State, collaborated to design the program, which involves scheduling the interns into every section of the police department, including records, dispatch, code enforcement, criminal investigation and the city jail.

Potential interns underwent an interview process at Faulkner State. "They were asked all of the questions a police officer would be asked for a law enforcement job," Hollenkamp said. Berg and Conner-Burgess also had to pass a background check and drug test. The interns must maintain a 3.0 GPA in all of their classes during the entire term to remain eligible for the program.

Hollenkamp is very enthusiastic about this new venture. "It's a great incentive for our criminal justice students and will be a great reference for these students as they begin the job process," Hollenkamp said. The program is based at Faulkner's Fairhope campus.

"The internships will be a gradual progression into police work," according to Chief Wilson. The interns will start out learning many of the behind-the-scenes administrative duties that are critical to a well-functioning municipal police department, including working in the radio room to learn how emergencies are handled. The interns will progress to shadowing police officers as they work actual cases.

"This is a great opportunity to make a difference in the lives of these students," Chief Wilson said. ■

Foley partners with Schneider Electric to improve energy consumption and save money

Foley city officials have entered into a partnership with Schneider Electric to implement a citywide energy and communications infrastructure improvement project. The project is expected to generate over \$4.2 million in guaranteed savings over 20 years - enough to fund 100% of the projected costs and put money back into the city's budget. The project is designed to reduce utility costs for city buildings by over 33% and increase the overall energy and water efficiency of city buildings and parks.

The citywide upgrades are self-funded through a Qualified Energy Conservation Bond and an Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Local Government Energy Loan. The environmental impact of the project is equivalent to removing 8,317 tons of carbon dioxide from the air or removing 1,663 cars from the roads for a year or planting 2,262 acres of trees.

Individual projects within the scope of work include:

- A citywide energy management system
- Major HVAC replacements
- New fiber communication network
- New VoIP telecommunication system
- New interior and exterior LED building lighting
- New park and Rose Trail LED lighting
- New airport security lighting
- New lighting sensors and daylight harvesting
- New solar panel system and kiosks
- Rainwater harvesting
- Citywide water irrigation control
- Foley Sports Complex irrigation well
- Water fixture commissioning
- On-site pool chemical generation

Projects are expected to be completed by the end of 2013. Kiosks that display statistics about how the system is working will be located in the library and in the Downtown Welcome Center. ■



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Upcoming Events

February 23 – 32nd Annual Arbor Day Celebration and Kickoff Event for the Foley Energy Savings Initiative - Join us at the Foley Civic Center on Sat., Feb. 23 at 10 a.m. for the 32nd Annual Arbor Day Celebration, hosted by the Revitalization and Beautification Advisory Board and the City of Foley, and the kick-off for the Foley Energy Savings Initiative, an energy and communication improvement project that will provide the same impact as planting 2,262 acres of trees. It will be a “green” day in Foley as free seedlings will be distributed with the help of Boy Scout Troop 77, Baldwin County Master Gardeners will be available to answer questions, the Home Depot will provide a children’s gardening workshop and a brief presentation will provide details on Foley’s infrastructure project that will reduce costs and increase energy and water efficiency in city buildings and parks.



April 1 – 14 – Wilbourne Antique Rose Trail – Peak bloom for the walking trail that winds through the heart of downtown Foley is estimated to occur during the first two weeks of April. Make a point to visit this unique trail showcasing hundreds of disease-resistant heritage roses, displayed in a colorful array of sizes and colors. The trail begins at Violet Ave., just north of the pavilion in Heritage Park.



April 13 – Foley’s 3rd Annual Earth Day Extravaganza at Graham Creek Nature Preserve – The event will kick off with a “Jog the Bog” 5k run at 9 a.m. Festivities will begin at 10 a.m. Home Depot will provide supplies for participants to build their own birdhouses. This year’s demos include local-Girl Scouts teaching the importance of bats to our ecosystem, area Boy Scouts showing how to leave no trace at a campsite and Wolf Bay Watershed Watch members demonstrating water quality monitoring. Eco tours will be ongoing during the course of the event. For more information, contact Leslie Gahagan at 251-971-1471 or lgahagan@cityoffoley.org

