

Foley Newsletter

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Welcome to 2019! This year we will continue to see a lot of activity in our community. The Burton development that is under construction south of Academy is making progress and should host several ribbon cuttings this spring and summer. I know many are excited about Publix and the numerous other new shopping venues we will see open this year.

The new Culver's Restaurant on Hwy. 59 has been a big success and offers a unique menu. Near that location, the city is working to extend Juniper Street south of County Road 20 and then west to connect with Hwy. 59.

OWA is also showcasing a new restaurant. Trattoria Pizza & Italian, which opened recently, is very good. Several new venues are planned to come online at OWA this year. Stay tuned for exciting new announcements.

Foley Main Street recently hired Sherry Sullivan as its first director. She is an Alabama native who is well qualified to lead this organization.

The city has an agreement with another perspective buyer for the Cactus Café. We are hopeful that this landmark building can soon be returned to a contributing property in our historic downtown.

Along with Main Street, there is another program that will contribute to economic development in our area. Foley has been designated as an Opportunity Zone. The Governor's Office, with the input of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, identified and selected 158 Opportunity Zones in the state, with each of Alabama's 67 counties having at least one designated zone. Using an objective methodology that involved input from a variety of resources to determine areas where the program could be most effective, the selected zones were chosen from 629



Mayor's Notes

qualifying census tracts. The selected tracts average between 1,200 and 8,000 in population and vary in size from 199 acres to 235,352 acres. It is my understanding that people can take capital gains and protect them by re-investing the gains in the designated Opportunity Zones. Several groups are looking at Foley as a result of incentives available in these zones.

The Fern Avenue extension connecting Hwy. 59 to the Foley Beach Express is making good progress. Hopefully, it will be completed by late spring or early summer. This will provide another east/west connector for residents and visitors.

The new elementary school has experienced rain delays during construction, but we are hopeful it will make the fall 2019 opening. The 9th Avenue extension located near the new school is well under way, also.

The Public Works Department has experienced delays in debris removal due to equipment issues. We are making arrangements to lease equipment to take care of the backlog while awaiting the delivery of a new truck and the repair of another. We apologize for the inconvenience.

We recently saw great teamwork between city Police, Fire and Public Works Departments. They worked together to remove a young woman from a culvert. She climbed in trying to retrieve two puppies. She became unconscious, but through the above-mentioned teamwork, there was a happy ending.

My best to you and yours in 2019.
Regards—and shop Foley first!

Mayor John Koniar

Foley hires Main Street director

In 2018, the City of Foley was selected to become a designated Main Street Community. Main Street, a national organization, focuses on bringing jobs, dollars and people back to commercial districts across the state. Economic development is at the heart of the organization's efforts to revitalize downtowns and neighborhoods. Foley joins 22 other communities across Alabama as Main Street-designated cities.



Foley's Main Street board members, volunteers and chamber and city officials have been working hand in hand to guide future growth and development in the downtown district and build on the wonderful business community that already exists.

This month, Sherry Sullivan took the position as Foley's first Main Street executive director. In her role, she will work with the community to implement Main Street's four-step approach for downtown

promotion, economic vitality, community connectivity and organization, and create an overall plan for downtown.

"I am excited to begin my new role as Foley's Main Street director," Sullivan said. "Foley is a great place and I can't wait to begin meeting with all the stakeholders and learning the community. I look forward to highlighting the historic downtown and creating a place where people are excited to visit and shop."

Sullivan, a native of Baldwin County, attended Troy State University and spent most of her career working for municipal government. Her experience in project management, working with community organizations and marketing brings an excellent perspective to this new position.

"We are thrilled to have someone of Sherry's caliber at the helm of this dynamic initiative. She has developed extensive relationships throughout our community. With over 30 years of industry expertise,

her outstanding public relations skills and economic development expertise make her the ideal person for this position," said Main Street Board Member Lindsay Schumacher.

The Main Street office is located in the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce offices at 112 West Laurel Street in downtown Foley. You may reach the office by calling 251.401.4801 or by email at foleymainstreet@gmail.com.

Main Street Alabama is affiliated with the National Main Street Center and utilizes the proven Main Street Four Point Approach to help communities organize themselves for success, improve the design of their neighborhoods, promote their districts, and enhance their economic base. Since 2014, Main Street Alabama-designated communities have tracked their success and reported more than \$283 million in private investments, almost \$79 million in public investment, a net gain of 488 new businesses, a net gain of 1,958 new jobs and more than 61,000 volunteer hours. To learn more about Main Street Alabama, visit www.mainstreetalabama.org. ■

Residential and commercial growth continues

Foley's Community Development Department (CDD), from Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2018, issued 56 new single-family residential permits along with 60 new multi-family units at The Reserve on CR 12, for a total of 116 new residential units. Two commercial permits with a value of \$1.4 million were issued. Twenty commercial remodel permits with a value of \$2.16 million were issued.

In summary, for the first quarter, CDD issued a total of 563 permits with a valuation of \$21.5 million. Building inspectors performed 2,561 inspections on this construction.

Planning Commission actions for this period were as follows: Three rezoning applications were recommended for approval. Preliminary subdivision (infrastructure construction required) approval was granted for two subdivisions with a total of 42 lots. Minor subdivision (5 lots or less) approval was granted for four subdivisions with a total of 17 lots. In the Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction, preliminary subdivision approval was granted for three subdivisions with a total of 32 lots and one minor subdivision with two lots. A site plan for Buffalo Wild Wings was reviewed and approved.

The Planning Commission's scope of authority includes control of subdivisions within the corporate limits as well as in the Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). The purpose of the ETJ is to work with the county to ensure proper installation of infrastructure, drainage and similar issues since there is a likelihood of these properties one day coming into the city. The commission is a recommending body for rezoning/initial zoning applications. Once a recommendation is made, items are forwarded to the city council for final action.

City leaders, planning commission members, the Community Development Department and other city staff always strive to maintain and improve quality of life in Foley. Regulations continue to be upgraded. The city has some of the highest standards in the state.

Find Community Development Department monthly reports posted on the city website at cityoffoley.org/community-development. Planning Commission and other agendas and minutes are posted at cityoffoley.org/city-boards/agendas-and-minutes/. We welcome comments and questions (952-4011). ■

Thank you Foley Police Department!

Foley was recently named 8th safest city in Alabama by the National Council for Home Safety and Security. Get the full story at <https://www.alarms.org/safest-cities-in-alabama/>





Foley receives \$1.5 million grant to improve water quality in Bon Secour River

Phase I of a project designed to improve habitat quality on the Bon Secour River has been funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The grant to fund the project was written by Leslie Gahagan, Foley's environmental manager. The funding is a part of the settlement from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund that is designated for ecological projects.

This project includes purchasing 94 acres of undeveloped property along the western side of the Bon Secour River headwaters at the southern end of Barner Road in Foley and design plans for creating wetlands to treat urban runoff impacting downstream fisheries. The constructed wetlands will address nutrient, sediment and debris flow to improve habitat quality in the lower Bon Secour River and Bon Secour Bay, which historically has included south Alabama's most significant and productive shellfish habitats and nursery areas for juvenile finfish. The Bon Secour River is currently included on a list of impaired area waterways by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

This section of the Bon Secour River encompasses major headwaters and the main channel of the Bon Secour River immediately downstream from the City of Foley. Rapid development of the city over the past two decades has contributed to nutrient and sediment loading to the Bon Secour River and Bay.

Under the proposal, the property purchased by the city will be used to construct stormwater wetlands. The Bon Secour River Watershed Management Plan, completed in January 2017, identifies five critical issues within the Bon Secour River watershed. These issues include stormwater management, litter control, water quality, erosion and sedimentation, and invasive species. This project's objective includes steps designed to address all five issues identified in the plan funded by the grant.

The project is broken into two phases. Phase I includes the acquisition of property, engineering and design specifications, and permitting. Phase II includes construction of specified components.

The project is one of eight restoration and conservation projects announced by Governor Kay Ivey in November. The total of the eight projects is \$48.7 million. Phase I of the Foley project is expected to receive \$1.5 million. ■

Fire Prevention Message

The Foley Fire Department was surveyed by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) in 2018 to establish our current Public Protection Classification (PPC). Many property insurers use this PPC rating as a factor to determine insurance premiums. The overall PPC ratings range from Class 1 to 10, with 1 being the best achievable rating. We are pleased to report that our new PPC is a Class 3 / 3Y, effective January 1, 2019. We continue to strive to improve response capabilities and provide the best fire and rescue services possible for citizens and businesses.

While we continue to see increased emergency call activity with the growth of the city, our Keep the Wreath Green campaign for the month of December was a great success. We finished the month without a residential fire loss in our jurisdiction. We are thankful for everyone practicing fire safety, especially during this time. With cold weather still upon us, we encourage everyone to continue the good work and properly use their heating equipment. As spring approaches, we remind everyone to practice fire safety with outdoor burning; be sure to contact our office (943-1266) before burning debris in the city limits. Remember to turn your attention to fire prevention. ■

Seeing Pink

Garbage day is a great day to raise awareness about breast cancer. Foley's Public Works Department has ordered a limited number of pink garbage cans to remind residents that with continued strides in medicine and awareness, breast cancer may one day be kicked to the curb. Please call the department at 943-8897 to receive one of the pink 96-gallon cans. Supplies are limited. ■



Check us out online:

CITY OF FOLEY

www.CityofFoley.org www.VisitFoley.com

www.CoastalAlabamaMarket.com

www.FoleyLibrary.org www.FoleyRecreation.com

www.GrahamCreekPreserve.org



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Foley Sports Tourism prepares for a busy February

Foley is preparing for a boost in travel and tourism during the month of February from visitors from around the country. During Feb. 14–17, expect a large crowd at the FST Complex. With 95 teams competing on Foley's state-of-the-art soccer facilities for the 17th Annual Southern Shootout high school soccer

tournament, plus more than 100 teams participating in the 26th Annual Gulf Coast Classic volleyball tournament at the event center, the city encourages residents to consider alternate routes to avoid congestion in that area.

Graham Creek Nature Preserve will experience their largest event of the year

when the Archery Shooters Association (ASA) Hoyt Archery Pro/Am takes aim February 20–24. For the fourth consecutive year, Foley will play host to this prestigious competition that will draw approximately 2,000 archers. With the continued growth of the event, residents should anticipate a heavier presence of visitors in the area. ■

Upcoming Events

Foley Events Updated Daily VisitFoley.com

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. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
20733 Miflin Rd.

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.
GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Feb. 20–24 ASA Hoyt Archery Pro/Am

Graham Creek Nature Preserve
This tournament draws top shooters from across North America and beyond. Parking and admission are free.
FoleySportsTourism.com

Feb. 23 City of Foley 38th Annual Arbor Day

1 p.m. Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market

20733 Miflin Rd.
VisitFoley.com

Feb. 23–24 Foley Geocaching Weekend

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

March 2 Foley Mardi Gras Parade

11 a.m. Downtown Foley
VisitFoley.com

March 3 Mardi Gras at OWA

4–8 p.m. OWA
Parades, parties, music and more.
VisitOWA.com

March 14 Arts at the Market

3–7 p.m. Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market.
Arts, crafts, live music and food.
CoastalAlabamaMarket.com

March 16 BBQ & Blues Cook-off

10 a.m.–5 p.m. Heritage Park. Enjoy delicious BBQ concoctions. Live music, arts and crafts, and children's activities.
SouthBaldwinChamber.com for tickets.
251-943-3291

April 6, 13, 20 and 27 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 12 Foley Spring Break Movie In The Park

6 p.m. Heritage Park
Bring a blanket or lawn chairs, relax and enjoy. 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 13 3rd Annual Forward City Con

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

April 23 Shred It Day

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

May 3–4 Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival

GulfCoastBalloonFestival.com

May 11–12 Art in the Park

FoleyArtCenter.org