

# Foley Newsletter

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John E. Koniar

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Retail activity continues to grow in Foley, with a number of new businesses opening recently. ULTA Cosmetics, Home Goods, Marshall’s and Five Below are adding to the shopping opportunities in Foley. We anticipate that Publix will open sometime this summer and Buffalo Wild Wings should break ground in May or June.

Foley Main Street hosted their first event with a musical performance in March. About 100 people attended this very enjoyable performance. We look forward to more events coming to downtown.

Another entertainment venue will be opening soon on County Road 20 across from Wolf Bay Lodge. Your family will have the opportunity to sharpen their golfing skills at a new miniature golf course.

OWA has a number of exciting announcements. Legends in Concert, touted as the longest-running show in Las Vegas, is building a 430-seat theatre at OWA. They hope to be open by Memorial Day.

OWA also announced they will begin Phase II, a \$100 million investment that will include the Gulf Coast’s largest indoor waterpark, an accompanying 200-room resort hotel with conference space, and a luxury, family-friendly RV Park.

Phase II construction will begin this summer. Tentative completion dates currently target the end of 2019 for the RV park opening, with an early 2021 opening for the hotel and indoor water park.

With the addition of Phase II, the Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (CIEDA), the economic development arm of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, will top \$350 million in investments in Foley to develop OWA into a year-round Alabama resort destination.

These new projects will add greatly to the



**Mayor’s  
Notes**

employment in our area and help strengthen our economy.

The Foley Sports Tourism team is kicking into high gear. In February, almost 2,000 archers competed in the ASA Archery Pro/Am Tournament at Graham Creek Nature Preserve. April is a full month, beginning with youth soccer, followed by senior golf at GlenLakes, and ending with the USA Ultimate Southeast College Regionals, with men and women competing in ultimate Frisbee. These events will keep our hotels, restaurants and retail stores busy.

A workshop was recently held to identify possible uses for the Hamburg building, which was donated by the Hamburg family to the city. This is the last remaining potato shed in Foley. Many Foley families have fond memories of visiting Hamburg’s for feed, seed and baby chicks. We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Alabama Historical Commission to help plan for restoration of this building.

The Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival, an area favorite, is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 3 and 4. On Thursday, May 2, The Tanger Outlet Center will host the balloon glow event.

Mothers’ Day weekend, May 11 and 12, marks the 47th Art in the Park. This family-friendly event will feature approximately 110 exhibitors displaying original art work. There will also be entertainment, children’s activities and a variety of food vendors. Bring Mom and make her day special!

Regards—and shop Foley first!



Mayor John Koniar

# Project Shield

As part of ongoing efforts to provide the best police services to citizens, FPD's Criminal Intelligence Unit is proud to announce a new crime-fighting partnership known as Project Shield.

Project Shield is a partnership between local businesses, private citizens and the police, aimed at reducing crime by building a database of existing surveillance cameras throughout the city. The database is a tool to help solve crime quickly and to potentially prevent crime. Crimes can be solved more quickly when they occur on camera. This database will allow officers to know what residences or businesses possess cameras in the vicinity of a crime.

Project Shield and similar projects are already in place in other locations and have proven to be very successful. This partnership will help build a safer community.

We are looking for participants who will partner with the Foley Police Department to make this project successful. Any business or private citizen who has an existing surveillance camera system is eligible and encouraged to participate.

Please contact us at (251) 952-4010 or records@foleypolice.org. As a benefit for joining, participants will receive one-on-one training in identifying and reporting suspicious activity. Participants will also receive a decal to place in a window, showing participation in the project. The decals could prove to be a deterrent to a would-be criminal.

Project Shield is 100% voluntary, and the larger the network the better the coverage.

Be a part of the city's safety net with Project Shield. ■



## Foley Sports Tourism upgrades website

The sports tourism team is working on a website redesign to make it easier for visiting sports teams to find your business. If you are a Foley restaurant, attraction, or retail establishment, send us your info! We are looking for high-resolution photos, logos, a short description of your business, address, phone number, and website. Please send submissions to foleysportstourism@gmail.com with the subject "website listing." Thanks so much for your help! ■

## Foley's Community Development Corner

Highlights from the Foley's Community Development Department March Report. The report is available in its entirety at [www.cityoffoley.org/cityboards/agendasandminutes](http://www.cityoffoley.org/cityboards/agendasandminutes).

From Oct. 1 – March 31, the Community Development Department (CDD) issued 112 new single-family residential permits; 4 duplexes (8 units); and 60 new multi-family units at The Reserve on CR 12, for a total of 180 new residential units.

New commercial permits include Storage Choice Bldgs B & C, Cube Smart and a ride at OWA. The valuation for this work is \$9,327,780. The CDD issued 43 commercial addition and remodel permits with a valuation of \$7,355,785. The total number of permits for this period is 1,101, with a valuation of \$48,907,153. Building inspectors performed 5,507 inspections.

Planning Commission actions for this period were as follows: Preliminary subdivision approval was granted for 7 subdivisions (482 lots). Minor subdivision (5 lots or less) approval was granted for 5 subdivisions (20 lots). In the Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction, preliminary subdivision approval was granted for 3 subdivisions (32 lots), and 1 Minor subdivision (2 lots). A site plan for Buffalo Wild Wings was reviewed and approved.

The new FEMA Flood Maps take effect in April 2019. Foley joined the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) in 2017 to provide citizen discounts for flood insurance. Chuck Lay, Chief Building Inspector, serves as Floodplain Administrator and will be glad to assist with any questions. Foley ranks number four in the nation with homes that meet FORTIFIED standards, with 1,062 homes meeting the criteria as of March 2019, according to Smart Home America. ■

## Foley Library Summer Reading Program

Alabama has a universe of stories! Participating in the Summer Reading Program promotes literacy, reinforces reading skills, and provides free activities available to all. Come join the fun on Thursdays in June at the Foley Civic Center at 10:00 a.m. Children will be delighted with science, puppetry, magic and so much more. ■



## Foley Main Street to present the results of consumer & business surveys

Surveys are in!

In February and March, Foley Main Street distributed business and consumer surveys to residents, visitors and business owners. Collectively more than 1,100 surveys were processed. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Information from the surveys is being compiled to gather important information to direct the growth of downtown Foley. The results will provide indicators on many different topics, including housing, safety and social media. Survey results will help Foley Main Street and the city prioritize projects to address issues that are important to residents and business owners in downtown Foley.

A report detailing the survey results will be presented to the public on Friday, June 7. The presentation, given by Jay Schlinsog with Downtown Professionals Network, will be hosted by Foley Main Street and Main Street Alabama. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 8 a.m. The general public is invited to attend. Coffee and donuts will be served. For questions, email [foleymainstreet@gmail.com](mailto:foleymainstreet@gmail.com) or call 251.401.4801. ■

## Improvements coming to intersection of Foley Beach Express and County Road 12

Foley is working to make the intersection of the Foley Beach Express and County Road 12 safer with enhancements funded by a Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program grant and funding from the city. The list of desired improvements, which includes offset left-turn lanes on the Foley Beach Express, widening County Road 12 to include dedicated right-turn lanes, left-turn lanes, eastbound and westbound lanes, and improved lighting, could take up to two years.

Foley has entered an agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation to construct offset left-turn lanes on the Foley Beach Express at County Road 12. This project will reduce the amount of distance required to make a left hand turn, making the intersection safer. This part of the project will be funded with a federal grant administered by the Alabama Department of Transportation. The grant will cover 90 percent of the \$326,460 project, with the city picking up the balance.

The city has earmarked \$300k in the FY19 budget for intersection improvements, and anticipates another \$300k being approved in the FY20 budget. ■

**Check us out online:**

**CITY OF FOLEY**

[www.CityofFoley.org](http://www.CityofFoley.org)    [www.VisitFoley.com](http://www.VisitFoley.com)  
[www.CoastalAlabamaMarket.com](http://www.CoastalAlabamaMarket.com)  
[www.FoleyLibrary.org](http://www.FoleyLibrary.org)    [www.FoleyRecreation.com](http://www.FoleyRecreation.com)  
[www.GrahamCreekPreserve.org](http://www.GrahamCreekPreserve.org)

# Fire Prevention Message

F.V.I.

The Foley Fire Department reminds you to practice fire safety every day. Check your smoke alarms periodically and replace them every 10 years to insure that they are properly protecting you and your family. Remember that carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly in your home. Consider installing carbon monoxide alarms if your home has an attached garage and/or has fuel-fired appliances.

Our area is prone to severe weather, especially during spring and summer months. Be sure to stay weather aware by downloading a good weather app on your mobile device or using a weather alert radio in your home. After a thunderstorm safely passes, check your home for lightning damage. We have had several homes damaged by lightning in Foley over the past year. Finally, May 1 is the effective date of the annual ADEM Burn Ban in Baldwin County. Open burning of debris is prohibited until Nov. 1, with only a few exceptions (recreational/ceremonial/cooking fires, agricultural/silvicultural burns).

Please contact our office at 943-1266 for more information on all of these items, and turn your attention to fire prevention! ■

### The 2019 Baldwin County Preparedness Expo

Helping residents better prepare for disasters by

- Providing educational resources
- Consulting with community agencies
- Meeting local vendors
- Teaching about planning for all types of hazards

May 15, 2019

9 am – 5 pm

Orange Beach Event Center

4671 Wharf Pkwy W, Orange Beach, AL 36561

Presented by the BALDWIN COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Keep up with local events and news from Foley right in your inbox. Every other month, we will send you the local news you can use in our E-Newsletter. All you have to do is go to [www.visitfoley.com](http://www.visitfoley.com) and sign up. It's that simple!





407 E. Laurel Ave.  
P.O. Box 1750  
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## 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 Mifflin 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., Foley.  
www.grahamcreekpreserve.org

### **April 27 Forever Foley**

9 a.m.–2 p.m. Foley Civic Center  
A celebration of Foley, our history, and the families who have made Foley great!

### **May 4–5 Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival**

Featuring balloonists from across the country. Activities include balloon glows and flights, festival food, live entertainment and carnival fun!

Foley Sportsplex, 18507 U.S. Hwy. 98 W.  
www.gulfcoastballoonfestival.com

### **May 4 Master Gardeners Garden Walk**

10 a.m.–4 p.m. Tour six home gardens, the Magnolia Springs Arboretum, and Foley's Wilbourne Antique Rose Trail. For ticket info call 251-978-9442 or visit  
www.baldwinmastergardeners.com.



### **May 11–12 Art in the Park**

Over 100 artists showcase their talents while providing unique cultural experiences and shopping opportunities for hand-crafted shopping items. John B. Foley Park

### **May 15 Baldwin County Preparedness Expo**

9 a.m.–5 p.m. Orange Beach Event Center  
Check out resources available in case of hurricane, flood, fire or wind events. Free to the public.

### **May 18, 24, 31, June 7 & 14**

#### **Heritage Park Marketplace**

Fridays 4:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Offers a variety of arts and crafts, handmade items, plants and much more. Heritage Park.  
www.visitfoley.com/events or 251-943-1300

### **May 18, 24, 31, June 7 & 14**

#### **Music and a Movie**

Fridays 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Bring a blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy a free movie, music and entertainment under the stars. Free to the public. Concessions are available for purchase. Visit the website for movie and music details.

Heritage Park  
www.visitfoley.com/events  
251-943-1300

### **June 1 43rd Annual Gulf Coast Mustang & Mega Car Show**

8 a.m.–5 p.m. OWA  
www.visitowa.com

### **June 7 Foly Main Street Survey Results Presentation**

8 a.m. Foley Civic Center. Council Chambers. Public welcome. Presentation given by Jay Schlinsog with Downtown Professionals Network.

### **June 15 3rd Annual Corn Festival & Car Show**

9 a.m.–2 p.m. Coastal Alabama Farmers & Fishermen's Market

### **Graham Creek Nature Preserve Camps**

**June 3–7 Explorer Day Camp** 8 a.m.–noon

**June 10–14 Pioneer Day Camp** 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

**June 24–28 Explorer Day Camp** 8 a.m.–noon

**June 29 International Mud Day** 10 a.m.–noon

23460 Wolf Bay Drive, Foley, AL  
www.grahamcreekpreserve.org

### **July 4 Celebration & Fireworks**

8:45 p.m. OWA  
www.visitowa.com

### **Summer Reading Program**

Presented by Foley Public Library  
10 a.m. at The Foley Civic Center  
www.FoleyLibrary.org

**June 6 Mr. Bond's Science Guys**

**June 13 All Hands Productions**

**June 20 Gene Cordova**

**June 26 Tom Foolery**

### **Aug 1–3 Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation 22nd Annual Rodeo**

Gates open 5:30

Foley Horse Arena

113 East Rosetta Avenue