

Foley Newsletter



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Greetings! I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well.

Time for my “tis the season” reminder. Hurricane season is upon us once again. The Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and runs until November 30. NOAA is predicting a 70% chance that 2019 will have 9 to 15 named storms, 4 to 8 of which will become hurricanes, with 2 to 4 possibly becoming major hurricanes. The National Weather Service (weather.gov) provides good information on what to do before a tropical storm or hurricane. I encourage you to visit the site to review this valuable information.

On a happier note, by the time you receive this newsletter, our new Publix will be open! The Burton development has brought our community a number of new retail opportunities.

South of Publix, on the west side of Highway 59, a new Hilton Home2 is now open, giving visitors another first-class accommodation option.

Foley was recently recognized by ChamberOfCommerce.org as 6th on their list of the top 10 Alabama cities to live in. Earlier this year, we were ranked among the top 10 safest cities in Alabama, coming in at number 8, based on data generated by the FBI. This reflects on the hard work and pride city employees put into their jobs. Congratulations and thank you to all of them.

We are currently working to extend Juniper Street farther south. It will continue south of Culver’s, then make a right hand turn to connect with County Road 20 South at Highway 59. We hope to receive approval from ALDOT for a signal at this new four-way intersection at Highway 59. This will give locals another alternative to travel farther south before entering the highway, and provide sites for future retail businesses and services. This will also provide



**Mayor's
Notes**

north-bound traffic from the south easier access to our sports complex and OWA.

Another road project is close to completion: the Fern Avenue extension, connecting Highway 59 with the Foley Beach Express. Initially, there will be a crossover from the Foley Beach Express for north-bound traffic to access Fern Avenue. I anticipate traffic counts will eventually justify a signal at this location.

The Farmers and Fishermens Market is offering a bountiful harvest this year. I encourage everyone to visit on Tuesdays from 2–6 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m.–2 p.m. to enjoy locally grown produce, fresh seafood, and local arts and crafts.

OWA has announced several new projects. A \$100 million indoor water park adjoining a new 200-room resort hotel will soon be built. Also, a luxury, family-friendly RV park will be constructed. These projects bring the Poarch Band of Creek Indians’ total investment at OWA to more than \$350 million dollars.

Recent openings at OWA include a 400-seat theater for Legends, the longest running show in Las Vegas, performing shows nightly, and Mystic Mansion, an indoor, air-conditioned ride featuring interactive game-play.

Later this summer, Paula Deen’s Family Kitchen is expected to open in downtown OWA.

Get out and enjoy all Foley has to offer this summer.

Regards—and shop Foley first!

Mayor John Koniar

Foley grapples with recycling issues

Since 2007, Foley has offered residents a recycling service, where materials from newspaper to tin to plastics can be conveniently picked up at your curbside. Foley residents currently participate in what is known as single-stream recycling, defined as a system where materials are collected in one bin at curbside, and those contents are picked up and shipped out together in one truck. Items placed into recycle bins in Foley are sent to a processing facility in Pensacola, Fla.

A few years ago, the city received \$2 per ton for recycling. That has changed. In today's market, the city pays a vendor to take our recycling. Earlier this year, Foley paid \$23 per ton to take city recycling. According to city officials, that cost is rising and it is possible the rate could climb as high as \$51 per ton. At the current rate of increase, in the near future, the city could be paying a rate for recycling that may be substantially higher than the tipping fee paid to send regular garbage to the landfill.

Foley is not alone in the search for recycling solutions. Other cities in Baldwin County are in the same predicament. The only recycle processing center in Baldwin County closed two years ago, and China stopped accepting these materials.

What does that say about the future of recycling in Foley? A number of officials and directors are actively seeking viable alternatives. It is certainly the city's goal to continue the recycle program, as it benefits the environment by reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills and incinerators, and conserves natural resources. There are many sound reasons to recycle. For now, the city is monitoring the industry.

Recycle industry leaders are also grappling with these issues. There are many components that affect the viability of how and what it makes sense to recycle, and over time, options are changing. Right now, it is an industry in transition, with everyone concerned seeking a better solution. ■

New flood insurance rate maps affect Foley property owners

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has recently revised and finalized the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) within Baldwin County. This may affect the floodplain designation of property in Foley. The new maps became effective on April 19, 2019, and have added approximately 250 parcels within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), commonly known as the 100-year floodplain.

The city adopted the revised FIRMs in order to continue participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP allows property owners to be eligible for federally managed flood insurance, federally backed mortgages, federal grants and federal disaster relief.

The new flood maps can be viewed on the ADECA OWR website at www.alabamaflood.com. (The address points may be off, so be sure to zoom into a property to confirm. The colored areas represent the SFHAs in both the map view and satellite view.) Or log onto the FEMA Map Service Center website at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>.

Normally, if the SFHA touches a property, it is considered to be in a regulated flood zone.

For further assistance or before any construction in the SFHA, please contact the City of Foley Community Development Department at 251-952-4011.

For more information on the NFIP, visit floodsmart.gov. ■



Locating Holmes babies

Docents at the Holmes Medical Museum continue to gather the names of babies who were born in the Holmes Hospital, which operated from 1936 until 1958, or who were delivered by one of the doctors or nurses from that hospital.

A scrapbook that includes birth certificates has been created. Anyone who was born there is invited to provide a copy of their birth certificate, a photo and a story to be included. This scrapbook is one of the most viewed displays in the museum. Last year, the museum had more than 7,000 visitors.

Certificates can be dropped off at the museum, located at 111 W. Laurel Avenue, or mailed. For additional information, contact the museum at 251-970-1818. ■

Foley airport receives grant

The Foley Municipal Airport will receive a grant of \$305,000 from the Federal Aviation Administration to repave the north T-Hangar access taxiway.

Foley's airport, located in the northwest quadrant of the city, south of County Road 24 at Airport Road, is open to operations 24 hours a day. Attended hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. The 3,700-ft. runway can accommodate single- or twin-engine aircraft.

The airport contains 32 hangar units, with eight additional units under construction.

The new hangars are funded in part by grant monies provided by the FAA and the Alabama Department of Transportation. The city manages the lease of the hangar units.

The airport is served by Lightning Aviation, a fixed-base operator that manages the day-to-day operations at the airport, in addition to training approximately 400 students per year for private pilot, instrument, commercial and multi-engine certificates. The company conducts 30 to 40 flights per day. ■

Recycle used cooking oil

Used cooking oil can be recycled in Foley thanks to a program established by a partnership between Wolf Bay Watershed Watch, Riviera Utilities and the city. Recycling used cooking oil keeps grease from clogging sewage pipes and out of waterways. The recycled cooking oil is picked up and then manufactured into biodiesel fuel that is cleaner burning and less expensive than regular gasoline.

There are two locations in Foley where used cooking oil can be taken and clean, empty containers are available. They are outside the Foley Piggly Wiggly at 1200 S. McKenzie Street, and behind Riviera Utilities on Violet Avenue near Poplar Street.

Allow the cooking oil to cool, then pour into a clean container, either the original container or a designated recycling container available at the used cooking oil recycling station. This is for cooking oils and grease only. No motor oils are accepted. Thank you for recycling used cooking oil! ■



Foley Police Department Honor Guard

The Foley Police Department Honor Guard is a team of police officers who represent the city at area events and ceremonies and also by honoring fallen officers around the region. Honor Guard services can be requested through the Foley Police Department's Community Safety Division by calling 251-952-4010. All requests are subject to approval. ■

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FISCAL YEAR 2018/19 (OCT. 1, 2018-JUNE 30, 2019) PERMITS YEAR TO DATE

SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL	145
DUPLEX	16 (32 UNITS)
MULTI-FAMILY	108
NEW COMMERCIAL	11
Storage Choice Bldg C	
Storage Choice Bldg B	
Cube Smart Self Storage	
OWA Mystic Mansion	
Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses	
Pirates Cove RV Resort	
COMMERCIAL ADDITION/REMODEL	72

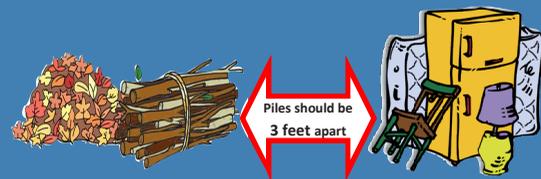
Foley changes bulk item pickup process

On August 1, bulk item pickup—which includes old furniture and broken appliances—will become a regular route with service on the same day as yard debris for each neighborhood.

The change means that residents will no longer need to call for pickup of these items, unless size exceeds six cubic yards.

Please place limbs and yard waste in a separate pile from bulk items. The piles should be three feet from each other, and are to be placed on the curb/roadside by 6 a.m. Each pile may contain up to six cubic yards.

Call the city's Public Works department at 251-943-8897 for the pickup day for your neighborhood. ■



Notice of residential sanitation increase

Foley announces a residential sanitation services rate increase in the amount of \$3.75 per unit per month, from \$16 to \$19.75. This increase for the first garbage can will become effective on Aug. 1, 2019. The rate for a second garbage can at the same residence will remain the same at \$16 per month.

Billing for sanitation services for Foley residents is included in the Riviera Utility bill.

This increase is necessary to keep up with the escalating cost of collecting residential waste. The last rate increase for this service was in October 2008. ■



Extra mile award

Keith Nelson, events coordinator for the Foley Civic Center, was recently awarded the Extra Mile Award, presented annually to a city employee who provides exemplary service. The recipient is selected based on a number of factors that include job performance, professionalism and dedication. The certificate was presented by Councilman Ralph Hellmich. Congratulations, Keith! ■



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Summertime Fire Safety

The Foley Fire Department reminds you to practice fire safety with all of your summertime activities. During outdoor cooking and grilling, remember to place your grill well away from siding and deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Also, do not store or use a grill on a porch or balcony, especially charcoal or wood grills. Keep a water source or fire extinguisher nearby. All of Baldwin County is under the annual ADEM Burn Ban from May 1 through Oct. 30. Open burning for disposal of yard debris of any type is prohibited during this time, with only a few exceptions (small recreational fires, cooking fires, agricultural burns). ■

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. 2–6 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., Foley. grahamcreekpreserve.org

GLOWA

8 p.m. 6 nights a week (no Tues.)
Fountain shows nightly 6:30, 7:30, 8:30 p.m.
visitowa.com

Legends in Concert

7:30 p.m. nightly Tues.–Sun.
Live tribute show.
visitowa.com

Aug. 7–3 Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation 22nd Annual Rodeo
Gates open 5:30 p.m.
Foley Horse Arena
113 E. Rosetta Ave.



Aug. 3 Book Signing & Live Music
Linda B. Schmitz Spangrud signing her children's book *Miss Ella and the Turtle People*
3–6 p.m.
Groovy Goat, OWA

Aug. 31 2nd Annual Labor Day Car Show
8 a.m.–4 p.m.
visitowa.com

Sept. 7 Marty Haggard
7 p.m.
Foley Civic Center

Sept. 14 2nd Annual Baldwin County Cancer Chase 5K
8 a.m. OWA
visitowa.com

Oct. 3–6 USA Archery 3D Collegiate Championships
23460 Wolf Bay Dr., Foley
www.grahamcreekpreserve.org

Oct. 5 Baldwin Bicycle Fest with Tour de Foley
7 a.m.–2 p.m. Heritage Park
baldwinbikefest.com

Oct. 10–13 48th Annual National Shrimp Festival
10 a.m.–10 p.m.
Gulf Shores Public Beach

Oct. 18, 19, 25, 26 Haunted Forest
7 p.m.–10 p.m.
23030 Wolf Bay Dr., Foley
grahamcreekpreserve.org

Oct. 22 Shred It Day
3–5 p.m. Behind the Foley Civic Center
visitfoley.com

Oct. 24 Uptown Halloween
5:30–8 p.m.
visitfoley.com

Oct. 30 Walk the Wicked Woods
7–10 p.m.
Must be 18 or older
23030 Wolf Bay Dr., Foley
grahamcreekpreserve.org

Nov. 16 Creek Crawl
23460 Wolf Bay Dr., Foley
grahamcreekpreserve.org

Nov. 7–17 Frank Brown International Songwriters' Festival
Various locations in Alabama and Florida

Nov. 8 Trim-A-Tree Opening Day
Tanger Outlet Mall, Suite TBA
9 a.m.–7 p.m. daily through Dec. 21
foleyartcenter.com