

# Foley Newsletter

## MAYOR

John E. Koniar

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## CITY

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We continue to see growth in retail and dining. Publix has had a great reception and now offers our community additional options for grocery shopping. Buffalo Wild Wings has submitted their building plans and should be breaking ground near Academy Sports soon.

We are close to completing a couple of major infrastructure projects:

- Fern Avenue extension is now paved to the Beach Express. Some signal upgrades need to be completed at Highway 59, but we should have access to this new extension soon.

- 9th Avenue extension, associated with the new elementary school, is close to opening also. The new school is behind schedule, but the road is complete. We are coordinating the opening of the road with the Baldwin County Board of Education, based upon their level of construction progress adjacent to the road.

We have also completed a number of resurfacing projects throughout the city. These projects are prioritized by a consulting group to help us establish which streets are in the greatest need. Some of the roads that were resurfaced include North Hickory, North Alston, Bunner, Wilson, East Section, County Road 12, and a number of small blocks in downtown, east of 59, that include Orange, Myrtle, and Verbena.

We hope this month brings completion of the sale of the old Cactus Café to a developer. We are looking forward to seeing this historic building contribute to our community again.

The city is blessed to have many outstanding employees. Recently our city planner, Miriam Boutwell, was recognized by the Alabama



## Mayor's Notes

Communities of Excellence (ACE) as the ACE local coordinator of the year. Congratulations, Miriam, on this well-deserved honor!

The city council recently passed the 2019–2020 budget. Anticipated revenue is almost \$48 million. We are blessed to have a growing, dynamic economy. With growth comes challenges, of course, but the council and staff work hard to assure revenues are spent in the most cost-effective manner and for the best

interest of our community.

Sports Tourism continues to attract visitors to our community that provide jobs for our citizens and revenue to the city. On February 20–23, the Archery Shooters Association Hoyt Archery Alabama Pro/Am tournament will again bring an expected 2,000 shooters. This competition has grown into a major event and Foley is excited to see it return.

OWA continues to add new businesses. Paula Dean's Family Kitchen is now hiring and anticipates employing approximately 200 people. OWA's new RV park should be underway soon and final design work for their water park and resort hotel is under way as well.

As we come into the holiday season, I wish you many happy memories and blessings with your friends and family. Please remember to shop Foley first!

Mayor John Koniar

# Foley: a popular place to live

Foley, along with Daphne and Fairhope, was named as number 5 in a list of 50 most affordable cities where everyone wants to live in an article published in USA Today in October. The list was based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Together, the three cities create a metropolitan area.

24/7 Wall St. identified the 50 most

affordable metropolitan areas Americans are moving to. In each of the metro areas on this list, the overall cost of living is lower than the national average, and typical housing costs are more in line with area incomes than average across all cities. Additionally, between 2010 and 2018, far more people have moved to these cities than have moved away. ■

## 5. Daphne-Fairhope-Foley, AL

- Total population: 218,022
- Pop. growth due to net migration, 2010–2018: +18.5% (+33,655)
- Cost of living: 9.2% less than national average
- Median home value: \$193,800
- Median household income: \$56,813

## Foley High School students are integral to Foley Sports Tourism

The holiday season at Foley Sports Tourism (FST) is typically busy, but the staff always feels that things are just a bit too quiet during those weeks. That is, until some of the hardest workers in the city return after their winter break.

Four days a week throughout the school year, students from the Foley High School Transition I & II classes and Community Based Instruction class head to FST to help out. It's a relationship that has changed the lives of all involved.

Jasmine Rush-Prim, Transition Class I & II teacher, explains the class teaches students life, job and social skills through community-based work.

In August of 2017, the class first visited the Foley Event Center to assist in the setup and preparation of events. From that moment forward, the FST staff has enthusiastically embraced this program.

From the moment the kids arrive, everyone in the building knows it, and it's hard to spot a staff member without a smile on their face. Whether moving chairs, tables and carpet, or helping to clean, the kids bring spirit to their work. Jeff Ryan, FEC building supervisor, has served as the FST point person in working with the Transition class.

"These kids are amazing," Ryan said. "They brighten our days with their energy and enthusiasm. They can move hundreds of chairs and still have the desire to race each other across the playing floor. But it's more than just the help they provide. It's their attitude and the way they genuinely care about our team."



Having the Transition class here doesn't just make us better workers, it makes us better people."

Rush-Prim explains that the feeling is mutual.

"The kids impatiently wait for the bus to arrive every morning and run out of the door to load up," Rush-Prim said. "They love coming to see their friends at FST, and even though they know they have to work hard while they're there, they have a lot of fun in the process. They feel truly loved by the FST staff."

The FHS Transition students have quickly become part of the FST family. But unlike the kids who enjoy their time off during winter break, the FST staff eagerly counts down the days until school is back in session. All in happy anticipation of having their family reunited again. ■

## Graham Creek Preserve receives grant for ADA trail expansion

At Graham Creek Preserve, a raised boardwalk that allows visitors with mobility limitations better access to the park will be expanded thanks to funding provided by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Recreational Trails program. Currently, a recycled rubber asphalt path begins at the Interpretive Center parking area and becomes a boardwalk as it continues through the Memorial Tree Grove, spanning the headwaters of Graham Creek, a ponded area and pine savanna wetlands. This initial phase of the Memorial Tree Trail was built in 2016 with the Alabama Coastal Access Improvement Grant.

The new funding will more than double

the length of the trail to 2,100 linear feet, providing improved access to those with mobility issues. The anticipated project cost is \$248,644, with the grant covering 80 percent. The additional loop will provide views of pitcher plant bogs and wetland areas. This project was designed as an ADA-compliant trail and will incorporate additional interpretive signage along its length. This signage will explain the natural systems and flora and fauna that may be encountered along the trail. Once complete, this project will provide a half-mile walking trail for users of all abilities to experience nature. The project will begin this winter, with completion by summer of 2021. ■





## Community Development Update

Foley's Community Development Department issued the following building permits during the 2018–2019 Fiscal Year (Oct. 1, 2018–Sept. 30, 2019).

Permits	Valuation
256 Single Family	\$46,754,285
13 Duplex	\$2,235,400
13 Multi-Family	\$16,017,709
13 New Commercial	\$12,567,236
93 Commercial Additions/Remodels	\$16,279,739

See the complete annual report on the city website: [cityoffoley.org/Community-Development](http://cityoffoley.org/Community-Development).

Planning Commission and other agendas and minutes are posted at [cityoffoley.org/CityBoards/Agendas&Minutes](http://cityoffoley.org/CityBoards/Agendas&Minutes). We welcome your comments and questions (952-4011). ■

## 9th Avenue Extension Partially Opens

The 9th Avenue extension will open permanently on Feb. 1, 2020. Until then, city officials are coordinating with the Baldwin County Board of Education for a modified opening to accommodate pick-up and drop-off of Foley Intermediate School students.

The road will be closed Monday – Friday, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m., and from 2:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. The road will remain open 24 hours on Saturday and Sunday.

Original plans called for the new school and the new road to open simultaneously in the fall of 2019. With school construction still incomplete, the city and board of education are working together to create a safe environment until the project is completed early next year. ■

## Foley Counts!

Once a decade, every resident in the United States is counted. The census counts our population and households, providing the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to support state, county and community programs. It impacts housing, education, transportation, employment, health care and public policy. It affects everyone. Everyone counts! Be ready to participate in the count in April 2020. ■



# Fire Prevention Message

F.V.I.

This year's fire prevention theme is "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape." The Foley Fire Department spent the month of October sharing this message with our students throughout the many Foley area schools. As we approach the holiday season and cooler temperatures, the Foley Fire Department reminds you to practice fire safety with your cooking, decorations, Christmas trees, lights and fireplaces. Keep live trees watered throughout the season, and keep space heaters and open flames clear of any possible hazards. Find out more at [nfpa.org/holiday](http://nfpa.org/holiday).

The annual ADEM burn ban for Baldwin County ended Nov. 1. Please contact us at 943-1266 for burning requirements and a burn permit for those inside the city limits of Foley. We encourage everyone to consider bagging leaves and piling small yard debris for pickup instead of burning it. Stay Safe and Practice Fire Safety Every Day. #TurnYourAttentionToFirePrevention ■

## Garbage and recycling holiday schedules

### THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS (Nov. 28 & 29)

Tues. and Thurs. pickups will occur Tues., Nov. 26.

Wed. and Fri. pickups will occur Wed., Nov. 27.

### CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS (Dec. 23, 24 & 25)

Mon., Tues. and Thurs. garbage and recycling will pick up Thurs., Dec. 26.

Wed. and Fri. garbage and recycling will pick up Fri., Dec. 27.

### NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY (Jan. 1)

Wed. garbage and recycling will pick up Thurs., Jan. 2.

### MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY (Jan. 20)

Mon. and Tues. garbage and recycling will pick up Tues., Jan. 21.

*For all holidays, Public Works will pick up limbs/yard debris where we left off. Please be patient as these routes may run behind the following weeks until we are able to finally catch up. Please have all garbage and recycling out before 6 a.m. ■*

*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!*



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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. 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. [grahamcreekpreserve.org](http://grahamcreekpreserve.org)

### **Legends in Concert**

7:30 p.m. nightly Tues.–Sun.  
Live tribute show.  
[VisitOWA.com](http://VisitOWA.com)

### **Through Dec. 23 52nd Annual Trim-A-Tree**

Over 150 artists and craftsmen offer beautiful handmade items for holiday shoppers. Tanger Outlet Center, Suite 182. [www.FoleyArtCenter.com](http://www.FoleyArtCenter.com)

### **Nov. 23 Doctor Who Day**

9 a.m. Join us in honoring Doctor Who Day. Come in costume for a chance to receive a small prize. Foley Public Library.

### **Nov. 30 Small Business Saturday**

Support small, local businesses. Money spent in our community stays in our community.

### **Dec. 5 100 Things to Do in Alabama Before You Die**

2 p.m. Presented by Mary Johns, who has created a most interesting itinerary for visitors and locals. Reservation Required. Foley Public Library.

### **Dec. 6 Mobile Youth Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert**

7 p.m. Accomplished young musicians from across the Gulf Coast perform a beautiful holiday concert. \$5 suggested donation. Foley Civic Center.

### **Dec. 6 Christmas in the Park**

6–8 p.m. Hear Christmas carols, sip hot cocoa, enjoy the lighting of the Christmas tree and visit with Santa. Free admission. Heritage Park. [www.VisitFoley.com](http://www.VisitFoley.com)

### **Dec. 7 Foley Christmas Parade**

10 a.m. Enjoyed by young and old, the parade includes music, floats, tractors and even a glimpse of Old St. Nick. Organized by the Foley Kiwanis Club.

### **Dec. 7 Let It Snow**

11 a.m.–3 p.m. Light snow flurries are expected after the Christmas Parade. See Santa, children's activities and concessions. Heritage Park. [www.VisitFoley.com](http://www.VisitFoley.com)

## Centennial Plaza bricks make great holiday gifts

Centennial Plaza bricks make great holiday gifts! Purchase an engraved brick to be installed in Foley's Centennial Plaza. The purchase price includes a certificate that can be presented as a gift.

Bricks (4x8 \$50 and 8x8 \$125) may be purchased at the Welcome Center. ■



### **Dec. 9 Baldwin Pops Tis' the Season**

7–9 p.m. The Pops presents a delightful holiday concert each year. A suggested donation is an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. Foley Civic Center.

### **Dec. 14 Arts at the Market**

9 a.m.–4 p.m. Local farmers and artisans join together for a Christmas Market. Come see Santa 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market.

### **Jan. 7 Folk Duo, Hungrytown**

6 p.m. Hungrytown consists of musicians Rebecca Hall and Ken Anderson, who will present their own style of unique folk tunes. Reservation Required. Foley Public Library.

### **Jan. 14 Foley Snowbird Welcome Coffee**

9 a.m.–12 noon. The City of Foley and the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce will host a Snowbird Welcome Coffee at the Civic Center. Free coffee and doughnuts. [www.VisitFoley.com](http://www.VisitFoley.com)  
251-943-1300