

# Foley Newsletter

## MAYOR

John E. Koniar

## COUNCIL

J. Wayne Trawick  
Council President  
District 1

Vera J. Quaites  
District 2

Ralph G. Hellmich  
Council Vice President  
District 3

C. Rick Blackwell  
District 4

Charlie J. Ebert III  
District 5

## CITY

**ADMINISTRATOR**  
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We are slowly reopening our city following the March 16 closure due to COVID-19. All city lobbies are now open to the public and the recycling program has resumed. The library, the welcome center and the restrooms in city parks have now reopened; we will continue to reevaluate other facilities moving forward.

Foley's retail stores, including Tanger Outlet Center, are also beginning to reopen, many with limited hours. All are adhering to capacity restraints imposed by the governor and, of course, social distancing requirements.

OWA is working with the governor's office to begin the reopening process of the amusement park.

The governor's Safer at Home order continues to encourage individuals to stay at home and follow good sanitation practices.

Small steps, but steps nonetheless.

The Tanger Outlet Center is in the process of reopening. The stores in Foley are coming back to life, with limited hours in most cases. Others are expected soon. OWA is working with the Governor's office to start the reopening process for the amusement park.

As our retail businesses and restaurants reopen, I encourage you to support them, as they have obviously experienced financial hardships recently.

The shutdown has negatively impacted our city revenues as well. The council has directed all city departments to review capital purchases and projects to see what can be delayed or eliminated without adverse effects to city services. There will be modifications, but we anticipate no reductions in our police and fire department budgets or services.

We are making one purchase that directly relates to the virus: UV light kits for the HVAC system in the Event Center. Because UV light



## Mayor's Notes

kills the virus, this will make the center a safer place for all who use it. We hope to provide this feature in all high-traffic city facilities over time.

Finally, the Fern Avenue extension from Highway 59 to the Foley Beach Express is open. It's a lovely ride. This new roadway is being used more every day.

Economic activity within the city has a few bright spots. The old Ryan's Steakhouse has been demolished and

a new Aldi Grocery along with a Take 5 Oil Change facility will soon be under construction. Aldi is a family-owned chain that was founded in Germany in 1946 and now has 11,234 locations in 20 countries. Buffalo Wild Wings is currently under construction on Highway 59 in front of Publix Grocery.

A strong segment of the economy during the virus has been single-family housing. We have experienced solid activity in this area and see no signs of it slowing down. Foley's Community Development Department recently moved to 120 S. McKenzie Street.

As we approach the summer, I want to remind you that the Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market is open on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Local vendors keep adding new items weekly.

These have been difficult times and I strongly remind you not to let your guard down as we attempt to reopen. The virus is still here. We all need to wash our hands, practice social distancing, and for our older population in particular, please stay home as much as is practical.

Stay safe.

Mayor John Koniar

# 2020 is a municipal election year

Foley's municipal elections will be held on Aug. 25 at the Foley Event Center, located at 1001 E. Pride Blvd.

Each resident who lives within the Foley city limits will have the opportunity to vote for mayor and the council person who represents their district. The mayor is elected at large, meaning everyone votes for the mayoral position. Council representatives are elected by district, so residents in each district vote for only the council member who will represent their district.

Although some Foley residents vote at other locations for county and general elections, all residents will vote at the Foley Event Center for this municipal election. Municipal elections have been moved to the event center for several reasons. First, it is larger and will allow more room for social distancing. The building is also safer because a UV lighting system is being

installed to minimize viruses, molds and bacteria. The commercial-grade system kills approximately 99.9% of pathogens in the air.

District maps are redrawn for each municipal election to ensure that each of Foley's five districts includes about the same number of residents. As the city grows, sometimes neighborhoods are moved into another district in order to keep the districts balanced. Foley's districts were redrawn and approved in April of 2020.

A map showing the new districts is available online at [www.cityoffoley.org/maps/](http://www.cityoffoley.org/maps/). Also, the voting district maps are displayed at Foley's City Hall, Public Library, CDD and the welcome center.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Aug. 25, 2020. A run-off election, if necessary, will be held on Oct. 6, 2020.

July 7, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. until July 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. *Candidate qualifications*

July 26, 2020 *Last day to establish residency to vote in the municipal election*

July 28, 2020 *First day for a voter to apply for a regular absentee ballot*

August 10, 2020 *Last day to register to vote in the municipal election*

August 20, 2020 *Last day for a voter to apply for a regular absentee ballot*

August 25, 2020 *Election Day - Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Foley Event Center*

October 6, 2020 *Runoff Election (if needed) Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Foley Event Center* ■

## It's a good time to get outside at Graham Creek

The sun has been shining, birds are singing and flowers are blooming. It's the perfect time to visit Graham Creek Nature Preserve. Whether it's walking the trails, playing a round of disc golf or paddling the waters, Graham Creek has amenities for everyone to enjoy the outdoors.

If you travel Wolf Bay Drive, you may have noticed the beautification project. Low fencing is being installed from Philomene Holmes Boulevard to Stan Mahoney Lane. This project will be an expansion of the memorial tree trail. Mulch will be added inside the fencing, creating a walking path. Native

memorial trees and shrubs will be planted over time, and benches and swings will be constructed. Next year we hope to add exercise stations along the path as well.

Have you been to the canoe launch and wondered how to get to the south bank? A grant was received from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to add a boardwalk, located about 50 yards west of the canoe launch. The boardwalk will span from the launch parking area, across the wetlands and creek to the south bank. This will offer a fishing area for visitors and access to the south side of Graham Creek. Completion is expected by August 2020.

For those unable to walk the rustic trails, the preserve also offers a boardwalk from the Interpretive Center to the forested area. Or, drive along Philomene Holmes Boulevard from the Interpretive Center and park alongside the road to view large expanses of white-topped pitcher plants and other wildflowers. This botanical display is vivid throughout the year and plant varieties change with each season. For more information, contact Graham Creek at 251-923-4267 or visit [www.grahamcreekpreserve.org](http://www.grahamcreekpreserve.org). ■

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Community Development Department has continued to work since the outbreak, incorporating social distancing. Although the lobby was closed to the public, the department accepted plans, issued permits and performed inspections. Overall, March and April were busier than ever.

#### October 2019–April 2020 Permits Report:

333 Single-family - \$63,370,184 valuation  
1 Duplex (2 Units) - \$164,960 valuation  
10 Multi-family (33 Units) - \$2,572,920 valuation  
12 New Commercial - \$7,722,205 valuation  
(including Fausak Tires, Calvary Chapel, Dollar General, Buffalo Wild Wings, Expotile, Vosloh building, OWA Water Park foundation, Pit Stop Car Wash, Primland Clubhouse, Symbol/Vulcan clinic.)

CDD Monthly Reports can be found 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). ■

## Preparedness Expo returns to Baldwin County

Baldwin EMA will be hosting the 2020 Baldwin County Preparedness & Recovery Expo on June 9 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Daphne Civic Center. The expo is a free community event designed to help educate residents about disaster preparedness and connect citizens with local resources to assist in planning for hazards that may impact our community. Some primary hazards facing our area are hurricanes/tropical weather, flooding, and other dangers associated with severe weather. The goal for this event is to promote personal preparedness, property mitigation techniques and business continuity, as well as recovery strategies. This event will also advise residents regarding volunteer opportunities. You may contact Baldwin EMA at 251-972-6807 about this event. ■

# Foley Library offers free eBooks/eAudiobooks

No library card? No problem! Foley Public Library is offering free eBook/eAudiobook service for one year via its OverDrive/Camellia.net provider.

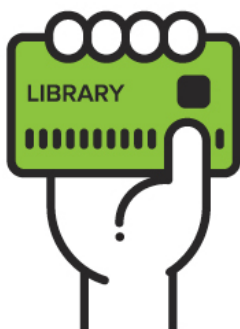
Just go to the library's website at [www.foleylibrary.org](http://www.foleylibrary.org) and look for the box pictured below. Click on the box and you will be able to get a free library card for eBooks/eAudiobooks using a mobile device.

This special free service can provide you with many electronic books, magazines and graphic novels even if the library building is closed.

Check our website and our Facebook page for many other services such as [HomeworkAlabama.org](http://HomeworkAlabama.org), the Alabama Virtual Library, the Learning Express Library, the Chilton Library Online, and Project Gutenberg Classic eBooks that can be accessed anytime our doors are closed. ■

OverDrive

## NO LIBRARY CARD? NO PROBLEM!



Instant digital  
cards now  
available with  
your mobile  
number

GET STARTED

## Countywide app available for emergency and weather notifications

The Baldwin County Emergency Management Agency has released a mobile application to assist county citizens and visitors in preparing for disasters, whether natural or manmade. The app provides vital information pertaining to emergencies in Baldwin County, as well as information about the Baldwin County EMA. It contains links to local, state and federal resources that will help residents before, during and after large-scale emergencies, particularly during the annual hurricane season. In addition to local weather information, the app contains a checklist for an emergency kit, an evacuation zone map and sheltering information.

Countywide alerts are available by text. To opt in, text the keyword `alrtbaldwin` to 888777. Search "Baldwin County EMA App" at the app store on iOS devices and the Google Play store on Android devices. ■

# Foley Fire Department Fire and Home Safety

As we have all been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foley Fire Department had to adjust its fire prevention and safety strategies in order to keep our personnel safe and healthy. In the coming weeks, we plan to get back out into the community with our business Fire and Life Safety Inspections. We hope to be able to again assist homeowners with in-home smoke alarm and fire safety visits in the near future. We also hope to be able to resume our CPR and First Aid training programs in the coming months. As you all have spent more time at home over the past couple of months, we hope that you have taken some time to look at your fire safety features and discuss fire response plans with your family. We encourage you to continue to regularly check and test your smoke alarms and replace alarms that are 10 years old or older. Also, as we enter the summer months, we remind you to prepare for hurricane season and other severe weather events. Please download a reliable weather app for your mobile devices or purchase a weather radio with local alerts. Contact our office at 251-943-1266 for more information on these items, and Turn Your Attention to Fire Prevention!

## Outdoor Burn Ban

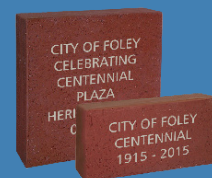
The Foley Fire Department reminds you that the annual ADEM Burn Ban for Baldwin County went into effect May 1 in an effort to improve air quality. Open burning of debris is prohibited until Nov. 1 with only a few exceptions (agricultural/silvicultural burns; recreational/ceremonial/cooking fires). As we have recently experienced, these exceptions may also be restricted by the fire chief via a local burn ban when drought or weather conditions make it necessary. ■

## Centennial Plaza bricks

You can still purchase an engraved brick to be installed at Foley's Centennial Plaza as a unique gift.

Included in the purchase price is a certificate displaying the words to be engraved, making it easy to present as a gift. Please allow a week for the certificate to be created.

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



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)





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## Have you been counted yet?

If you haven't completed your census, it's not too late. Having an accurate census count for Alabama is vital to many programs that affect our state, including the areas of healthcare, food, education, roads and bridges, congressional representation and much more. You can complete your census in about five minutes at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov). ■

## Upcoming Events

**Foley Events Updated Daily** Visit [Foley.com](https://Foley.com)

**Foley Public Library** [FoleyLibrary.org](https://FoleyLibrary.org)

**Foley Senior Center** [CityofFoley.org](https://CityofFoley.org)

**Foley Sports Tourism** [FoleySportsTourism.com](https://FoleySportsTourism.com)

**Graham Creek Preserve** [GrahamCreekPreserve.org](https://GrahamCreekPreserve.org)

### Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market

Local produce, fresh seafood, homemade goods and more. Open 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](https://grahamcreekpreserve.org)

### June 8–12 Pioneer's Survival Skills Camp

8 a.m.–12:30 p.m. daily. 4th thru 8th grade. \$100 registration fee. Bring your own lunch. 23030 Wolf Bay Dr. [grahamcreekpreserve.org](https://grahamcreekpreserve.org)

### June 9 2020 Preparedness & Recovery Expo

3 p.m.–7 p.m. Learn about preparedness and connect with local resources to assist in planning for hazards. Daphne Civic Center

### June 15–19 Explorer's Survival Skills Camp

8 a.m.–noon daily. Kindergarten thru 3rd grade. \$75 registration fee. Bring your own lunch. 23030 Wolf Bay Dr. [grahamcreekpreserve.org](https://grahamcreekpreserve.org)

### July 4 4th of July Celebration and Fireworks

Noon. There will be music, kids activities, inflatable fun and more. Fireworks at 8:45 p.m. [visitowa.com](https://visitowa.com)

### July 6–10 Pioneer's Science Camp

8 a.m.–12:30 p.m. daily. 4th thru 8th grade. \$100 registration fee. Bring your own lunch. 23030 Wolf Bay Dr. [grahamcreekpreserve.org](https://grahamcreekpreserve.org)

### July 13–17 Explorer's Science Camp

8 a.m.–noon daily. \$75 registration fee. Bring your own lunch. 23030 Wolf Bay Dr. [grahamcreekpreserve.org](https://grahamcreekpreserve.org)

### Aug. 1 Caribbean Day at OWA

Sway to the sounds of the steel drums, compete for the coolest Hawaiian T-shirt, and more at this free event. [visitowa.com](https://visitowa.com)



### Aug. 28–29 Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival

Enjoy food, music, arts & crafts and view the amazing hot air balloons. 988 W. Section Ave. [gulfcoastballoonfestival.com](https://gulfcoastballoonfestival.com)

**All events are subject to change due to COVID-19 regulations.**