

Foley Newsletter



MAYOR

Ralph G. Hellmich

COUNCIL

J. Wayne Trawick
Council President
District 1

Vera J. Quaites
District 2

Richard Dayton
District 3

C. Rick Blackwell
District 4

Charlie J. Ebert III
President-protempore
District 5

**CITY
ADMINISTRATOR**
Michael L. Thompson

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www.cityoffoley.org

I would like to express my deepest thanks to the citizens of Foley for the tremendous support shown to me in the election. I am humbled by your support, and will work hard as your mayor to meet the needs of our growing city.

I extend my sincere thanks to Mayor John Koniar for the legacy he left to our city through his 40 years of service. Congratulations to Richard Dayton, our newest council member, representing District 3 in southeast Foley. We have a strong council team with a combined experience of over 50 years in public service. Foley is known as “The Forward City” and we will work together to keep it that way.

We have faced many challenges this year, including the COVID pandemic, the economic downturn it created, and hurricanes. We have weathered these challenges and will continue to do so because we are resilient and have a love for this city that we call home.

Rapid growth is an immediate challenge in Foley. We have in place environmental, planning and infrastructure strategies that will serve us well. Since 2008, many upgrades to building codes, zoning and storm water management have occurred. We still need to do more. I have asked our Planning Commission to present ideas that will serve Foley in the coming years. If you look at the founding of Foley in the early 19th century, you will notice the Village concept in the downtown area. It has served us well and created a location offering a quality of life desired by many. Managing city growth in a way that contributes to a desirable quality of life does not normally just happen.



**Mayor's
Notes**

It is planned. Foley addresses this through completing comprehensive plan studies and following them. We have just completed a study for the Southeast Quadrant, and are currently working on one for the Southwest Quadrant of town.

Regarding our recent storms, thank you to city employees for their response to these challenges. They have done an incredible job, from rescuing flood victims to responding

to citizens’ needs, all while continuing the daily duties that make our city work. Hurricane Sally created five times the damage of Hurricane Ivan in 2004. Over 760,000 cubic yards of all types of debris has been collected. Foley lost so many trees there is a 50% reduction in our tree canopy. The rain event was officially rated in excess of a 200-year storm, creating flooding in areas where it had never happened before. We will work to improve this going forward. Our heart goes out to those who suffered loss or damage to their homes or businesses.

The holiday season is fast approaching. I sincerely wish it to be a happy and productive one for all. We are trying to keep as many events as possible that can be held safely. Please remember to follow safety protocols at all public events. As you go about your holiday preparations, enjoy the decorations and shop locally to help our local merchants. God bless you all.

Ralph G. Hellmich
Mayor Ralph G. Hellmich

Recovery continues in Foley

Roughly three months after Category 2 Hurricane Sally blew through Foley, residents are still working to clean up the mess. Debris trucks continue to crisscross the city and blue tarps remain atop houses across town.

Thanks to Foley's disaster preparedness efforts, debris cleanup in Foley began within days of the storm. D&J Enterprises, the city debris removal contractor, had officials in Foley the day after the storm. Their first task was to help city crews clear roads. As soon as that was completed, an average of 30–50 of the giant trucks began working 7 days a week to collect debris. D&J Enterprises provided crews, trucks, equipment and expertise to accomplish this monumental task..

The city also holds a contract with Landfall Strategies, LLC, who monitored the removal, reduction and disposal of the



debris to ensure it was done according to FEMA regulations in order for the city to be reimbursed. This company provided the extra persons who accompanied the debris trucks.

Foley had an exponential amount of debris because of the amount of trees that were lost. A post-storm survey by John Graham, horticulturist for the City of Foley, estimated that Foley lost 40–50 percent of the tree canopy (green coverage) across the city. Foley was especially hard hit because of its position on the powerful north-east quadrant of the hurricane as it made landfall. The city is actively working to obtain federal and state grants to replace trees lost in the storm, according to Graham. Some could provide additional tree giveaways to residents, similar to Arbor Day, to help replenish lost trees.

Flooding was also an issue. During the worst 24-hour time period of the storm, 19.606 inches of rainfall was recorded. This correlates to between an estimated 200- to 500-year rainfall event in some areas of the city, which led to severe flooding that damaged a number of homes. Owners of flooded homes are asked to please provide the Community Development Department with details on the damage. The combination of the high amount of rainfall and the slow-moving high winds produced damage that many compared to the effects of Hurricane Ivan in 2004,

especially in terms of downed trees.

The huge amount of vegetative debris, along with lost roofs, fences and construction debris from water and flooding contributed to high stacks of debris that lined city roadways for months. As of Nov. 18, over 13,000 truckloads of debris had been collected. The vegetative debris is first taken to an old air field owned by the city. There, large equipment reduces it to wood chips that are disposed of by the city. The wood chips are unusable to residents as they are not composted and include invasive species. Construction debris is taken to Magnolia Landfill.

Storm cleanup is estimated to cost the city \$12–13 million according to city officials. The city initially pays those costs, but ultimately will be reimbursed 75 percent by FEMA and 12.5 percent by the State of Alabama. The city pays the remaining 12.5 percent, plus insurance deductibles for damaged city facilities that are estimated at \$220,000, for a total of about \$1.78 million.

Category 2 hurricane winds caused literally thousands of residents to lose shingles or entire roofs. Blue tarps across rooftops are still common across the city, in spite of the deluge of out-of-town contractors that arrived after the event. Foley homeowners can check to see if contractors have a city license by visiting www.cityoffoley.org. ■

STRUCTURES DAMAGED BY WIND & RAIN (APPROXIMATE)

Residential—2880
(13 substantial/total loss)

Manufactured Homes—51
(4 substantial/total loss)

Commercial Buildings—412
(7 substantial/total loss)

STRUCTURES DAMAGED BY FLOOD WATER

Residential—150 (3 substantial/total loss)

Manufactured homes—0

Commercial Buildings—5



Foley's new mayor and council were sworn in on Nov. 2. L-R: Vera Quaites (District 2, 12 years), Richard "Dick" Dayton (District 3, new member), Wayne Trawick (District 1, 22 years), Mayor Ralph Hellmich (16 years on council), Rick Blackwell (District 4, 12 years) and Charlie Ebert (District 5, 14 years). City council meetings are normally held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 4 p.m. in the council chambers. ■

Foley Library has WiFi hotspots



The Foley Public Library now has Wifi hotspots available for two-week checkouts via the Computer Lab. If a hotspot is not available at the time a patron calls or comes in, it is possible to place a reservation for one.

These Wifi hotspots provide internet connectivity through Verizon. There is no cost to the patron associated with using one of these devices. Hotspots are good for working from home or for students to use for virtual school.

If no one is waiting for a device, a renewal can be done either by phone or in person. Please ask for the Computer Lab when calling or coming in to check on availability or renewal of these devices. Call 251-943-7665 or check the library's website, www.foleylibrary.org, for more information. ■

Foley gains national spotlight on ESPN+



Fall brought a full schedule to Foley Sports Tourism, with two major collegiate tournaments and a number of youth events. Both the Sun Belt Conference Women's Soccer and Women's Volleyball Championship Tournaments were streamed live on ESPN+, garnering the city a national spotlight. The 3v3 Live National Championship, the Alabama Soccer Association State Cup, and the Coastal Academy Cup brought hundreds of soccer teams to FST. The new year shows no sign of slowing for the organization, with 22 events scheduled for the first quarter of 2021. For more information and a full calendar of upcoming events, visit www.FoleySportsTourism.com. ■

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

Fire safety tips

This year's National Fire Protection Association fire prevention campaign focuses on fire safety in the kitchen. As we approach the holiday season and cooler temperatures, the Foley Fire Department reminds you to practice fire safety with all of your cooking, decorations, Christmas trees, lights, heating equipment, 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.

Our annual ADEM burn ban for Baldwin County was lifted on November 1st. With the large amounts of debris left from Hurricane Sally, many residents are attempting to burn their remaining vegetative storm debris. In many cases, this open burning is not allowed by our City ordinances. Please contact us at 943-1266 for burning requirements and a burn permit for those who meet the requirements inside the City Limits of Foley. We encourage everyone to consider bagging leaves in paper bags and piling small yard debris next to the roadway for pickup by the City of Foley instead of burning it. Stay Safe and Practice Fire Safety Every Day! #TurnYourAttentionToFirePrevention ■

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

FY 2019/20 Annual Report Excerpt

- 571 Single Family Permits—\$106,628,073 valuation
- 1 Duplex (2 Units)—\$164,960 valuation
- 37 Multi-family (126 Units)—\$6,064,560 valuation
- 19 New Commercial—\$19,542,205 valuation
- 60 Commercial Additions/Remodels - \$13,805,582 valuation;
- Additional Permits—3,711 Total / \$159,923,495 valuation

The complete annual report can be found on the city website: cityoffoley.org/Community-Development. Planning Commission and other agendas and minutes are posted at cityoffoley.org/CityBoards/Agendas&Minutes. We welcome your comments and questions at 251-952-4011. ■

Garbage and recycling HOLIDAY SCHEDULES

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS (Dec. 24 & 25)

Tues. and Thurs. garbage and recycling will pick up Tues., Dec. 22.

Wed. and Fri. garbage and recycling will pick up Wed., Dec. 23.

NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY (Jan. 1)

Fri. garbage and recycling will pick up Thurs., Dec. 31.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY (Jan. 18)

Mon. garbage and recycling will pick up Tues., Jan. 19. ■



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Upcoming Events

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

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 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.

Brandon Styles 1-Man Variety Show

Comedy, Magic, Impressions! The Brandon Styles LIVE at OWA is a classy show that has something for the whole family! For dates and times, VisitOWA.com.

Nov. 13–Dec. 23 53rd Annual Trim-a-Tree Marketplace

A dazzling display of unique Christmas ornaments, decorations and gifts, all created by local artists and members. Presented by the Foley Art Center. Located in Suite 182 of Tanger Outlets. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Sundays 11 a.m.–6 p.m. 251-943-4381.

Nov. 20–Jan. 3 Legends in Concert:

A Merry Country Christmas

Holiday performances include tributes to Shania Twain, Martina McBride, Garth

Brooks, Reba McEntire, and Elvis Presley! For dates and times; VisitOWA.com.

Dec. 4 Christmas in the Park

6–8 p.m. Stroll through the park and enjoy the lights, Christmas Tree Lane and Christmas village for a socially distanced holiday celebration in Heritage Park. VisitFoley.com.

Dec. 4 Mobile Symphony Youth Orchestra Presentation

7 p.m. This year's virtual presentation will be broadcast by WHEP Radio 1310 AM/92.5 FM, Riviera Cable Channel 7 and www.whep.com. There will be three performances: woodwinds, brass and strings.

Dec. 10 Foley High School Band Livestream Concert

7:00 p.m. A Christmas Concert livestream on Foley High School's Facebook page.

Dec. 11 Stoked Comedy Hypnosis Show

Join legendary hypnotist Terry Stokes for 60 minutes of hilarious antics and unbelievable hypnotism. Tickets at reservations.waverez.com/brandonstyles. Downtown OWA.

Dec. 19 Arts at the Market

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

Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Celebration

8:00 p.m. Celebrate New Year's at OWA with a spectacular fireworks show.

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

Foley residents who are interested in serving on city boards are encouraged to send a brief bio and resume to Katy Taylor, city clerk, at ktaylor@cityoffoley.org. ■



The Welcome Center gift shop is the perfect place to get Foley merchandise such as T-shirts, hats, ornaments, phone pockets and other cool Foley stuff.

Centennial Plaza bricks also make great holiday gifts! Each brick includes a certificate that can be presented as a gift.

The Welcome Center is open Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. ■