

Foley Newsletter



MAYOR

Ralph G. Hellmich

COUNCIL

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Council President
District 1

Vera J. Quaites
District 2

Richard Dayton
District 3

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District 4

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District 5

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ADMINISTRATOR

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Well, fellow Foley citizens, we have turned the corner into 2021. With all the challenges of 2020, a new year is most welcome. I would like to compliment everyone on how we, as a city, persevered during the global pandemic, hurricanes and even the elections of 2020. We send our thoughts and prayers to those who've lost family and friends in this pandemic. I encourage everyone to get vaccinated when there is an opportunity, because from my and my wife, Jo's, experience, having COVID-19 is nothing to take a chance on.



**Mayor's
Notes**

Although cleanup from Hurricane Sally continues, the city debris contractor has completed their task. Overall, we collected almost 900,000 cubic yards of debris and construction material. Hurricane Sally costs exceeded \$11 million for our city. The Public Works Department will continue with storm-related work until everything within the city limits is back to normal. I ask for your patience, as the city, like other businesses, also has COVID-19-related issues. Also, everyday priorities such as garbage collection take precedent over debris pickup. We will get it all collected. Our goal is to return to normal by spring.

Please remember Arbor Day. For the 40th consecutive year, Foley has been named a Tree City. This year, it highlights the need to begin replacing those fallen trees. It was estimated that the city lost almost 50 percent of the tree canopy. One of the ways that you can help with restoration efforts to keep our city beautiful is to replant trees or help a neighbor clean up storm debris.

On a good note, the city has recently been awarded almost \$6 million for projects that include upgrading the Highway 59/County Road 12 intersection, purchasing fuel-efficient city vehicles and securing additional land to extend the Graham Creek Nature Preserve. These and other small grants are an important aid in keeping residents' tax burden low while leveraging city resources to keep up with growth. Thank you to the many city

employees who work on securing these grants. The grants provide new amenities and assets that otherwise would not be possible.

The city council and I routinely hear this compliment from visitors: Our area is very friendly and considerate. This is one of our community's biggest strengths. And it's you, the citizens. You are the ones who greet guests with a friendly smile and go out of your way to be helpful. Let's keep that going every day!

We welcome long-time Foley businesses Warren Averett and Amedisys into the downtown area, as well as SunCoast Blinds & Shutters and Soul Bowlz. I am very excited about this coming year. Tourism continues to be strong in our area and I think we will see a very active summer. I encourage everyone to support our local businesses. They are the lifeblood of our community.

Mayor Ralph G. Hellmich

Wolf Creek headwaters restoration

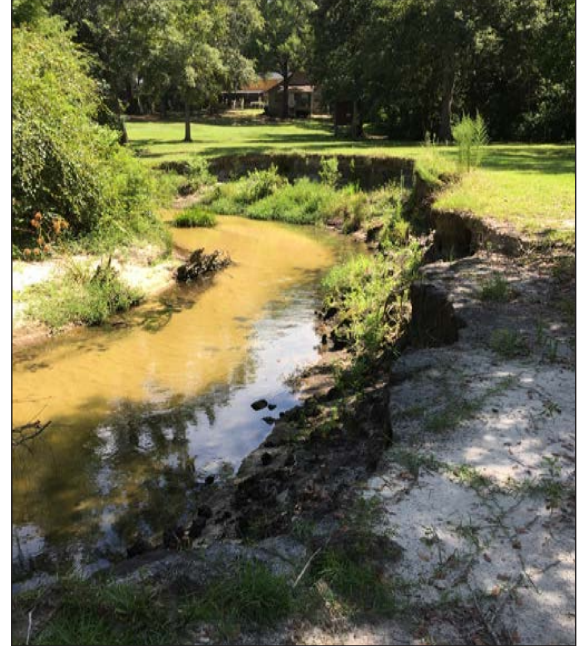
The Wolf Bay Watershed Management Plan identified a major implementation project in restoring the Wolf Creek headwaters. Phase I of the project is to design the restoration project and gain easements for the work. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has selected this phase of the project for funding.

The major goal is to measurably improve water quality by reducing significant nonpoint sources of degradation by stormwater, habitat and stream restoration, and floodplain enhancement. These projects will improve the overall health of the watershed. The unnamed tributary on the west side of Wolf Creek will include a stream and habitat restoration considered project number 1. This project will include sediment removal, invasive removal and native plantings for the uptake of nutrients with 36 acres of restored wetlands.

A stream restoration project (project

number 2) will be located off of Hilltop Drive on Wolf Creek. The area has massive erosion of the stream channel, so the project will include bank stabilization measures. The quantifiable objectives will be restoration of 700 linear feet of stream, restored wetland acreage, sediment removal and nutrient removal.

The floodplain enhancement and constructed wetland project (project number 3) will mitigate for stream degradation by providing an accessible floodplain during storm events. The constructed wetland will naturally treat the storm flows for pollutants including sediment and nutrients. This project will be north of Doc McDuffie Road. ■



Graham Creek playground upgrades

A multitude of studies show that playing outside is vital to childhood wellness and development. Sadly, this generation of children spends less time playing outdoors than any previous generation. On the other hand, Graham Creek has experienced an increase in park visitors—both young and young at heart—this past year. The playgrounds at Graham Creek Nature Preserve offer a variety of activities promoting exploration, creativity, nature observation, discovery and imaginative play.

Friends of Graham Creek Nature Preserve is a nonprofit group that is

dedicated to education and preservation of Graham Creek Nature Preserve. They have donated materials and equipment for the playgrounds for a number of years. Most recently, they have contributed a mud kitchen, flower-shaped rain wheels, a terrain cave for toy cars and an educational weather station. They are in the process of purchasing a flower-shaped climber as well that we should receive next year. Plans are on the book for enhancing the playgrounds with new nature-themed amenities and the removal of older, deteriorating structures. Although the employees of the park are adept at using what we have and fixing what's broken, imagination and ingenuity only go so far. The nature park's staff is looking into grant opportunities to help find money for these projects.

To make a donation to the park, please visit the Get Involved page of the Friends of Graham Creek Nature Preserve website at https://friendsofgrahamcre.wixsite.com/preserve/get_involved, or call the Graham Creek office at 251-923-4267. We are also always in need of sand toys, items for the play kitchen, play musical instruments and toy cars. Bring these items to the Interpretive Center during business hours for help "recycling" them. ■



www.CityofFoley.org
www.VisitFoley.com

Check us out online:

www.CoastalAlabamaMarket.com
www.FoleyLibrary.org

www.FoleyRecreation.com
www.GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Foley Police Department honors two employees



Officer Bryan Shiver is selected as the department's Police Officer of the Year 2020 for his exceptional work and performance as Assistant Training Coordinator and Chief Firearms Instructor. James Smith is selected as the department's Public Servant Employee of the Year 2020 for his continued dedication and exceptional service to the Foley Police Department. Thank you Officer Bryan Shiver and James Smith for an outstanding job. ■

Foley Hosts 40th Annual Arbor Day Celebration

Foley's Revitalization and Beautification Advisory Board invites the community to the city's 40th Annual Celebration of Arbor Day. The event will be held at the Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market, located at 20733 Mifflin Road, at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27.

Foley, recognized for 40 years as a Tree City, proudly promotes the planting of trees. Trees reduce erosion, cut heating and cooling costs, produce oxygen, provide habitat for wildlife and add beauty to our environment. Representatives from the Alabama Forestry Commission, Baldwin County Master Gardeners and Certified Arborists will be on hand to answer any questions about trees.

Live oak trees will be dedicated and planted in memory of three special people who loved Foley and made our city a better place because of the time they spent here. Dedications will be made in memory of Mrs. Bebe Foster, Dr. Marvin "Buddy" Taylor and Mr. Terry Underwood. ■

Foley Library announcements

The Foley Public Library has tax forms available for pickup. Although availability is limited, this includes the Alabama 40NR and the 40, the IRS 1040 and 1040SR, and the instructions for both forms. Other forms, if needed, can be printed at the upstairs computer lab for a fee. The lab is also available for patrons to complete online forms. Library staff can assist with the use of the computer but cannot provide advice or assistance completing tax forms. For more information, please call 943-7665 and ask for the computer lab.

The Friends of the Foley Library Bookstore now offers a half-price sale each Thursday. The bookstore is open during the regular operating hours of the library. ■

CARES Act funding upgrades equipment

F.V.I.

The Foley Fire Department used CARES Act funding to purchase five LUCAS CPR compression devices and 12 new LifePak Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). The purchase modernized the department's life-saving equipment and provides firefighters more automated equipment for responding to victims in cardiac arrest. The total cost for this equipment was about \$133,000. The new automated equipment allows firefighters the ability to perform CPR with more consistency and less manpower in hopes of providing better patient outcomes. ■



Permits required for burning

As many residents are still dealing with the impacts of Hurricane Sally and large amounts of vegetative debris, we remind everyone that open burning of debris in the City of Foley is prohibited without a permit. There are a number of requirements for eligibility of a burn permit. Residents should call 251-943-1266 for assistance prior to burning.

Space heater usage is high during the winter months. Please be sure to use them safely. ■

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FY 2020/21 October–December 2020

- 207 Single-family Permits—\$38,157,312 valuation
- 12 Multi-family Permits (52 Units)—\$5,097,560 valuation
- 1 New Commercial Permits—\$190,000 valuation
- 51 Commercial Additions/Remodels Permits—\$5,263,119 valuation
- 1,882 Additional Permits—\$59,448,419 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. ■



407 E. Laurel Ave.
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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.

Brandon Styles 1-Man Variety Show

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

Legends in Concert: Celebrate Vegas

Acts include Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Cher and Lady Gaga! For dates and times: VisitOWA.com.

Feb. 27 40th Annual Arbor Day Celebration

1 p.m. A tree dedication ceremony and celebration of Foley's 40 years as a Tree City. An assortment of trees will be handed out at the event. Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market.

March 13 BBQ & Blues Cook-Off

11 a.m.–5 p.m. Enjoy live blues music, arts and crafts, and children's activities, and of course the delicious, finger-licking, grilled concoctions from competing BBQ teams! Heritage Park. Tickets: FoleyBBQandBlues.net.

March 13 Rainbow Run

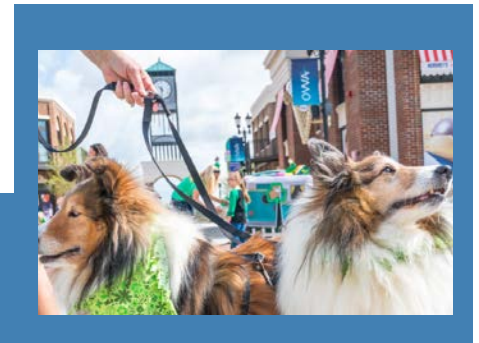
8 a.m.–3 p.m. Jog, walk or sprint through OWA as neon powder fills the air, turning you into a bright and colorful runner in the streets! Register at Visitowa.com/event/rainbowrun. Downtown OWA.

March 13 4th Annual St. Pawty's Celebration

3 p.m. A family-friendly, FREE event featuring music, a pet parade, doggie adoptions and a costume contest! Downtown OWA

March 20 Gulf Coast Regional Mustang & Mega Car Show

8 a.m. Join us for a day-long adventure as we journey through different types of vehicles, from classic mustangs to mega cars. Downtown OWA.



March 21 University of Mobile RamCorps

10–11 a.m. RamCorps is a Christ-centered, 35-member, high-impact, visual brass and percussion ensemble from the University of Mobile. Heritage Park.

March 27 Elberta Sausage Festival

8 a.m.–5 p.m. Join us for Elberta's famous "One With, Two Without" German sausage & sauerkraut, plus continuous entertainment for adults and children, and more than 200 arts & crafts booths.

May 6–9 Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival

A family-friendly event with tethered balloon rides, balloon glows, balloons in flight, artisan and food vendors, live music and more! Downtown OWA.

May 8–9 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.

