

# Foley Newsletter

## MAYOR

Ralph G. Hellmich

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## CITY

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I hope everyone had a happy holiday season. We are coming up on spring, one of our most beautiful seasons. The vendors at the Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market continue to offer an impressive selection of locally grown vegetables, delicious baked goods and seafood. If you have not spent a part of your Saturday checking it out lately, it's worth the trip.

The Foley city council recently enacted an impact fee on new development. This fee is already beginning to provide funds that will be used to expand our city parks. Thank you to those of you who completed the online survey for what you would like to see in Foley's parks. This will be considered in future planning. I would like to give a big shout out to Gary Deisner, city parks director, who is retiring after 30 years of service. Gary has lent his passion to not only keeping our city parks in excellent condition, but overseeing hundreds of events staged in them. He has represented our city well and deserves a big thank you from all of us.

Foley's city council annually sets aside funding to maintain our roads. This year the council almost doubled the amount normally allocated. Our fall paving project has been completed and the spring project will soon begin. We have also completed two critical drainage projects, one in Beulah Heights and another in the Ashford Park area. Work will continue in those areas and across the city before our spring rainy season.

Several street projects—including the Juniper Street extension, County Road 12/59 intersection, turn lanes at County Road 12/James Road and the S. Pecan Street extension—have either started or will begin shortly. We have



## Mayor's Notes

quite a few intersection improvements around town in the design stage. The city is also working with the county and ALDOT (state) on joint projects around Foley.

In other news, a project for new bathrooms at Mel Roberts Park has been approved and the contractor accepted. Several new businesses are coming to Foley. Aldi Grocery is under construction. The new Taco Bell has opened. Mugshots Grill and Bar announced plans to build a restaurant on Hwy. 59. Fairfield Inn has announced plans to build near County Road 20, South.

Growth is a big issue with citizens. The question of placing a moratorium on development has been raised. Instead, Foley has addressed this question over the past several years by progressively adapting building regulations and requirements to mitigate the issue. We have worked on many infrastructure projects that address transportation, parks and services to prevent growth that would cause our quality of life to suffer. For example, the planning commission recently lowered development density in several zones. We will continue to modify regulations as needed in order to manage our growth. Alabama protects property rights, so we strive to ensure city regulations work to protect those rights, yet are beneficial for the city.

May your year continue to be a good one! See you in a couple of months.

Mayor Ralph G. Hellmich

# Foley reduces police jurisdiction and planning authority outside its municipal boundaries

A new jurisdiction reduction from three miles outside the city limits to 1.5 miles took effect in Foley on Jan. 1. This was in response to Act 2021-297, passed in the Alabama Legislature's 2021 session. It placed limits on police jurisdictions and established regulations for how far a city can apply its planning jurisdiction to enforce subdivision regulations.

These jurisdiction changes affect fire service, tax revenues and community planning for Foley. Although the term police jurisdiction is used, it actually refers to police service, fire service and tax revenues. In 2007, Foley established that its police service would primarily cover the city limits, so the reduction does not affect police service.

Foley Fire Chief Joey Darby explains the change in terms of fire services. "What that means is all that area from a mile and a half to three miles that was our primary is no longer our primary. We've worked with the 911 center and the volunteer agencies that were already in most cases providing assistance to us to now pick that up as their primary. The big difference when you switch from primary response is that we send all the assets that we can to make sure the problem is solved to an assist area."

Now, neighboring departments will request assistance from Foley as needed in areas that were formerly within Foley's jurisdiction. Residents living in those areas will continue to see Foley trucks and vehicles in their area if an emergency arises.

"I think it's important to note that our mayor and council are adamant that we are going to continue to be good neighbors and support those neighbors when we can," Darby said, "but we've already seen just in the last few days some cases where we would have normally gone on a call that we did not go to."

How the rollback affects insurance ratings and rates in the areas no longer in the jurisdiction is still unknown.

The bill also requires that cities audit the amount of revenue collected within the police jurisdiction and how much the city spends on services within the area. Cities are allowed to collect taxes in the police jurisdiction at half the rate charged in the corporate limits, which means in Foley that tax in the police jurisdiction is collected at 1.5 percent on sales and 3.5 percent on lodging.

The city estimates that in fiscal year 2019–20 a little more than \$1 million was

collected. However, the city spent about \$1.7 million, divided between fire services at \$1.1 million, recreation programs at \$535,000 and senior programs at nearly \$66,000. The city estimates that with the shrinkage of the jurisdiction, the revenue is expected to drop by \$250,000.

Community Development Director Miriam Boone said the city provides subdivision planning services within this jurisdiction. Property owners in the 1.5-mile area will continue to apply to the Foley Planning Commission to subdivide property. Those plans are reviewed by planning, engineering, environmental and fire departments to make sure they are in compliance with the subdivision, construction and also environmental regulations in the city's codes.

"Our services are not changing, only the geographic area," according to Boone. "We will continue to provide customer service and assistance to applicants in our new planning jurisdiction. A purpose of the planning jurisdiction is to assure that properties adjacent to corporate limits are built to a high standard. Over time, many property owners wish to annex into the city so having these records helps expedite the annexation and zoning process." ■



## Updates from Foley's Leisure Services

Foley's Leisure Services Division welcomed the new director, Jeff Lee, in January. Lee is no stranger to the department. He worked as an athletic coordinator in Foley during 2007–2011. He has spent the last ten years as the league sports coordinator for the City of Auburn. Lee will oversee the Parks and Recreation Department.

The council has approved the construction of a new restroom facility near the tennis courts at Mel Roberts Park. The project is slated to be completed in summer of 2022.

Foley Sports Tourism recently earned a number of accolades. *Sports Destinations*

*Magazine* recognized two FST events as Champions of Economic Impact. The Bounders Beach Bash gymnastics meet and the Coastal Academy Cup soccer tournament brought in significant revenue to help the city recover from COVID-19 impacts. Also, FST won a SportsEvents Media Group Readers' Choice Award in the All-Star Multi-Purpose Sports Venue category.

Visited Graham Creek lately? The outdoor classroom has added an osprey nest and spider web climbing amenities. Baldwin EMC crews volunteered with the new construction. Upgrades should be completed in March. ■

## Impact fees fund city services

In July 2021, the city council adopted an ordinance creating impact fees for new development. The impact fees will help mitigate growth by providing funding to offset some of the direct effects of growth in the city. The funding created is specifically allocated for city parks and recreation additions and roadway infrastructure enhancements. The fees are limited to a maximum of one percent of the value of the land/structure of the new development.

Impact fees on a single-family residence average almost \$3,000. For an apartment, per unit, the fee is \$1,718. Impact fees for industrial commercial and office are based on size and average about \$.30 per square foot. Hotels pay \$231 per room and assisted living is \$70 per bed. ■



# Joseph Bottoms, 2021 Officer of the Year



Joseph Bottoms is known for leading by example, with professionalism in demeanor, professional conduct and work ethic. He led in 2021 for the total number of incidents worked and arrests made. Officer Bottoms once investigated a suspicious vehicle and found a mother and son in the cold with a disabled vehicle and down on their luck. He purchased gas out of his own pocket to help them. He is a great example of Foley's Finest. ■

# Shelby Pickern, Public Servant Employee of the Year

Shelby Pickern fulfills her duties with a positive attitude and a smile, maintaining professionalism and a calm demeanor under pressure. Shelby is known for her helpful nature and for assisting neighboring agencies. Her ability to utilize technology to locate information is critical to officers who are working a scene. She is described by her peers as always being on top of her game. She was recently promoted to shift leader. ■



## Foley Fire Department Receives Grant from Foley Ascend for Weather Alert Radios

The Foley Fire Department recently received a \$5,000 grant from Ascend Performance Materials in Foley to assist with providing weather alert radios for at-risk citizens in the Foley community. These funds were made available through the Ascend Cares Foundation as part of their community outreach program. We appreciate the community partnership that we have with Ascend, and we look forward to distributing these devices.

## Winter Fire Prevention Message

As many residents are still cleaning up debris from Hurricane Sally along with normal winter yard maintenance, we want to remind everyone that open burning of debris in the city is prohibited without a permit. There are a number of requirements to meet eligibility for a burn permit, and residents should contact our office for assistance (251-943-1266) prior to burning. We also remind residents to practice fire safety with heating equipment, especially space heaters. Practice fire safety every day and #TurnYourAttentionToFirePrevention. ■

## RECYCLING REMINDERS

### Clean = Green

Don't forget that your recyclables must be CLEAN and free of any food contamination in order to be accepted at the recycling center. A single cart contaminated with food garbage could cause an entire truckload of recyclables to be rejected. ■

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

October 2021–December 2021

- 108 Single Family Permits  
—\$21,855,738 valuation
- 18 Duplex/Multi-family Permits (92 Units)  
—\$16,444,623 valuation
- 2 New Commercial Permits (South Oak Apt. Office & Maintenance)  
—\$605,540 valuation
- 11 Commercial Addition/Remodel Permits  
—\$18,398,588 valuation
- 804 Total Permits  
—\$68,835,517 valuation

The complete annual report 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). We welcome your comments and questions at 251-952-4011. ■

# Farmers and Fishermens Market nominated in USA Today

The Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market has earned numerous accolades already this year. The market won three of the *Gulf Coast News Today* 2022 Best of Baldwin Awards. They earned top honors in the Best Farmers Market, Best Local Industries, and Best Event Venue categories.

CAFFM has also received national attention by being nominated to the *USA Today* 10Best 2022 Readers' Choice Award for Best Farmers Market. Residents can help them reach the top spot by visiting the CAFFM Facebook page, scroll to the 10Best voting link, and cast their vote every day through Monday, February 28.

The staff and vendors at CAFFM would like to thank the community for their continued support, not only in helping them win these awards, but for shopping the market year round. ■



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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

### Foley Public Library

New hours: Mon.–Thurs. 9 a.m.–7 p.m.,  
Fri.–Sat. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Monthly programs,  
Makersaurus Time, adult arts and crafts, family  
bingo night, lunch and learns, and other clubs.

### Downtown OWA

Live shows: Brandon Styles, magician/  
comedian and Legends in Concert.  
For info and times: VisitOWA.com

### 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.  
CoastalAlabamaMarket.com

### 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

### Foley Senior Center

Adults over 50 meet at the Foley Senior  
Center every 1st and 3rd Saturday evening  
with live entertainment for dancing. Doors  
open at 6:00, band begins at 6:30. \$7 per  
person. Bring refreshments of your choice.

### Feb. 26 Foley Mardi Gras Parade

11 a.m. Parade rolls through Downtown  
Foley. Parade map at VisitFoley.com.

### Feb. 26 41st Annual Arbor Day Celebration

1 p.m. A tree dedication ceremony and  
celebration of Foley's 41 years as a Tree  
City. One free tree per family. Coastal  
Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market.

### Feb. 27 OWA Mardi Gras Parade & Party

2–8 p.m. Free live concerts on OWA Island.  
Floats will roll at 6 p.m. in Downtown OWA.

### March 11 & 12 Bob & Jane's Comedy in Motion

Fri. 7 p.m. and Sat. 2 p.m. Juggling,  
unicycling and comedic stunts. Tickets at  
VisitOWA.com. Downtown OWA.

### March 12 BBQ & Blues Cook-Off

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

### March 16, 23, 30; April 6, 13 Midday Melodies

11 a.m.–2 p.m. Bring your lunch and come  
listen to live music in Heritage Park.

### March 17 Luck of the Irish

3:30 p.m. Cultural awareness program. Foley  
Public Library.

### March 22 Cold Cases Solved by Investigative Genealogy

2 p.m. Presented by Olivia McCarter, USA  
student, investigative genetic genealogist.  
Reservation required. Foley Public Library.

### March 26 Elberta Sausage Festival

8 a.m.–5 p.m. Join us for Elberta's famous  
German sausage and sauerkraut, plus music  
and over 200 arts and crafts booths.

### March 27 Baldwin Pops

5 p.m. Gazebo in Heritage Park. Civic  
Center if bad weather.

### April Saturdays Downtown Foley Walking Tours

10 a.m. Enjoy a free guided tour of  
downtown Foley each Saturday in April.  
Wear comfortable walking shoes and join us  
for a one-hour tour that highlights Foley's  
historic buildings. Foley Welcome Center.

### April 1 Gulf Coast Comedy Fest—Mutzie & Friends

7 p.m. A clean comedy night featuring  
award-winning comic Mutzie. Reserve your  
tickets at VisitOWA.com. Downtown OWA.

### April 2 Forward City Con

9 a.m.–4 p.m. Join us for local vendors,  
artists, a cosplay contest, games from  
the main stage, prize drawings, panel  
discussions, anime viewing and more. Foley  
Civic Center.

### April 2 Mudbugs & Margarita's Festival

10 a.m.–7 p.m. Enjoy unique, tasty crawfish  
dishes, margaritas, live music and more.  
Tickets at the gate. Heritage Park.

### April 8, 22, 29 Music and a Movie Heritage Park Marketplace

Details at VisitFoley.com or call 251-943-1200.

### April 19 Shred It Day

3–5 p.m. Behind City Hall. VisitFoley.com

### May 7–8 Art in the Park

More than 100 artists with hand-crafted art  
and gift items. John B. Foley Park.

### May 12–15 Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival

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