

Foley Newsletter

MAYOR

Ralph G. Hellmich

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Hello, all. I hope your summer is going well. It has been a hot one, but living in South Baldwin, it is what we expect during the summer. We have seen nearby cities experience shortages in utility services, but I want to reassure our citizens that Foley is in great shape. Riviera Utilities provides electrical services as an independent public power entity. Riviera is extremely progressive about investing in the future, so when a weather extreme like a heat wave occurs, they are well positioned to handle it. We are blessed with an abundance of natural water resources. I still encourage everyone to be good stewards and help conserve it.

OWA opened their indoor Tropic Falls Water Park and it is a great success. Phase II, opening in late summer, will be even better. This will include the outdoor water park area with a wave pool.

Several projects are in the works around Foley. One project has two parts: upgrading the fountain area in Heritage Park, including a new fountain pool and pavers, and also extending the southern part of the Wilbourne Rose Trail to Hwy. 98 near the post office. Another planned project is constructing a new pocket park at the northwest intersection of Pine Street and Hwy. 98. These projects are under contract and should be completed before Christmas. Bathrooms for Mel Roberts Park are nearing completion. Upgrades for other city parks are in the planning stages.



Mayor's Notes

Several road projects are also underway. These include the Juniper Street extension, widening of turn lanes near James Road, the Lynndale Court paving project, and additional city-wide repaving maintenance projects. The North Pecan Street extension has been approved and numerous street improvements are in the design process.

Kudos to Leslie Gahagan for receiving the statewide Water Conservationist of the Year Award from the Wildlife Federation of Alabama. It is a prestigious award that recognizes the work she does as Foley's environmental and nature parks director that establishes Foley as a leader in water stewardship. She has led our city's efforts over the past several years to protect water resources and manage storm water, and help others to do the same.

Congratulations to GlenLakes Golf Club for being recognized by GolfDay Destination Travel as one of the top public golf courses in the state of Alabama.

Although we are past the 4th of July visitor peak, there are still many guests in our area. Please drive carefully. I routinely receive compliments from our visitors for the way residents are so polite and considerate. In Foley, it's a way of life. I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer!

Mayor Ralph G. Hellmich

Foley Main Street living up to the vision

Now officially in its fourth year, Foley Main Street is reaching its stride. Since its inception in June 2018, Foley Main Street has recorded 38 net new businesses, over \$1 million in public dollars invested, \$6.3 million in private dollars invested and almost 3,000 volunteer hours spent to advance economic vitality and quality of life in Foley's Historic Downtown.

Under the leadership of the Foley Main Street board of directors headed by President

Chad Watkins and Executive Director Darrelyn Dunmore, there is a robust list of projects in the works at all times. In addition to promoting and supporting downtown businesses, Foley Main Street helps promote a façade grant program managed by the city to help downtown business owners spruce up their buildings. The organization also helped secure the first Historic Tax Credits for a downtown historic building.

Workshops instigated by FMS have

culminated in the completion of the Envision Downtown Foley plan that will help guide business owners and the city in planning the future of our downtown. New projects expected include wayfinding signs for pedestrians to help visitors find their way, working with the city on a new pocket park on Pine Street, more murals for the downtown area and a lighted alley project.

To volunteer with Foley Main Street, contact foleymainstreet@gmail.com. ■

City implements HOA Presidents Leadership Group

City officials have begun hosting quarterly leadership meetings to provide resources for presidents and vice presidents who lead Homeowner Association boards in subdivisions across the city. Planned programs will provide stimulating and educational presentations by city officials and other invited guest speakers.

"We strive to keep these meetings very interesting, helpful and short, no longer than one and a half hours," states Public Safety Director David Wilson.

The first meeting featured a question and answer session with Mayor Ralph Hellmich. ■

Foley Police Department: Citizens Police Academy 2022

A free 12-week program providing Foley citizens with an inside look at law enforcement. Weekly 3-hour classes run Aug. 8–Nov. 7, 2022. For info/reservations, call 251-424-0087. ■

New addition to Graham Creek



The Graham Creek Nature Preserve Ag Building, designed to provide agricultural amenities for the park, is under construction. The building will feature an enclosed walk-in cooler for the hydroponics department, a covered porch, storage space, bathrooms, offices and an outside kitchen. ■

Library launches after-school programs

The Foley Public Library will offer two new after-school programs starting in September 2022. Each program is age specific and will require a reservation to attend.

On the third Tuesday of each month, the library will host Wizarding School. This is for ages 11-18 years, just like Hogwarts. Various projects, games and/or crafts from the world of Harry Potter will be the focus of each month's class.

The first class is scheduled for 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20. Classes should end by 5:30 p.m. If you are a fan of Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts, this may be the class for you!

On the last Thursday of each month,

the library will be hosting Build It! This is a Lego challenge club where a specific project will be given each month for attendees to build. Bring your own Legos (or similar building blocks) or use the library's collection.

The first Build It! session is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 29, at 4 p.m. in the children's area downstairs. This club is for ages 6-16 years. Parents/guardians are asked to attend with children 12 and under.

Reservations for these programs can be made online at www.foleylibrary.org approximately one month prior to the



session. For further info on these or other programs, please check our website or Facebook page, or call 251-943-1031. ■

Leslie Gahagan receives state conservation award



Congratulations to Leslie Gahagan, Environmental and Nature Parks Director for the city, who recently received the Water Conservationist of the Year award from the Alabama Wildlife Federation.

Gahagan is described as a leader and changemaker in Baldwin County. “Leslie is well known across our county and now recognized at the state level for her efforts in water conservation for our area and across the state,” said Mayor Ralph Hellmich.

Through her leadership, Foley has embraced watershed management. Her work has led to water quality improvements

and protection of Foley’s outstanding natural resources. Gahagan is active in the Wolf Bay Watershed Watch and also the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program. She also serves on the Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee.

Gahagan has successfully written numerous grants, including one from the Alabama Department of Natural Resources State Lands division for Wolf Creek Park kayak and fishing access, from GOMESA for acquisitions to expand Graham Creek Nature Preserve, from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for land acquisition along Bon Secour River to treat urban runoff, and from the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program to install a litter trap along the Bon Secour River. ■

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

October 2021–June 2022

- 423 Single-family Permits
—\$93,173,106 Valuation
- 23 Duplex/Multi-family Permits (98 Units)
—\$17,495,623 Valuation
- 16 New Commercial Permits
—\$7,080,526 Valuation
- 43 Commercial Addition/Remodel Permits
—\$39,969,874 Valuation
- 2,979 Total Permits
—\$187,691,341 Valuation

Visit cityoffoley.org/Community-Development or call 251-952-4011 for more information. ■

ADEM Burn Ban

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

Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

The Foley Fire Department reminds you to make sure your smoke alarms are operational. This means testing smoke alarms monthly and replacing batteries twice a year or when a low-battery alarm chirps. Smoke alarms over 10 years old should be replaced. Reminder: A smoke alarm disabled because of nuisance alarms provides no protection at all.

Storm Preparedness and Safety

As we are now in another potentially active hurricane season, the Foley Fire Department reminds you to stay alert and prepared for storm events. Please download a reliable weather app for your mobile devices or purchase a weather radio with local alerts.

After Hurricane Sally, many more residents purchased portable generators to use at home during extended power outages. We remind you to only use these devices in well-ventilated outdoor areas, never inside the home or closed garage. Also, working carbon monoxide detectors are important when running generator engines for extended periods of time near the home, especially during overnight hours. If you are purchasing a new portable generator, look for current models that have an automatic shutoff carbon monoxide sensor.

Contact our office at 251-943-1266 for more information on these items, and turn your attention to fire prevention! ■

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. ■



407 E. Laurel Ave.
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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: 9 a.m.–7 p.m. Mon.–Thurs.; 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Fri.–Sat. 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

Aug. 4–6 Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation Annual Rodeo

Gates open at 5:30 p.m.

Aug. 6 OWA Live

Free live music on the OWA Island.
VisitOWA.com

Sept. 3 5th Annual Labor Day Car Show

8 a.m.–4 p.m.
VisitOWA.com

Sept. 3 Labor Day Celebration Fireworks

8:50 p.m.
VisitOWA.com

Sept. 10, 17 & 24 Island Movie Night

Free, family-friendly series of movies.
VisitOWA.com

Oct. 1 Oktoberfest

Live music, dancing and entertainment.
VisitOWA.com

Oct. 5, 12 & 19 Midday Melodies

11 a.m.–2 p.m. in Heritage Park.
VisitFoley.com

Oct. 6–9 49th National Annual Shrimp Festival

10 a.m.–10 p.m., Gulf Shores Public Beach
MyShrimpFest.com

Oct. 7 Drive-In Movie: Hocus Pocus

6:30 p.m. Foley Sports Complex
1250 Cater Lee Way.
VisitFoley.com

Oct. 8, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29 Haunted Forest

7–10 p.m.
23030 Wolf Bay Dr., Foley
GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Oct. 20 Shred It Day

3–5 p.m., behind the Foley Civic Center.
VisitFoley.com

Oct. 21 Chicago Street Supper Club

6–10 p.m.
SouthBaldwinChamber.com

Oct. 22 Pumpkin Play Day

10 a.m.–12 p.m.
GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Oct. 29 Stan Mahoney Youth Fishing Tournament

Weigh-in at noon, Pirate's Cove Marina.
WolfBayWatershedWatch.org

Oct. 22 Halloween Extravaganza

4–6 p.m., Foley Public Library
FoleyLibrary.org

Oct. 27 Hometown Halloween

5:30–8 p.m., Downtown Foley
VisitFoley.com

Oct. 29 Foley Witches Ride

4–10 p.m., Downtown Foley
VisitFoley.com

Nov. 11–Dec. 23 Trim-A-Tree Opening Day

Tanger Outlet Mall, Suite TBA
Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–7 p.m.,
Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m.
Foleyartcenter.com or Facebook

Nov. 12 Chocolate and Cheese Festival

10 a.m.–7 p.m.
Heritage Park

Nov. 19 Harvest Festival

9 a.m.–2 p.m.
CoastalAlabamaMarket.com

Nov. 19 Creek Crawl

23460 Wolf Bay Dr., Foley
GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Nov. 19 Tree Lighting Ceremony

Enjoy a snowy, family-friendly event.
VisitOWA.com