

Foley Newsletter

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Ralph G. Hellmich

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District 1

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District 2

Richard Dayton
District 3

C. Rick Blackwell
District 4

Charlie J. Ebert III
President-protempore
District 5

**CITY
ADMINISTRATOR**
Michael L. Thompson

407 E. Laurel Ave.
P.O. Box 1750
Foley, AL 36536

(251) 943-1545
(251) 952-4014 - fax

www.cityoffoley.org



I hope that you are all enjoying the mild winter we are having this year. We welcome the winter guests who are spending time in our area.

We have a number of city projects underway in the historic downtown area. Last month the new Pine Street Park opened. I invite you to check it out. Located on the corner of W. Hwy. 98 and Pine Street, the park has a musical theme and includes a small amphitheater and five stationary musical instruments for children to enjoy. We appreciate the grant received from Alabama AARP, through Foley Main Street, that funded these instruments.

The John Foley Park fountain upgrade is proceeding on schedule and will be completed soon. As soon as it is completed, the contractor will begin work to connect the south section of the Wilbourne Rose Trail up to Hwy. 98. This area between the post office and the buildings that front Hwy. 59 will be transformed from concrete and pavement to a landscaped walking trail. We are also working on the restroom facility upgrade for Heritage Park. Those are just a few of the active projects in town.

We recently participated in the dedication of a new home for the Alabama National Guard. This "super armory" is located on the Foley Beach Express in our Industrial Park. Foley partnered with the Alabama National Guard to swap the old armory site next to our city complex for 41 acres at the new site. The Alabama National Guard constructed a 30,000-square-foot facility at a cost of about \$20 million. Foley has a proud history of partnering with the military to defend our country. This facility ensures that partnership will continue into the future.



Mayor's Notes

I want to congratulate five Foley police officers who recently completed, with awards, the intensive Staff and Leadership College. Sergeants Holcombe, Hudson, Nelson, Stallworth and Fennell graduated with honors in their quest to improve their leadership skills. Our city is proud of not only our Police Department but all of our first responders who take great pride serving our community.

I'm excited to report a new program offered at Foley High School. The ACT Boot Camp will help students prepare to take the ACT. Almost 130 students are participating. Go, Lions!

The list of dining options in Foley continues to grow. We welcome Chipotle, Jim 'N Nick's, 7 Brew and Captain D's.

Check out these upcoming events: Midday Melodies will start in March. Bring a lunch and a chair to enjoy music in Heritage Park. The annual Arbor Day celebration will be held Feb. 25 at the Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market. Mardi Gras is in full swing, so plan now to attend the Foley parades the weekend of Feb 18.

Our area continues to grow, although in December we saw a 60 percent drop in requests for all residential unit permits from this time last year. We continue to invest in our city to keep Foley moving forward!

Mayor Ralph G. Hellmich

National Guard opens new “super armory” in Foley

Foley is home to the newly opened Alabama National Guard’s state-of-the-art “super armory” called the Foley Readiness Center.

The new center will be used for domestic support operations and can also be used as a platform to stage troops and provide services in case of storms in the area, according to Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Sheryl E. Gordon.

Fourteen years in the making, several legislative bodies and organizations had a helping hand in making the new readiness center a reality.

The 30,540-square-foot facility is located on approximately 30 acres in Foley’s Industrial Park on the Foley Beach Express. It includes two buildings. One offers a 1,726-square-foot multi-purpose room for training events and disaster response, as well as a kitchen, administrative offices and classrooms. The second building includes maintenance bays, offices, storage and equipment.

The facility was built with state-of-



Foley’s mayor and council join Maj. Gen Sheryl E. Gordon, Adjutant General for the Alabama National Guard, in celebrating the opening of the new facility.

the-art geothermal wells for efficiently heating and cooling, which will reduce gas and power costs.

The armory is now the home of the Charlie Company of the 1-173rd Infantry Regiment. ■

Share your ideas for the new library

The City of Foley is preparing to build a new library/information center and wants your input. This new building will be home to the current library collection and computer lab. We are interested to learn if there are additional amenities you feel would benefit the community. While we can’t include everything, this information will not only help us in

planning this building, but future needs as well. Go to foleylibrary.org/new-library-survey or scan the QR code to the right, fill out the survey, and let us know.

The new library will be built in the block between W. Orange and W. Myrtle streets, east of the Foley Dog Park. ■



City employees receive training through city/community college partnership

Eight employees from the city’s street and sanitation department recently obtained Class B Commercial Driver’s Licenses thanks to a partnership between the city and Alabama’s Community College System. The employees were able to receive theory and hands-on instruction that enabled them to complete the requirements and get their licenses.

The city Human Resources Department

continues to work with Coastal Alabama Workforce to give more employees the opportunity to obtain a Class B CDL. The department is also working with Bishop State to provide employees with the opportunity to obtain a Class A CDL. These classes have afforded employees an opportunity for growth within the city. The city is proud of them for taking advantage of the program. ■



Pictured is Colin Ray, Equipment Operator with the Street Department.

Careful with cardboard boxes

City recycle trucks are now fully automated, so if the recycling does not easily slip out of the bin, it is not picked up. Cardboard boxes need to be broken down for pickup. If boxes are so large that they will not slip out of the recycle bin, they can be left outside the can (especially if this is a new resident with lots of boxes), and will be collected during a bulk pickup. Please space cardboard boxes three feet from the recycle can. Bulk pickup occurs once a week. Residents may call 251-943-8897 to find out the schedule for your neighborhood. Glass items are not collected in recycling. Thank you for recycling! ■



Foley Kids Park: pardon our progress

The Foley Kids Park upgrade is underway! Please pardon our progress as we construct the new and improved playground design voted on by more than 2,500 of Foley's most discerning young residents. Stay tuned to the City of Foley Parks and Recreation page on Facebook and foleyrecreation.com for updates and opening date. ■

Foley police officers complete Command and Staff Leadership College

Congratulations to Sgt. Robert Fennell, Sgt. Jarrett Holcombe, Sgt. Daniel Hudson, Sgt. Mitch Nelson, and Sgt. Randy Stallworth. All five successfully completed the Command and Staff Leadership College during the 18th session. Sgt. Hudson received the Presidential Award, Sgt. Holcombe received the Distinguished Writer Award, and Sgt. Stallworth was part of a three-man team that was awarded the Capstone Research Project Award. Thank you, officers, for your commitment to excellence. ■



Arbor Day event to honor Foley residents

Foley will celebrate its 42nd Annual Arbor Day on Feb. 25 at 1 p.m. at the Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market. Foley is recognized as a Tree City and proudly promotes the planting of trees. Trees not only add beauty, but also reduce erosion, cut heating and cooling costs, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife.

An assortment of trees in three-gallon containers will be distributed, one per family. The city also recognizes homeowners with trees that are over 100 years old with a Century Tree plaque. Two will be awarded this year. Live oak trees will be dedicated and planted in memory of three people who made the city a better place to live: Mrs. Frances Underwood Lager, Mr. Steve McMillan and Mr. Douglas "Frog" Blackwell. ■

Foley Fire Department Purchases Training Prop

The Foley Fire Department recently purchased an \$8,395 door training prop with assistance from several community donations received last year. The prop allows our firefighters to train on the proper techniques for breaching a variety of secured doors in order to gain access for emergency incidents. This valuable piece of equipment will improve our responses and firefighter safety. We greatly appreciate the support of our community in allowing for such a purchase.



Winter Fire Prevention Message

As many residents are working on winter yard maintenance, we want to remind everyone that open burning of debris in the City of Foley is prohibited without a permit. There are a number of requirements to meet eligibility for a burn permit, and residents should contact our office (251-943-1266) for assistance prior to burning. Outdoor fire pits for recreational use are allowed without a permit. As we are still in the winter months, we also remind residents to practice fire safety with heating equipment, especially space heaters. Practice fire safety every day and #TurnYourAttentiontoFirePrevention. ■

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

FY 2022/23 Annual Report (Oct. 2022–Dec. 2022)

- 81 Single-family Permits
\$19,671,923 Valuation
- 6 New Commercial Permits
\$2,600,000 Valuation
(Includes Circle K at CR 12 & Hwy. 59 and Texas Roadhouse south of Culver's)
- 16 Commercial Addition/Remodel Permits
\$3,629,298 Valuation
- 795 Total Permits
\$31,362,697 Valuation
- 3rd in the nation in FORTIFIED construction

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



407 E. Laurel Ave.
P.O. Box 1750
Foley, AL 36536

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 other special events.
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 Miflin Rd.
CoastalAlabamaMarket.com

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. 18 Foley Mardi Gras Parade

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

Feb. 19 OWA Mardi Gras Parade & Party

2 p.m. Live music and kids activities. Parade begins at 6 p.m.

Feb. 25 42nd Annual Arbor Day Celebration

1 p.m. A tree dedication ceremony and

celebration of Foley's 42 years as a Tree City. One free tree per family. Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market.

Feb. 25 Mardi Gras Art Market

9 a.m.–4 p.m. 20733 Miflin Road
Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market.

March 10 BBQ & Blues Kick-Off Concert

5–9 p.m. Food trucks, entertainment and a drawdown! Heritage Park. Tickets: FoleyBBQandBlues.net.

March 11 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 8, 15, 22 Midday Melodies

11 a.m.–2 p.m. Bring your lunch and come listen to live music in Heritage Park. Details at VisitFoley.com or call 251-943-1200.

March 25 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.

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 Graham Creek Easter Egg Hunt

10 a.m.–12 p.m. Graham Creek Nature Preserve will be hosting an Easter egg hunt. 23460 Wolf Bay Drive

April 1 Mudbugs & Margaritas Festival

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

April 1 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 21 & 28 Music and a Movie / Heritage Park Marketplace

Marketplace 4–7 p.m. Music 6 p.m. Movie at dusk. VisitFoley.com or call 251-943-1200.

April 18 Shred It Day

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

May 3–4 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.

May 13–14 Art in the Park

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