

Foley Newsletter

MAYOR

Ralph G. Hellmich

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council president
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Vera J. Quaites
District 2

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Michael L. Thompson

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Happy fall season to all here in Foley. It is finally nice weather after a very hot summer. We are moving full speed ahead here at the city. Let me tell you about some things we have going on.

I am appreciative of the support of the City Council in addressing our growing city's needs. The 2024 budget includes more than \$50 million in capital projects, plus \$22 million in carryovers from last year. These projects address quality of life, infrastructure, public safety and education. You will see these projects all around town.

Road construction on South Juniper and S. Pecan streets should be finished before December. Both of these have been challenging. We are still waiting on outside approval on the County Road 12/Hwy. 59 intersection improvements and the repaving of the Foley Beach Express. We will give plenty of notice to citizens when they begin. I ask for your patience with this progress.

I'm happy to report that our long-awaited pickleball project is off the ground. The adjacent road is nearly constructed and court construction will begin soon.

Construction on the new Public Works campus is underway. Plans for the new library are moving forward. We expect to see construction on that begin in the spring of 2024. Several city parks are getting upgrades that include new bathrooms and playground equipment. There are more details on capital projects inside this newsletter and on our city website.

Downtown is thriving. Our award-winning Main Street program is rolling out both mural and Cat Alley projects. The city fully supports our historic downtown and its businesses. This



Mayor's Notes

is the heart of the city. Let's please all remember to shop Downtown Foley!

We had a very successful visit from our friends from Hennef, Germany. They were impressed during their visits to Foley schools, celebrations, Collins/Ascend campus and surrounding areas. Thanks to everyone involved for their kind reception. Yet, as I tell folks, that's who we are every day.

You have certainly noticed all the new businesses opening up, and several new ones under construction. Every new business gives residents another choice. We work hard to support our existing businesses while welcoming new ones. I congratulate OWA for their latest expansion, the new Tropic Falls RV Park. It is adjacent to the Sports Tourism facilities and offers another accommodations option for visitors.

I'm often reminded that ours is a caring community. We understand that connecting with our neighbors—checking on each other and calling when you see that someone needs help—benefits us all. These are challenging times in our world. Let's continue to look out for each other.

The holidays are upon us! Let's enjoy the season and our families. Remember to shop local. And, go Lions!

Mayor Ralph G. Hellmich

Foley revenue continues growth

The new Foley budget reflects continued growth in revenue that city officials plan to use for more capital projects.

The Foley City Council voted to approve the new budget, which went into effect Oct. 1, at the start of the 2024 fiscal year.

The budget shows an increase in revenue over the last year. At the start of the 2023 budget, revenue for the next 12 months was estimated to be \$56.58 million. The final total a year later was \$64.83 million.

City Administrator Mike Thompson said that while city income grew more than expected, expenses stayed close to budgeted projections. The original 2023 budget estimate of expenses was \$43.16 million. That total was adjusted to \$45.34 million in the final 2023 budget.

City expenses are estimated to be \$43.56 million for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30.

Mayor Ralph Hellmich said the revenue will allow the city to continue to work to accommodate Foley's growth.

"The council and I have worked very diligently in the past two years to address growth," Hellmich said. "One way of doing that is to reinvest the monies that are coming in from a really great economy back into the infrastructure, the amenities and all of the things that we have to do to make Foley be successful."

In addition to capital improvements,

the city also plans to increase staffing, Thompson said.

"We're adding to our headcount," Thompson said. "We're a growing city so we have to keep up with our demand. We're going from about 376 employees to 405."

Thompson said that total could increase to 414 if the city's request for a grant to allow nine additional firefighters is approved.



Renovation work on Foley's former National Guard armory is one of the projects in the 2024 budget. New city offices are planned for part of the building. The budget includes adding at least 29 new employees to the city payroll in the upcoming year.

Approved 2024 Capital Improvements

- New facility for the Public Works Department - \$15 million
- New facility for the Foley Public Library - \$20 million
- Improvements on Foley Beach Express - \$10 million
- Safe room for first responders - \$5.5 million
- Expansion of Graham Creek Nature Preserve - \$5 million (federal grant)
- Restoration of Wolf Creek - \$2.5 million.
- Renovation of former National Guard Armory - \$2 million
- Improvements to Philomene Holmes Blvd. - \$1.5 million
- Intersection improvements at Baldwin County 12 and Alabama 59 - \$1.2 million
- New Mills Community park
- Pickleball courts
- New restrooms and playgrounds in several city parks ■

Foley expanding garbage collection services

The city of Foley is adding a fifth garbage collection route to expand services to meet the demands of the growing community population.

The Foley City Council voted Monday, Oct. 2, to approve the purchase of two new trucks at a combined cost of almost \$728,000.

Darrell Russell, public works director, said the trucks will be used to add another garbage collection route and to provide other services needed to meet the demands of a growing population.

"We're adding a fifth truck," Russell told council members. "We're growing and we're going to add a fifth route, four days a week. We need the truck. We've got the driver. Then we're going to add a

fourth front-load truck. My guys are working 12 or 14 hours a day. They're getting burned out. We're going to have to add another route."

The council voted to buy a Peterbilt FEL truck with a capacity of 40 cubic yards at a cost of \$352,877. The delivery date for the vehicle is 180 to 240 days.

The council also approved the purchase of a 31-cubic-yard Peterbilt ASL truck for \$375,069. The delivery date for that truck is 270 to 330 days.

The Foley Sanitation Department provides regularly scheduled curbside pickup of household garbage, recyclable materials, yard debris and bulk items. ■



The Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermen Market (CAFFM) celebrated its 10-year anniversary in October. The market was built with a grant from BP Oil in 2013 and has grown into a nationally recognized market, being named to USA Today's 10Best list twice. The CAFFM would like to thank its dedicated vendors and loyal patrons for helping them reach this milestone. ■

Foley reminding residents of recycling guidelines

Foley residents who take part in the city's curbside recycling program are getting reminders of what materials are acceptable if they put out items that do not fit the guidelines.

Residents are including increasing quantities of non-recyclable material in the bins specified for recyclable items, says Darrell Russell, Foley Public Works director.

If the level of contamination—non-recyclable material—in a truckload is more than 25%, the processing plant will increase the charges to the city.

The Foley Sanitation Department collects recyclable material once a week from homes. Crews will be leaving notices at homes if residents put non-recyclable items in bins.

The notices include a checklist that can show why the material left out could not be accepted.

The city accepts aluminum and steel cans, plastic containers or packing, paper and cardboard and cartons for curbside recycling. All plastic and metal containers should be emptied and rinsed before being placed in the bins.

Unacceptable items include food waste, foam containers or packing, glass, yard wastes and plastic bags. ■

Nation's police dog teams take part in Foley competition



Police K9 units from across the United States took part in national competition in Foley during the week of Sept. 26 through 29, with local teams winning several top awards.

More than 100 police dogs and their handlers took part in the 2023 United States Police Canine Association PD1 K9 Nationals. Competition sites in Foley included the Foley Sports Tourism fields and stadium and the Graham Creek Nature Preserve.

Foley Police Sergeant Carlos Lizarraga took first place awards for apprehension work and suspect search and third place overall. He was also part of a four-man region team that received a first-place award. Lizarraga also won the Captain Tom Larsen award for the highest combined article and suspect search. ■

Want to stay up to date with Foley, Alabama news? Sign up for monthly e-newsletters.

You can also follow us on Facebook (City of Foley Municipal Government) and Instagram (@cityoffoley).



Fall/Winter Fire Safety

As we are in the fall season and the holidays are near, the Foley Fire Department reminds you to practice fire safety in all of your fall and winter activities. This includes proper use and display of decorations, heating equipment/fireplace safety, and cooking safety. We also remind you to install and keep working smoke alarms in your homes, and to replace those batteries when needed. Smoke alarms have a rated life of 10 years, so replace older alarms for the best protection. This year's NFPA fire prevention campaign has focused on cooking safety. We encourage you to visit the NFPA website at <https://www.nfpa.org/Events/Events/Fire-Prevention-Week/About> to learn more about these fire safety tips.

Open Burning

As of Nov. 1, the annual ADEM ban on open burning has expired. HOWEVER, a burn permit from the Foley Fire Department is required by City ordinance for any open burning of debris within the Foley City limits. Several conditions must be met in order to obtain a permit: The debris must be vegetative or untreated wood, and the location of the fire must be at least 500 feet from any structure or public road. The use of portable or fixed outdoor fireplaces is allowed without a permit, provided that they are at least 15 feet away from a structure. For areas outside of the Foley City limits, a local permit is not required for open burning, but notifications should be made to our office (251-943-1266) and/or Baldwin County 911 (251-947-4911). The same criteria for debris and distances apply per Alabama Department of Environmental Management regulations in these areas. Contact our office at 251-943-1266 for more information on these items, and turn your attention to fire prevention! ■

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FY 2022/23 Annual Report (Oct. 2022–Sept. 2023)

- 428 Single-family Permits
\$112,962,357 Valuation
- 25 Duplex Permits (50 units)
\$7,943,228 Valuation
- 32 Multi-family Permits (414 units)
\$58,517,229 Valuation
- 29 New Commercial Permits
\$36,165,841 Valuation
(Includes Freddy's, Mugshots, CEFCO, Circle K)
- 70 Commercial Addition/Remodel Permits
\$106,626,643 Valuation
- 3,560 Total Permits
\$358,604,521 Valuation

Third in the nation in FORTIFIED construction.

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



407 E. Laurel Ave.
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Upcoming Events

Foley Events Updated Daily VisitFoley.com
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 and
clubs for all ages. FoleyLibrary.org

Downtown OWA

Live shows: Brandon Styles, magician/
comedian; tribute bands and other special events.
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 Road
CoastalAlabamaMarket.com

Foley Senior Center

1st and 3rd Saturday. Live entertainment for
dancing. Doors open at 6:00, band begins at
6:30. \$7 per person. Bring refreshments of
your choice.

Nov. 11 Veteran's Day Parade

10 a.m. Come join us in Max Griffin Park as
we celebrate veterans of all branches.
Map of parade route at VisitFoley.com.

Nov. 11 30th Annual Foley Rotary Club Oyster Run

7 a.m.–12 p.m. 5k run/walk and fun run.
121 W. Orange Ave. FoleyRotary.org

Nov. 11 Chocolate and Cheese Festival

10 a.m.–7 p.m. Heritage Park

Nov. 11–Dec. 23 56th Annual Trim-a-Tree

Located in Suite 410, Tanger Outlets.
Open daily. Unique Christmas ornaments,

decorations and gifts from more than 150
local artists and craftsmen.
www.FoleyArtCenter.com

Nov. 15–19 Sun Belt Volleyball Championship

Foley Event Center
FoleySportsTourism.com

Nov. 18 Harvest Festival

9 a.m.–2 p.m. Shop local produce for
your Thanksgiving feast. See the 2023
Harvest Queen get crowned.
CoastalAlabamaMarket.com

Nov. 18 Tree Lighting Ceremony

Enjoy a snowy tree lighting ceremony with
Christmas music. VisitOWA.com

Dec. 1 Christmas in the Park

6–8 p.m. Stroll through the park and
enjoy the lights, Christmas Tree Lane,
Christmas village and Santa!
Heritage Park. VisitFoley.com.

Dec. 1 Mobile Symphony Youth Orchestra Presentation

7 p.m. Accomplished young musicians from
across the Gulf Coast perform a beautiful
holiday concert. \$5 suggested donation.
Foley Civic Center.

Dec. 2 Foley Christmas Parade

10 a.m. Enjoyed by young and old, the
parade includes music, floats, tractors and
even a glimpse of Old St. Nick.

Dec. 2 Let It Snow

11 a.m.–3 p.m. Fun activities, music and
photo ops in Heritage Park. More details to
come. VisitFoley.com

Dec. 2, 9, 15, 16 & 17 The Christmas Trail

Santa Claus, Christmas lights, cookies & hot

chocolate. \$5 per person. Children 2 and
under are free. 23460 Wolf Bay Dr., Foley.
grahamcreekpreserve.org

Dec. 4 The Baldwin Pops Christmas Concert

7 p.m. Join us for a magical evening full
of holiday spirit at the Foley Civic Center!
Presented free of charge by the City of
Foley.

Dec. 7 Christmas Night Market

5–8 p.m. Holiday shopping, pictures
with Santa, Christmas carolers, food
trucks and holiday treats.
CoastalAlabamaMarket.com

Dec. 7 & 8 Christmas Murder Mystery Dinner Show

6:30 p.m. Enjoy dinner and an up-close
interactive show, and solve the case. Tickets
required. VisitOWA.com

Dec. 16 & 17 Sugar Plum Festival

Arts and crafts vendors, sugary treats
and lots of laughs. Games for families,
kids and adults. VisitOWA.com

Dec. 20 Santa Visit

Enjoy story time with a visit from Santa
at the Foley Public Library.
FoleyLibrary.org

Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Celebration

VisitOWA.com

Jan. 9 Foley Snowbird Welcome Coffee

9 a.m.–12 noon. The City of Foley and the
South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce will
host a Snowbird Welcome Coffee at the Civic
Center. Free coffee and doughnuts.
www.VisitFoley.com