

Foley Newsletter



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Ralph G. Hellmich

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Good day, everyone. The fall weather is beautiful and many things are happening in Foley. I encourage each of you to get out and visit our city parks and walking trails.

A big shout-out to our downtown merchants and the work that the Main Street group is doing. Sixteen new businesses have opened in downtown Foley already this year with several more to come.

Foley Main Street, local businesses and the city continue to combine efforts to keep downtown moving forward. The Main Street Cat Alley project is now complete. It is located off Alston and the alley behind the Hotel Magnolia. Also, the city is in the process of lighting the beautiful oak trees in several downtown areas.

City Council has approved the Jessamine Street extension that includes Heritage Park upgrades. The work on East Verbena Avenue is continuing and finishing touches are being made on the new restroom building in the John Foley Park.

Other projects are in the works around town. The pickleball and sand volleyball complex near the farmer's market is under construction. Restroom upgrades in several parks continue to move forward and, of course, road projects continue. The Foley Beach Express repaving upgrades will soon be completed. The Alabama 59-County Road 12 intersection upgrade with funding from an ATRIP grant is underway. I understand our county partners are working on the County Road 65 corridor with more improvements to come. We continue to expand our sidewalk system. We have completed the \$1.2-million TAP grant extension on 9th Avenue and Hickory Street.

Earlier this year Foley received a high honor by being selected as Alabama's World War II



**Mayor's
Notes**

Heritage City. We received this because of Barin Field, Foley's airport that was leased by the Navy in the 1940s. It was used to train Navy aviators in gunnery and to land on aircraft carriers. Barin Field was reactivated in the 1950s to again train Navy aviators. We are working to create an exhibit that will be located in the Railroad Museum to honor this history. The city has also recently purchased a historically significant biplane, called an N3N,

which is one of the types of planes used at Barin Field in the '40s. Working with our team and volunteers, the plane was flown from New York and arrived at the Foley Airport on Oct 24. The plane was greeted by the media, retired pilots and area residents.

Our plan is to acquire other airplanes that flew at Barin during its many years and house them in a museum to be enjoyed by all. It is a beautiful plane and one of the few in existence that is still airworthy. Its owner told me that he wants the plane to have a place of honor in a location where those aircraft served to train pilots.

It's soon to be our holiday season. At Thanksgiving we will celebrate the many blessings bestowed on us all. Our Christmas celebrations will follow in Heritage Park the first weekend in December. From the arrival of Santa Claus to our parade the next day, it will be a fun season. Please remember to shop locally and support your neighborhood businesses.

I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy the decorations across the city. Enjoy your family. Remember our fellow man. Be safe.

Mayor Ralph G. Hellmich

Foley's World War II biplane arrives at airport

Decades after planes like it helped train Navy aviators in the skies over South Baldwin, an N3N biplane landed in Foley on Thursday, Oct. 24.

The yellow, two-seat airplane touched down at the Foley airport. Mayor Ralph Hellmich said the aircraft will be part of a community commemoration of World War II.

"This is really an incredible day," Hellmich said. "This is an incredible aircraft. It's the start of our marking our designation as a World War II Heritage City."

The National Park Service designated Foley an American World War II Heritage City. Only one community in each state or territory can receive the designation. The designation recognizes the role the community played on the home front to support the United States during World War II and its efforts since then to recognize the sacrifices made by Americans during the conflict.

Pilot Phil Webb flew the biplane from Long Island, New York. Hellmich joined him for the last leg of its trip.

The aircraft will be one of the exhibits at a museum to commemorate Foley's role in World War II. Plans for the museum are currently being developed.

The city will also open a World War II exhibit highlighting Barin Field and the community during World War II. That exhibit is scheduled to open in December in the Foley Railroad Museum.

The city also recognized Navy World War II veteran George Logsdon. Logsdon, 97, was among the crowd watching the aircraft touch down at the airport.

The N3N is one of the types of



planes used to instruct aviation cadets at Barin Field, which was a U.S. Navy training center in Foley during World War II.

Foley purchased the N3N from a private owner in New York. The aircraft will be housed at the Foley Airport until a final display area is prepared. ■



A new walkway, columns and canopy lights will link the Foley pedestrian bridge and Centennial Clock tower area with the new extension of East Jessamine Avenue.

Improvements planned at Heritage Park

A walkway that will include columns and canopy lights will link the Foley pedestrian bridge with City Hall and other downtown features.

Plans for the project through Heritage Park and along the extension being constructed on East Jessamine Street will link the street and park with North Cypress Street.

The Foley City Council voted to approve the improvements at Heritage Park.

Mayor Ralph Hellmich said the project will continue efforts to improve downtown as a location for strolling and recreation.

The project will also include new pavers, entry walls and columns on the east side of Heritage Park. The work will complement the features on the west side of the park near the Centennial Clock tower.

As part of the project, crews will remove the wooden light poles now in place and install black double galleon lights similar to the lighting on the north end of the park.

"This will continue the symmetry of the park to the north, south, east and west," Hellmich said. "This would carry that over to Jessamine and all the way over to City Hall." ■

Foley sends supplies for hurricane victims

Relief supplies for victims of Hurricane Milton went from Foley to Florida on Friday, Oct. 18, following a week of collection efforts.

City employees and volunteers loaded vehicles at Foley United Methodist Church. The supplies included materials purchased with funds provided by the Foley City Council and items donated by the public. Collections began Wednesday, Oct. 9.

Mayor Ralph Hellmich said Foley residents and employees understand the experience of needing assistance after a storm.

"Foley has been blessed in many ways over the years," Hellmich said. "We have received help ourselves after experiencing the effects of disasters. Our helping our neighbors in Florida is the right thing to do."

Church members assisted with the collection effort and provided a drop-off site and storage for the materials.

After loading was completed, the vehicles set out for a collection point in Tampa, Florida.

Foley police, firefighters, public works and parks employees took part in the effort to deliver the supplies to Florida.



Foley city employees and community volunteers load a shipment of supplies for victims of Hurricane Milton on Friday morning. The material was taken to Tampa, Florida where it will be distributed to people affected by the storm. ■



The city of Foley and Foley Main Street are working with area property owners to add lights to the outsides of downtown buildings. The city will provide LED lighting to property owners who want to take part in the program.

Downtown buildings getting facade lights

Downtown Foley buildings will have the opportunity to shine thanks to a joint program by the city and Foley Main Street, the community's downtown development and improvement organization.

The city of Foley is providing LED cafe lights to local property owners to outline their downtown buildings in the Foley Main Street District. Mayor Ralph Hellmich said lighting buildings has proven to be popular in many areas.

"The city has embarked on a joint project with Foley Main Street and the merchants," Hellmich said. "We're going to provide those lights, the property owners can put them up on their building with attachments. The city will provide them with dawn-to-dusk sensors to turn them on and off. This will create more ambience for our Main Street downtown."

The city will also provide the light sensors and clips to attach the system to the buildings.

He said the new LED lights can illuminate the outline of a building and use less electricity than older types of lighting. The LED lights are also smaller and less noticeable on buildings during daylight hours.

Hellmich said Foley Main Street can provide a list of vendors who can install the lights.

Any business owner wanting to take part in the program can email a request to info@foleymainstreet.com. ■

Library introduces new sensory-friendly events

The Foley Public Library has been busy opening more than just books! This October, they partnered with Foley's Street, Parks, Police, and Fire departments to host a hugely successful Touch-a-Truck event, drawing in over 1,700 attendees. Families had the chance to explore and climb into trucks, tractors, police cars, fire trucks, and more. The children also got to play in a giant sand pile and everyone enjoyed the sunshine and festivities. The library is thrilled to make this an annual event!

In addition, the library is excited to introduce new sensory-friendly events designed for kids and teens. Every week, children ages 0-18 can participate in Sensory Hour, where the lights are dimmed, calming music fills the air, and sensory-friendly toys are provided for a more soothing experience in the children's area. For those aged 10-18, there's also a monthly Sensory-Friendly Art Hour, offering a creative and relaxing space.

Be sure to mark your calendars for December 17 at 4 p.m. to enjoy some Christmas fun and a visit from Santa. To explore everything the library has to offer, visit their event calendar at foleylibrary.org. ■

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 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 smoke alarms and was titled: "Smoke Alarms: Make Them WORK for You!" 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 November 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! ■

Sign up for monthly e-newsletters

The City of Foley now sends out email newsletters at the beginning of every month. Use the QR code to sign up or visit bit.ly/foleynews. ■



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

FY 2023/24 Annual Report

- 656 Single-family Permits—\$213,706,074 Valuation
- 473 Single-family Rentals—\$82,993,666 Valuation
- 2 Duplex Permits (4 units)—\$781,416 Valuation
- 120 Multi-family Permits (515 Units)—\$85,338,062 Valuation
- 30 New Commercial Permits—\$61,820,509 Valuation (includes Ambulatory Surgery Center, Fast Pace Health Urgent Care Clinic, Goodwill, The Corner Pet Spa)
- 57 Commercial Addition/Remodel Permits—\$6,436,373 Valuation
- 6,454 Total Permits—\$501,254,032 Valuation
- 3rd in the nation in FORTIFIED construction

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



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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 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.
781 Farmers Market Ln.
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.

Nov. 8–Dec. 23 57th Annual Trim-a-Tree

Located in the Foley Art Center.
Open daily. Unique Christmas gifts from more than 150 local artists and craftsmen.
www.FoleyArtCenter.com

Nov. 21 & Dec. 19 Third Thursdays

5–7 p.m. Explore Downtown Foley while businesses offer tastings, art, special deals, and more! FoleyMainStreet.com

Nov. 21–24 Sun Belt Volleyball Championship

Foley Event Center
FoleySportsTourism.com

Nov. 23 Harvest Festival

9 a.m.–2 p.m. Shop local produce for your Thanksgiving feast. See the 2024 Harvest Queen get crowned.
CoastalAlabamaMarket.com

Nov. 23 Tree Lighting ft. Taylor Hicks

2–7:30 p.m. Enjoy a tree lighting ceremony hosted by American Idol winner, Taylor Hicks.
VisitOWA.com

Dec. 5 Christmas Night Market

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

Dec. 6 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. 6 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. 7 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. 7 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. 7 Downtown Foley Christmas Fest

11 a.m.–3 p.m. Christmas specials in stores throughout Downtown Foley.
FoleyMainStreet.com

Dec. 7, 13–15, 20–22 The Christmas Trail

5:30–8:30 p.m. Santa Claus, Christmas lights, cookies & hot chocolate. \$5 per person. Children 2 and under are free. 23030 Wolf Bay Dr., Foley. grahamcreekpreserve.org

Dec. 10 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. 13 Family Christmas Trivia Night

5:30–7 p.m. Wear your ugliest Christmas sweater and enjoy a hot chocolate bar, several rounds of trivia and lots of prizes!
FoleyLibrary.org

Dec. 17 Library Santa Visit

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

Jan. 14 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