

# Foley Newsletter



**MAYOR**

Ralph G. Hellmich

**COUNCIL**

J. Wayne Trawick  
Council President  
District 1

Vera J. Quaites  
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](http://www.cityoffoley.org)

Hello again, everyone. Summer is winding to a close, but we still have some warm weather to go.

I would like to start by honoring the memory of Councilman Richard Dayton, who represented District 3 for the past five years. Councilman Dayton passed away due to illness a month ago. He was a great councilman who loved Foley and represented his area well with great integrity and humility. Recently, he told me that this was the greatest and most enjoyable job he ever had. He became a good friend and will be missed by everyone who knew him.

The election is over. First, I want to thank the current council: President Wayne Trawick, Charlie Ebert, Vera Quaites and Rick Blackwell. They have been great partners over this term, which has led to many accomplishments. They helped lay the groundwork for years to come by addressing our issues in Foley. Without the partnership between mayor and council, a city cannot move forward.

Congratulations to our newly elected council, which will be seated Nov. 3 for the next four-year term. I welcome aboard Councilmen Roddy Burkle, Larry Engel and Tim Lower who will join sitting members Wayne Trawick and Charlie Ebert.

Working together as a team will help Foley continue to be “The Forward City.” I want to thank both Councilwoman Vera Quaites and Councilman Rick Blackwell for their dedicated service over the past 20 years.

It is, of course, football season. Enjoy it, but please travel safely to and from the games. The Foley Lions need our support. It is a fun night



**Mayor's  
Notes**

out at Ivan Jones stadium. Join me and cheer them on.

We continue to add to the options for our citizens to shop and dine here in Foley. BJ's Wholesale Club will begin construction this fall on South Juniper Street. It is a culmination of three years of work with our partner Retail Strategies to entice expanded retail opportunities to our citizens. This will be the first wholesale store in the South Baldwin County area. Ollie's

and Books-a-Million recently announced plans to come to Foley. The restaurant Doc's Seafood is also opening soon.

Of course, the new Publix on the Beach Express has expanded retail services for citizens. Our city team will continue to work for expanded opportunities such as a grocery store on the north end of Foley. I will point out that most of these expansions are due to the growth of Foley, which shows retailers can be successful here.

Two new infrastructure projects—the intersection improvements on Michigan at Hickory and at Cedar—will soon begin. Both are sorely needed. City projects that took years to design and plan continue to be rolled out. Please check our website for those listings of current projects.

Enjoy these coming few months with Halloween and Thanksgiving on the horizon. Until next time . . .

Mayor Ralph G. Hellmich

# Foley voters select council members

Foley voters selected members of the City Council who will serve for the next four years.

Complete but unofficial results following the closing of city polls Tuesday, Aug. 26, were:

In District 1, incumbent Wayne Trawick received 220 votes over challenger Barry Hughes with 95.

In District 2, Timothy "Tim" Lower

won with 240 votes over incumbent Vera Quaites who had 166 and Donald Barnett with 8.

In District 4, Larry Engel defeated Phillip Hinesley by a margin of 98 votes to 42.

In District 5, incumbent Charles Ebert III received 234 votes over Derrick Perdue who had 75.

Roddy Burkle was the only candidate

remaining in the race for the District 3 seat and was elected without opposition to the seat that had been held by Councilman Richard "Dick" Dayton.

Mayor Ralph Hellmich was also unopposed in his bid for re-election to a second term.

The new terms for elected Foley officials begin on Nov. 3. ■

## Bullock becomes new Foley public safety executive director



**Foley Police Chief Thurston Bullock is the city's new executive director of public safety following the retirement of David Wilson in September. Bullock had been Foley Police Chief since 2020.**

Thurston Bullock is Foley's new executive director of public safety following the retirement of David Wilson.

Bullock was named Foley police chief after Wilson retired from that position in 2020. He has worked with

the city since 1996 and was deputy police chief before being named chief.

Deputy Chief Kevin Carnley has been promoted to become Foley's eighth police chief.

Foley's public safety director is a senior management position that oversees the Police Department and Fire Department and coordinates the city's emergency management responses.

Mayor Ralph Hellmich said Bullock's appointment will help Foley public safety continue to improve and serve the community.

"Chief Bullock worked closely with Chief Wilson to build our Police Department into the finest in the county," Hellmich said. "Conducting community policing has created a great, safe environment for our citizens and is a big reason why people are moving to Foley. I applaud our entire first responders and believe Director Bullock will continue this tradition." ■



## Foley biplane honors veterans

Several veterans returned to the skies aboard Foley's historic N3N biplane during the Veterans Flight 2025 held as part of Blue Angels Air Show.

The 83-year-old biplane was one of several vintage aircraft that took part in the annual event. Two of the participants flown by the Foley N3N had served in World War II and were more than 100 years old.

Mayor Ralph Hellmich said the flights are a good way for the city and others to honor veterans.

The mayor also thanked pilot Phil Webb, who flew the N3N during the Veterans Flight and has helped maintain the aircraft since it was acquired by Foley.

Webb said aircraft participating in the Veterans Flights included eight Stearman biplanes, T-6 Texans, SNJs and a T-34. The Foley biplane was the first N3N to take part in the event.

Hellmich said Foley resident Butch Cole also took part in the event, flying a Stearman.

The Veterans Flight took place July 11 through 13.

Foley acquired the N3N as part of the city's commemoration of being named an American World War II Heritage City. The National Park Service awards the designation to one city in each state or territory.

The city also plans to fly the N3N at area aviation events to educate the public about Foley's role in World War II and to commemorate the pilots who were trained in the area. ■

## Traffic improvements planned on Michigan Avenue

Plans are moving forward for intersection projects to improve traffic flow on Michigan Avenue in Foley.

Foley will construct traffic circles on Michigan at the intersections of Cedar Street and Juniper Street. Baldwin County plans to upgrade the signals on Michigan at the Hickory Street intersection, which is under the county jurisdiction.

The Hickory Street project will include the addition of dedicated turn lanes at the intersection.

The Foley City Council approved plans for engineering work on the traffic circles on Cedar and Juniper. The work includes using ground-

penetrating radar to locate possible utility lines.

Mayor Ralph Hellmich said the council action should allow the city to start construction soon.

"We're very close to starting the Cedar Street traffic circle on Michigan," Hellmich said. "We have a couple of pieces of the puzzle. They're doing some final engineering work and we're hoping to start construction on that this fall."

He said construction should start on the Juniper street intersection as soon as all engineering and preconstruction work is complete. ■

# Remembering Councilman Richard “Dick” Dayton



The City of Foley is deeply saddened to share the passing of Councilman Richard “Dick” Dayton, who died peacefully on Thursday, Aug. 21, surrounded by his family.

Elected to the Foley City Council in 2020, Councilman Dayton was a dedicated public servant who gave generously of his time and energy to the community he loved. He was a familiar face at countless meetings and civic events, always eager to listen, participate, and serve.

Mayor Ralph Hellmich reflected on his service:

“It is with profound sadness that I share the news of the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Councilman Richard ‘Dick’ Dayton,” Hellmich said. “Councilman Dayton served our city with unwavering dedication and passion. He truly cared for all city employees. Just a couple of weeks ago, after his final council meeting, he told me that serving Foley was ‘the greatest job he ever had.’ His love for our community and its people was truly remarkable.”

The City of Foley extends our deepest condolences to Judy, their sons, and the entire Dayton family. We are grateful for Councilman Dayton’s service, his friendship, and his lasting impact on our community. ■

## Improvements continue on County 65

Lighting and traffic upgrades continue at Airport Road and Baldwin County 65 as part of ongoing work to improve safety in the area.

In June, the City of Foley took over that section of the road, which had been maintained by Baldwin County. Three people died in two traffic accidents at the intersection in recent months.

The city placed a four-way stop sign at the intersection and reduced the speed limit on Baldwin County 65 from 45 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour.

The City Council voted in August to install two additional streetlights to the two already placed by the city.

Mayor Ralph Hellmich said residents like the improvements.

“We’ve received a lot of good, positive feedback on the safety upgrades at that intersection,” Hellmich said. “It seems to be working really well.”

The new lights will provide lighting at all four corners of the intersection.

Hellmich said other planned improvements include a pedestrian crossing with a signal.

The city also plans to build a sidewalk linking the Mills Community with other areas of Foley to the east. The new sidewalk will use the planned crosswalk at the intersection. ■

## Fire Department reminders

### 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 necessary.

### Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

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.

### Storm Preparedness and Safety

Stay alert and prepared this hurricane season. Please download a reliable weather app for your mobile devices or purchase a weather radio with local alerts. Portable generators need to be used in well-ventilated outdoor areas, never inside the home or closed garage. 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.

### Fireworks

We remind everyone that the possession and discharge of fireworks is unlawful in the City of Foley. Professional fireworks displays are licensed and permitted by local authorities and the state fire marshal. Due to recent incidents around the state, the fire marshal has issued a statement clarifying and reminding residents of the state law regarding the discharge of fireworks. The law states that a minimum clearance of 600 feet of distance is required from all buildings, public roadways, and people. This serves as a reminder of the dangers and consequences of using consumer fireworks. Contact our office at 251-943-1266 for more information, and turn your attention to fire prevention! ■

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

FY 2024/25 Report (April 2025–June 2025)

- 67 Single-family Permits  
\$21,992,886 Valuation
- 4 New Commercial Permits  
\$21,221,600 Valuation
- 20 Commercial Addition/Remodel Permits  
\$7,535,585 Valuation
- 696 Total Permits  
\$60,286,252 Valuation
- 4th in the nation in FORTIFIED construction

Visit [cityoffoley.org/Community-Development](http://cityoffoley.org/Community-Development) or call 251-952-4011 for more information. ■

### Want Foley news quicker?

Sign up for email newsletters that are delivered monthly: [cityoffoley.org/mayors-newsletters](http://cityoffoley.org/mayors-newsletters)





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.  
781 Farmers Market Lane  
CoastalAlabamaMarket.com

### *Foley Senior Center*

Adults over 50 meet at the Foley Senior Center every 1st and 3rd Sat. evening with live entertainment for dancing. Doors open at 6 p.m., band begins at 6:30. \$7 per person.

### **Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29** *Midday Melodies*

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

### **Oct. 2–4** *USA Archery Collegiate 3-D Championship*

Graham Creek Nature Preserve. Final showdown at the Foley Event Center.  
foleysportstourism.com

### **Oct. 3** *Golf FORE! Education*

8 a.m. Fun, games and a silent auction.  
sbchamberfoundation.org

### **Oct. 4** *Oktoberfest 5K Run*

Come dressed in your German Oktoberfest attire. foleysistercities.com

### **Oct. 4, 11, 18, 24, 25, 29 & Nov. 1**

*Graham Creek's Haunted Forest*  
7–9 p.m. Oct. 29 is for ages 18+.  
GrahamCreekPreserve.org

### **Oct. 4, 11, 18, 24, 25** *Spooky Express*

6–8 p.m. GrahamCreekPreserve.org

### **Oct. 9** *Shred It Day*

3–5 p.m. Foley Civic Center  
CityofFoley.org

### **Oct. 11** *Big Rigs @ the Library*

9–11 a.m. Foley Public Library  
Get close with fire, police, construction vehicles and more! FoleyLibrary.org

### **Oct. 17** *Chicago Street Supper Club*

7 p.m. Elegant outdoor dining experience in the heart of downtown Foley.  
sbchamberfoundation.org

### **Oct. 18** *Pumpkin Play Day*

10 a.m.–12 p.m. Carnival games, candy prizes and fun for the whole family.  
GrahamCreekPreserve.org

### **Oct. 23** *Hometown Halloween*

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

### **Oct. 25** *Foley Witches Ride*

5 p.m. Downtown Foley.  
foleywitchesride@gmail.com

### **Nov. 2–9** *2025 Sun Belt Women's Soccer Championship*

Practices and games throughout the week.  
foleysportstourism.com

### **Nov. 8** *Kids and K9s*

10–11 a.m. Foley Public Library  
FoleyLibrary.org

### **Nov. 8 & 9** *Tacos & Tequila Festival*

10 a.m.–5 p.m. Heritage Park

### **Nov. 11** *Veterans Day*

City offices closed November 10 & 11.  
Visit cityoffoley.org/sanitation for garbage/recycle pickup information.

### **Nov. 14–Dec. 23** *Trim-A-Tree*

Tanger Outlets. Foleyartcenter.com

### **Nov. 22** *Tree Lighting Ceremony*

VisitOWA.com

### **Nov. 22** *Harvest Festival*

9 a.m.–2 p.m. Shop local for your Thanksgiving feast.

### **Dec. 5** *Christmas in the Park*

6–8 p.m. Heritage Park. VisitFoley.com.

### **Dec. 6** *Christmas Parade and Let It Snow*

10 a.m. Downtown Foley. VisitFoley.com.

### **Dec. 11** *Christmas Night Market*

5–8 p.m. Local holiday shopping.  
CoastalAlabamaMarket.com