

# Foley Newsletter



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Ralph G. Hellmich

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Hello Foley. Winter is still here, but spring is not far off on the Gulf.

It's a busy time for our city. Our projects continue to move forward.

We continue to expand Foley's sidewalk program. The North Cedar Street section is under construction. We hope that the Mills Community sidewalk project will soon be ready to go to bid and our TAP Grant application to complete walkways on sections of South Highway 59 area will move forward.

We are also planning other projects to tie Foley together.

Foley has started its Access Management Plan Upgrade for County Road 20 between Highway 59 and Juniper Street. The plan's goal is to add lighting and to reduce traffic hazards.

Several signals are being upgraded along Highway 59. Foley is adding mast arms at the Foley Beach Express, Tanger Boulevard and County Road 10. The city also plans more signal upgrades at Myrtle and 59 and at County 20 and the Foley Beach Express.

All of these improvements are the result of our partnership with the Alabama Department of Transportation. Plans began more than a year ago with the goal of upgrading 27 signal intersections in South Baldwin County.

Other street upgrades include new four-way stops on Alston Street at the intersections of Peachtree, Myrtle and Roosevelt. These stops will increase traffic control and pedestrian safety.

Foley is also adding more street lighting in areas such as South Pecan Street on a new stretch of the road.

Downtown, our Mainstreet partners will create painted crosswalks to help identify pedestrian crosswalk areas and reduce traffic speeds.



**Mayor's  
Notes**

On the business side, several projects are going vertical. The BJ's Wholesale Store, Cook Out, Enterprise Rent-A-Car and U-Haul stores are all well on their way. All these will give our citizens the opportunity to have more goods and services without having to leave town. Additional service stations are also being proposed around town.

Coming up later this month is our annual Arbor Day Celebration located at the Coastal Farmers and Fishermens Market. I urge everyone to enjoy the program and the tree give-away. Watch our website and announcements for the numerous festivals coming up downtown in our parks. They all add to our quality of life.

One important topic that I will add is our efforts to make Foley the best it can be.

Our city has always had a detailed sign ordinance. This ordinance can be viewed on our website.

The only change made in the last few years was to modify the "temporary sign" section. This change actually made the section more flexible for the citizens. The misunderstanding is that the change made the ordinance stricter. That is not the case.

Enforcement was the issue. Our city began informing citizens and business owners last fall that a uniform enforcement would start in January. It has already made a visual difference, but we will work with businesses.

That's it for now. We will talk again in the spring.

*Ralph G. Hellmich*  
Mayor Ralph G. Hellmich

# Foley recognizes former mayor with airport naming

Foley recognized former Foley Mayor Arthur Holk for his contribution to aviation and the city's development in his 40 years of public service.

Foley renamed the city airport Holk Field at Foley Municipal Airport. The city dedicated a sign with the new name on Friday, Jan. 16.

Mayor Ralph Hellmich said naming the airport is one way to recognize Holk's contribution to Foley.

"He was so important for our city," Hellmich said. "He served so many terms in city government. He was important to us and this naming of the field today is so important."

Holk served on the Foley City Council from 1952 until 1972. He was mayor for five terms from 1976 until 1996.

Holk died in 2021. The former mayor's family members took part in the dedication ceremony at the airport.

State Rep. Frances Holk-Jones, Holk's daughter, was one of the family members at the event.

"He always had a passion for aviation,"



**During the dedication of the naming of the Foley airport for former Mayor Arthur Holk, Mayor Ralph Hellmich, Foley City Council members and two of Holk's children, State Rep. Frances Holk-Jones and Andy Holk stand next to the new Holk Field at Foley Municipal Airport sign after it is unveiled.**

Holk-Jones said. "He was very proud that he had been chairman of the Alabama Aeronautics Bureau under three different governors, and he took great pride with all that was going on here in Foley and across the state. So this is a huge honor for us that the city, mayor and the entire council has done that."

Holk was the first pilot to land an

airplane at the airport when it opened in 1967.

Hellmich said the runway was not paved at the time. The mayor said the city has continued to improve the airport under Holk and later administrations.

Plans for Holk Field include new hangars, as well as expanding taxiways and improving drainage at the airport. ■

## Foley to build northeast fire station

Foley is expanding fire protection with a new station in the northeast area of the city.

The station will be built on East Fern Avenue between Alabama 59 and the Foley Beach Express.

Mayor Ralph Hellmich said the new station will provide more fire protection for the city as the northeast section of Foley develops.

"We have acquired the land in a northeast quadrant, which we're getting ready to subdivide for our newest fire station," Hellmich said "We will have to add some more firemen and that will continue to cover the north half of Foley as it grows."

Fire Chief Joey Darby said the property is a good site for a station. This well-suited location will allow access to major highways.

The Foley City Council approved a survey to subdivide a 5-acre parcel on East Fern Avenue into two lots. Half of the property will be used for the fire station. The rest of the site is planned as a Riviera Utilities water facility.

Darby said city officials are working with Riviera to determine where facilities will be situated. The initial plan would be for the station to be located where vehicles would have the best access to the street.

Riviera will study the property to determine if a well and water storage tank could be located on the site. ■

## Plans for new north-south Foley route move forward

Foley is moving forward with plans to add a new north-south route that will link U.S. 98 with Gulf Shores.

The Foley City Council approved the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wetland delineation proposal to continue developing roadway plans needed to extend James Road south from Brinks Willis Road to Gulf Shores.

Mayor Ralph Hellmich said the city is working with Baldwin County and the City of Gulf Shores to develop the route.

"Gulf Shores did a mile. The county's doing a mile, we're doing a mile, roughly," Hellmich said. "We're working very closely with the county and Gulf Shores to align it the best we can, to impact as little as possible on either wetlands or people's properties."

The city is also developing plans to extend the route farther north.

"Ultimately, when we're able to open up North Pecan, then you'll be able to get on to Gateway and



go all the way to the Baldwin Beach Express," he said. "Now it's not going to be an expressway. It's not even going to be a high-speed road. It'd be a lot of stop signs and red lights, but it is another connectivity effort that we're doing with the county and with local people to give our people an alternative and a way to stay off 59 and the Beach Express."

The project will extend James Road south from Brinks Willis Road, across Keller Road to Gulf Shores, where it is scheduled to link with a new road to be constructed near the Rocky Road Loop. ■



Improvements planned for Mifflin Road include removing the asphalt median and adding lighting and curbing.

# Foley to begin Mifflin Road improvements

Work is starting to add turn lanes, curbs and other additions on Mifflin Road east of Alabama 59.

This project includes the construction of turn lanes, curbs and other enhancements intended to improve safety and traffic flow along the busy commercial corridor.

Plans and preparations for the project have been going on for several years since the city adopted a management plan for the route.

About one year ago, Foley officials met with affected business owners along the corridor to review the proposed improvements, discuss access considerations and share project details before moving forward.

The project could cause periodic delays on some areas of the road. While some lanes could be closed at times, the street is expected to remain open. The project is expected to take three to four months to complete.

City plans call for improvements on the busy commercial corridor to be completed before the start of the summer tourist season.

The project includes removing the asphalt median lane from Alabama 59 to Juniper Street. The median will be replaced with a landscaped grass median, new lighting and concrete curbing.

The improvements will enhance the flow of traffic and remove some of the points where accidents have occurred as vehicles crossed the road. After improvements, the road will have a mid-block U-turn within 1,000 feet of Alabama 59 to allow vehicles to cross the street. ■

## Foley adding artwork to crosswalks

Crosswalks decorated with hand-painted artwork will soon encourage strolling in downtown Foley and support pedestrian safety.

The Foley City Council approved plans to close locations on some streets and alleys for about two days while the artwork by Ragan Windsor is installed.

Foley Main Street, the city's downtown improvement group, is overseeing the project. A grant from Main Street Alabama will pay the cost of the project, Darrelyn Dunmore said, executive director of Foley Main Street.

Some locations planned for the project include West Orange Avenue near South Alston Street and the intersection of West Jessamine Avenue and South Alston Street. Other sites are planned on alleys west of the Foley Post Office, near Cheeseburger Randy's on South Alston Street and near the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce building.

Only one street or alley will be closed at any given time while work is going on. Most of the sites should be completed in two or three days.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of March.

Notices that the routes are closed will be placed on highways and other streets. Plans call for the work to be done early in the week and not near the weekend when traffic is busier. ■

## Fire Department reminders

### Fall/Winter Fire Safety

As we are still in the winter weather months, we remind everyone to practice fire safety when dealing with cold weather issues around their homes. Unfortunately, we have already responded to several residential fires this year as a result of heating equipment. Make sure that you have and practice a fire escape plan for your family, and remember that WORKING smoke alarms save lives. Test your smoke alarms routinely, and replace batteries when needed. All smoke alarms have a rated service life of 10 years.

With a couple of months left to burn vegetative debris before the annual ADEM burn ban takes effect on May 1, we remind all of those property owners in the City Limits of Foley that a burn permit is required in order to open burn yard debris. Please contact our office (251-943-1266) to see if you meet the requirements for a permit or have other questions. ■

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT PERMITTING REPORT

(October–December 2025)

- 66 Single-family Permits  
\$21,484,445 Valuation
- 4 New Commercial Permits  
\$21,306,146 Valuation
- 115 Miscellaneous Permits  
\$3,470,216 Valuation
- 422 Trade Permits  
\$1,811,899 Valuation
- 607 Total Permits  
\$48,072,704 Valuation

Visit [cityoffoley.org/building-department](http://cityoffoley.org/building-department) 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)





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## Upcoming Events

Foley Events Updated Daily [VisitFoley.com](http://VisitFoley.com)  
Foley Public Library [FoleyLibrary.org](http://FoleyLibrary.org)  
Foley Senior Center [CityofFoley.org](http://CityofFoley.org)  
Foley Sports Tourism [FoleySportsTourism.com](http://FoleySportsTourism.com)  
Graham Creek Preserve [GrahamCreekPreserve.org](http://GrahamCreekPreserve.org)

### Foley Public Library

Hours: 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m. Mon.–Thurs.; 8:30 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](http://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](http://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. 28 Coastal Garden Festival

9 a.m.–2 p.m. 781 Farmers Market Lane  
Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market.

### Feb. 28 Annual Arbor Day Celebration

1 p.m. A tree dedication ceremony and celebration of Foley as a Tree City. One free tree per family. Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market.

### March 4, 11, 18 & 25 Midday Melodies

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

### March 14 BBQ & Blues Cook-Off

11 a.m.–4 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](http://FoleyBBQandBlues.net).

### March 17 Introduction to Google Suite

5:30–7 p.m. Learn the basics for creating documents, spreadsheets, and presentations.  
[FoleyLibrary.org](http://FoleyLibrary.org)

### March 19 & April 16 Third Thursdays

5–7 p.m. Explore Downtown Foley while businesses offer tastings, art, special deals and more! [FoleyMainStreet.com](http://FoleyMainStreet.com)

### March 21 Foley Aviation Day

10 a.m.–1 p.m. Tour Holk Field at the Foley Municipal Airport. Meet with airport personnel and other aviation experts and learn about the airport and aviation in Foley.

### March 28 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 for the one-hour tour that highlights Foley's historic buildings. Foley Welcome Center.

### April 4 & 5 Mudbugs & Margaritas Festival

10 a.m.–5 p.m. Enjoy unique, tasty crawfish dishes, margaritas, live music and more. Tickets at the gate. Heritage Park.

### April 17 & 24 Music and a Movie

Music 6 p.m. Movie at dusk. For entertainment and movie selections, go to [VisitFoley.com](http://VisitFoley.com).

### April 23 Shred It Day

3–5 p.m. Behind City Hall. [VisitFoley.com](http://VisitFoley.com)

### April 30–May 2 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 9–10 Art in the Park

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