

Foley Newsletter

MAYOR

Ralph G. Hellmich

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I hope you all have had a great summer. Foley celebrated America's 250th anniversary with several community events to mark the creation of our country.

While the temperature may not feel like it, summer is winding down. School is back in session. Please be careful driving near school zones and watch out for buses and children on their way to school.

Summer has been busy in Foley. The City opened the Foley Community Library on Aug. 4. This \$20 million center has twice the space of our old library. That space is filled with an amazing variety of new services and features that will be a huge benefit to our community.

That's not the only new Foley facility. On July 27, we celebrated the opening of our new Public Works Campus. Our Public Works, Sanitation and Engineering departments have a new home that replaces buildings that opened years ago when Foley, and the departments, were much smaller.

In July, the Parks and Recreation Department, Communications Department and Leisure Services offices moved into the former National Guard armory building behind City Hall.

Our sidewalk construction projects have continued to move forward this summer. Workers have been completing walkways between Azalea Avenue and Pride Drive near Foley High School. Once that is done, you will be able to walk from Mifflin Road all the way to Peachtree Avenue, a trek of about 4 miles all the way through central Foley.

This project is part of the city's ongoing efforts to expand sidewalks around Foley. The city has been spending about \$1 million a year

**Mayor's
Notes**

over the last few years to improve walking around Foley.

We're now working on plans to extend sidewalks from the Mills Community to link with our other walkways on Cedar Street. Construction should start soon on that project.

Other projects in the works for the near future include plans for our new Senior Center and our new Aquatics Center. Our goal is to have both of

those needed facilities under construction in the upcoming year.

We're also looking forward to the opening of BJ's Wholesale Club this fall. The store will be the first BJ's in Baldwin County.

In addition to America's birthday, another notable celebration this year is the 110th anniversary of the creation of Riviera Utilities. Riviera is owned by the City of Foley, but operates as an independent agency. For decades, Riviera has offered outstanding services for our citizens at some of the lowest-cost power in Alabama.

As summer winds down, please remember that we are in the height of hurricane season. We always hope that Foley will be spared from storms, but we do need to be prepared.

While we are blessed to live in this area, we have to be ready to deal with some of the things that come with being on the Gulf Coast.

That's about all for now. It's been a great summer and I hope you have a great autumn.

Mayor Ralph G. Hellmich

Foley Secures Over \$5.3 Million in Grants for Industrial and Resiliency Projects

The City of Foley is moving forward with two major development projects after securing \$5.39 million in state and federal funding. These grants will allow the city to expand its industrial footprint with a new business park while protecting downtown businesses and healthcare facilities from severe coastal storms.

The \$3.33 Million State SEEDS Grant: This funding supports the purchase of a 121-acre site near the Foley Beach Express and Baldwin Beach Express. Selected as the top prospect out of 16 Alabama sites, the property will become Baldwin County's newest industrial park to attract employers and generate local jobs. The city has already finalized its local funding match to secure the land.

The \$2.06 Million Federal Resiliency Grant: Secured by U.S. Senator Katie Britt, this money will bury existing overhead utilities along a six-block stretch of downtown Foley, from West Magnolia

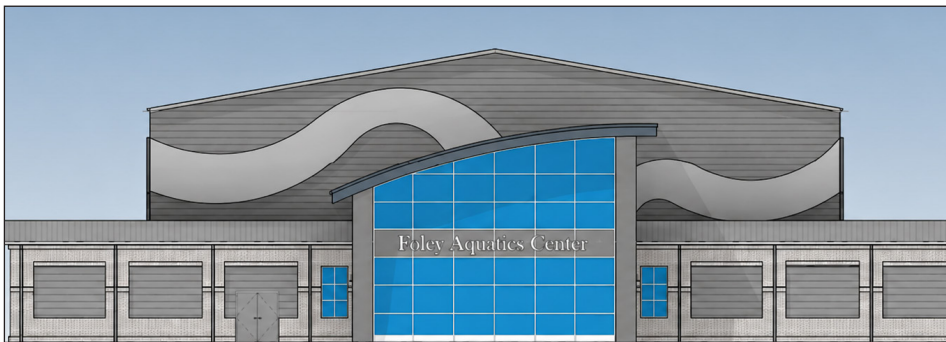


Greg Blalock with the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama presents a check to the City of Foley for almost \$3.33 million to be used for the purchase of the new 121-acre North Foley Industrial Park. The grant is through the state Site Evaluation Economic Development Strategy, known as SEEDS, program.

Avenue to Myrtle Avenue. The project will protect critical power lines feeding the local hospital and downtown businesses during

tropical storms. Engineering plans are currently underway with Riviera Utilities to begin burying the lines later this year. ■

Foley moving ahead with plans for Aquatics Center



Foley plans to start construction on a new indoor Aquatics Center in Max Griffin Park. The facility will replace the city's existing outdoor pool, which was built in 1953.

The City of Foley is moving forward with plans to build an indoor Aquatics Center that will provide year-round recreation for Foley swimmers.

The center will be built in Max Griffin Park near the site of the outdoor pool that has served the city since 1953.

Mayor Ralph Hellmich said the new

pool will allow local swim teams, children and other residents to use the facility throughout the year. He said some swim teams have had to train in other locations when weather conditions have not allowed the use of the current city pool.

"We're going from a Memorial Day to the start of school facility to a year-round

center that more meets the needs of our citizens," Hellmich said. "It's time we had this in Foley."

David Thompson, Foley executive director for leisure services, said swimming is popular in Foley and membership in city swim teams is growing.

"We've had over 100 kids for the last couple of years," Thompson said. "We have a great swim coach, so we have a lot of momentum around aquatics right now."

The Aquatics Center will be built in Max Griffin Park on West Roosevelt Avenue near the site of the existing outdoor swimming pool.

The current pool will remain open while the aquatics center is under construction. City officials hope to go out for bids on construction later this year. The project is expected to take about 18 months to complete after construction begins.

The pool will be replaced with a different facility after the Aquatics Center opens. ■

City of Foley hosts first Gulf Coast Heavy Equipment Roadeo

On September 25, watch some of the Gulf Coast's most skilled heavy equipment operators compete in a day of precision challenges using excavators, skid steers, bulldozers and other heavy machinery.

Hosted by the City of Foley and presented by OWA, the Gulf Coast Heavy Equipment Roadeo celebrates the professionals who build, maintain and improve our communities every day. It's an exciting opportunity to see incredible equipment up close while enjoying a fun day for the entire family.

The Roadeo will feature heavy equipment competitions, demonstrations and awards. Vendor exhibits will be on site with live music and concessions available to purchase for the public. ■





The Foley Public Library will be closed July 13 through Aug. 3 in order to move into the new library building on East Orange Avenue. The new 40,000-square-foot center is about twice the size of the current building.

Foley library moves into new home

The Foley Public Library opened in its new home Aug. 4 with new expanded services and twice the space in the current facility.

The library's previous building closed July 13 for the move.

The new library building includes nearly 40,000 square feet of space. The center includes a sensory room, separate children's and teens' activity areas and a large multi-purpose room that seats 277. Other facilities planned for the new library include a STEAM-STEM lab and spaces for programs such as special-needs activities.

The building also features a second-story porch that overlooks the Perry Wilbourne Antique Rose Trail and the city's Dog Park.

With the new library open, the previous building will be renovated to be used for other municipal purposes. ■

Foley reaches goal of 250 trees and flags for America's anniversary

In commemoration of America's 250th birthday, Foley has reached its 2026 goal of planting 250 trees around the city.

In addition, more than 250 flags have been placed around Foley as part of the celebration.

The projects are among the activities being conducted by the city as part of the country's semiquincentennial, the 250th anniversary of the creation of the United States in 1776.

In 2026, city crews are planting trees around Foley on rights of way, municipal sites and other locations.

The America 250 planting project work included oaks planted on South Chicago Street as part of improvements around the site of the new Foley Public Library. The library is scheduled to open later this summer. Crews also planted trees at locations such as the Public Works Campus that opened in May on North Poplar Street.

The city is also placing flags, bunting and other patriotic decorations around Foley in preparation for the anniversary on July 4. Residents are also urged to take part in the celebration by putting out their own decorations.

The Foley Railroad Museum is also offering an American Revolution-themed scavenger hunt on Event Train days, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, throughout the summer.

The museum is also featuring its America 250 Visitor Response Wall. Visitors can leave a special message expressing their thoughts on America's 250th anniversary.

Recent semiquincentennial events included a concert of patriotic music by the Baldwin Pops orchestra in late May and a celebration during the final Music and a Movie event of 2026 in Heritage Park on May 22.

A Flags of Freedom self-guided tour is taking place at the Graham Creek Nature Preserve.

More information on other 250th anniversary events in Foley will be available as plans develop. ■

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 drought or weather conditions make it necessary.

Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

The fire department reminds you to 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. Reminder: A smoke alarm disabled because of nuisance alarms provides no protection at all.

Storm Preparedness and Safety

As we are now in another hurricane season, the fire department reminds you to stay alert and prepared for storm events. Please download a reliable weather app for your mobile devices or purchase a weather radio with local alerts. Portable generators should only be used in well-ventilated outdoor areas, never inside the home or closed garage. Carbon monoxide detectors are important when running generator engines for extended periods of time near the home, especially during over-night 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. Professional fireworks displays are licensed and permitted by local authorities and the State Fire Marshal. The law states that a minimum clearance of 600 ft. of distance is required from all buildings, public roadways, and people. Over the Fourth of July holiday, we responded to several fires in Foley as a result of misused consumer fireworks. 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! ■

BUILDING DEPARTMENT PERMIT REPORT

FY 2025/26 Report (April 2026–June 2026)

- 108 Single-family Permits
\$36,415,852 Valuation
- 2 New Commercial Permits
\$6,096,385 Valuation
- 186 Miscellaneous Permits
\$8,185,957 Valuation
- 458 Trade Permits
\$2,532,236 Valuation
- 754 Total Permits
\$53,230,431 Valuation

Visit cityoffoley.org/building-department 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 Sports Tourism FoleySportsTourism.com
Graham Creek Preserve GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Foley Community Library

New location: 230 E. Orange Ave.
For activities and events, visit FoleyLibrary.org.

Downtown OWA

Live shows, events and activities. 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

Live entertainment and dancing every 1st and 3rd Saturday evening. For more info and activities, visit CityoffFoley.org/senior-center.

Sept. 7 Labor Day

City offices closed (except emergency services). Visit cityofffoley.org/sanitation for garbage/recycle pickup information.

Sept. 12 Gaming Con

9 a.m.–1 p.m. Foley Public Library.
FoleyLibrary.org

Sept. 25 Gulf Coast Heavy Equipment Rodeo

OWA festival grounds. Heavy equipment competitions and demonstrations. Free admission. CityoffFoley.org

Oct. 7, 14, 21 & 28 Midday Melodies

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

Oct. 15–17 USA Archery Collegiate 3-D Championship

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

Oct. 2 Golf FORE! Education

8 a.m. Fun and games on the course and a silent auction. sbchamberfoundation.org

Oct. 9, 10, 17, 24, 28 & 30

Graham Creek's Haunted Forest
7–9 p.m. This year's theme is Sinister Circus. October 28 is for ages 18 and up.
GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Oct. 16 Chicago Street Supper Club

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

Oct. 17 Pumpkin Play Day

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

Oct. 20 Shred It Day

3–5 p.m. Foley Civic Center
Bring your old documents to be shredded and recycled. CityoffFoley.org

Oct. 24–25 Whiskey & Wings Festival

10 a.m.–5 p.m. Heritage Park

Oct. 24 Foley Witches Ride

5 p.m. Ride with the witches through Downtown Foley.
foleywitchesride@gmail.com

Oct. 29 Hometown Halloween

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

Nov. 7 Magnolia Run

8 a.m. 5K Run, 5K Walk, and a 1 Mile Fun Run. sbchamberfoundation.org

Nov. 8–15 2026 Sun Belt Women's Soccer Championship

Practices and games throughout the week.
foleysportstourism.com

Nov. 18–22 2026 Sun Belt Volleyball Championship

Sun Belt Conference brings college volleyball action to Foley!
foleysportstourism.com

Nov. 13–Dec. 23 Trim-A-Tree

Tanger Outlets.
Foleyartcenter.com or Facebook

Nov. 11 Veterans Day

City offices closed (except emergency services). Visit cityofffoley.org/sanitation for garbage/recycle pickup information.

Nov. 21 Tree Lighting Ceremony

Enjoy a snowy, family-friendly event.
VisitOWA.com

Nov. 21 Harvest Festival

9 a.m.–2 p.m. Shop for your Thanksgiving feast and help us crown the Harvest Queen.
CoastalAlabamaMarket.com