VOLUME 19, ISSUE 4 FALL 2026

CITY OF Foley

NEWSLETTER

OUR COMMUNITY. OUR CITY. OUR FUTURE.

MAYOR
Ralph G. Hellmich

COUNCIL
J. Wayne Trawick
Council President
District 1

Timothy "Tim" Lower
District 2

Roderick Burkle
District 3

Larry Engel
District 4

Charlie J. Ebert III
President Pro Tempore
District 5

CITY ADMINISTRATOR
Michael L. Thompson

407 E. Laurel Ave.
P.O. Box 1750
Foley, AL 36536

(251) 943-1545
(251) 952-4041 - fax

cityoffoley.org

MAYOR'S NOTES

As we enter the holiday season, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many blessings we share here in Foley. Thanksgiving is a time to appreciate our families, neighbors and the community we are fortunate to call home. This year, we have an additional reason to be grateful.

Following Hurricane Isaias in October, we are especially thankful that Foley was spared the worst of the storm, while our neighboring communities were not as fortunate. I am proud of our city employees, first responders and Public Works crews, whose preparation, teamwork and dedication helped keep our community safe and allowed us to recover quickly.

As we look ahead to the new year, there is a great deal to be excited about in Foley.

October marked the beginning of our 2027 fiscal year, and we have an ambitious year of projects and improvements planned for our growing city. We are continuing to make investments that will enhance services, strengthen infrastructure and improve the quality of life for our residents.

One of the projects I am particularly excited about is our new Aquatic Center, which will expand recreational opportunities for residents of all ages. We are also moving forward with a new Senior Center, providing a dedicated space for programs, activities and fellowship.

Our Parks and Recreation facilities are another important focus, including plans to renovate the former Public Works property to better support our Parks and Horticulture operations. These improvements will help us maintain and enhance the public spaces our residents enjoy.

We are also making significant improvements to our Municipal Complex, including the renovation of the former library into a new municipal annex and planning for a new Civic Center. As Foley continues to grow, we want to ensure our facilities meet the needs of our community for years to come.

Public safety remains a top priority. Our plans include improvements to Fire Station 1 and continued planning for a fourth fire station in the northeast quadrant of our city. These projects will help ensure our first responders have the resources needed to serve our growing community.

These investments reflect our commitment to planning thoughtfully for Foley's future while maintaining the strong financial stewardship our residents expect.

As we prepare for the new year, I hope everyone will enjoy the Christmas traditions that make Foley so special. Join us for Christmas in the Park on December 4, followed by the Foley Christmas Parade and Let It Snow on December 5. These celebrations bring our community together and fill downtown Foley with Christmas cheer.

I encourage everyone to shop locally, support our downtown businesses and make lasting memories with family and friends.

On behalf of the Foley City Council and our city employees, I wish you and your families a wonderful Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Mayor Ralph Hellmich

FOLEY HOSTS FIRST GULF COAST HEAVY EQUIPMENT ROADEO

Public equipment operators from across the Alabama Gulf Coast competed Sept. 25 in the first Gulf Coast Heavy Equipment Roadeo at OWA Parks & Resorts.

Hosted by the City of Foley, the event brought together 14 teams from cities, counties and utility agencies to compete in heavy equipment challenges.

Mayor Ralph Hellmich said the event highlighted the skills of employees who provide essential public services.

> *"This is a way of featuring their talents and skills and for us to show our appreciation for what they do."*
>
> — Mayor Ralph Hellmich

Foley's Austin Parker won the Brothers Machinery Mini-Excavator Competition, and Foley also won the team mini-excavator event. Robertsdale was named overall grand champion.

Foley Street Department Supervisor Mike Chavers called the inaugural event a collaborative effort.

"It was a great day and a great event," Chavers said.

NEW ORDINANCE GIVES RESIDENTS MORE CONTROL OVER DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITATION

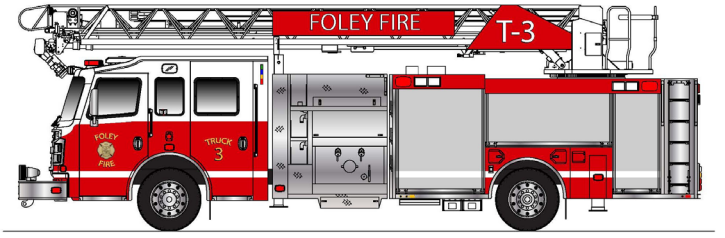
Commercial solicitors must meet new stringent requirements, while residents and neighborhoods can opt out.

The City of Foley has adopted new regulations for door-to-door commercial solicitation aimed at giving residents more control over who comes to their homes while preserving protections for non-commercial speech.

Under the ordinance, which took effect Oct. 30, commercial solicitors are required to undergo a background check and carry a City-issued identification card showing their name and the company they represent. Businesses conducting solicitation in Foley must also have a valid City business license.

Residents can add their address to a City-maintained list indicating that they do not wish to receive commercial solicitations. Homeowners associations may also vote to have an entire subdivision added to the list, giving neighborhoods another option for limiting door-to-door sales activity.

The regulations apply only to commercial solicitation and do not apply to religious or charitable organizations, political candidates or other non-commercial groups. The ordinance was developed to balance residents' privacy with existing protections for non-commercial speech.



NEW LADDER TRUCK COMING TO FOLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

78-foot aerial ladder truck expected to arrive in Foley in early November

A new ladder truck will soon join the Foley Fire Department's fleet as the city continues investing in fire protection, emergency response and department facilities.

Fire Chief Joey Darby said the truck, ordered in late 2023, is now in final production. Completion is expected by the end of October, with delivery to Foley anticipated in early November. "Our ladder truck is in final production, so we're excited about that," Darby said.

Once delivered, the truck will be assigned to Fire Station No. 3 and staffed by a four-person crew. The new apparatus features a 78-foot aerial ladder and is also equipped with a water tank, pump, fire hose and ground ladders, allowing it to function as both a custom pumper and an aerial ladder truck. The added versatility will give crews another resource for responding to structure fires and other emergencies throughout the city.

The city is also moving forward with plans for Fire Station No. 4 on East Fern Avenue. The project is currently in the design phase, with design work expected to be completed in March 2027.

Additional improvements are planned at Fire Station No. 1, including work to strengthen the building against high winds and storms, install a new roof system and prepare for future exterior improvements. The department is also working to renovate and rebuild its fire training burn tower for hands-on firefighter training.

FOLEY HOLIDAY EVENTS

Celebrate the season with holiday traditions throughout Foley.

10th Annual Harvest Festival | Saturday, Nov. 21, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market
Shop for fresh ingredients for your holiday table and enjoy the Harvest Queen Pageant, open to Baldwin County students in grades 3–5.

Pre-Thanksgiving Market | Tuesday, Nov. 24, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market
Pick up last-minute Thanksgiving essentials, including preordered pies and other treats.

Christmas in the Park | Friday, Dec. 4, 6 p.m. | Heritage Park
Enjoy Christmas carols, the tree lighting, Santa, hot cocoa and snacks, plus Christmas Tree Decorating Contest awards.

Foley Kiwanis Christmas Parade | Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m. | Downtown Foley
Enjoy festive floats and community groups, catch some candy and watch for Santa as the parade makes its way through downtown Foley.

Let It Snow | Saturday, Dec. 5, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Heritage Park
Enjoy kids' activities, live entertainment, festive photo opportunities and a marketplace. Santa joins the fun following the Christmas Parade!

Christmas Night Market | Thursday, Dec. 10, 4-8 p.m.
Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market
Enjoy shopping, sweet treats, unique gifts, kids' activities and a visit from Santa.

YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1

Foley Parks & Recreation is preparing for another season of youth baseball and softball. Registration will be held Feb. 1–18, 2027.

Both programs offer multiple age divisions, giving young athletes the chance to build skills and play in a team environment. Parks & Recreation provides uniforms and team equipment, while families are responsible for personal items such as gloves and cleats.

Registration is completed through RecDesk. New families should create a household profile in advance, while returning families should make sure their contact information is current.

Skills assessments will be held for select age divisions. Visit FoleyRecreation.com for 2027 age divisions, fees and assessment information.

Scan for more information

FIRE DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY SAFETY REMINDERS

Turkey Fryer Safety

Always use turkey fryers outdoors on a flat, stable surface, away from buildings and flammable materials. Ensure the turkey is fully thawed and dry, and never leave a hot fryer unattended.

Real Christmas Trees

Choose a fresh tree and keep it watered. Place it at least 3 feet from fireplaces, heaters and other heat sources, and remove it once dry or shedding needles.

Holiday Lights & Candles

Check holiday lights for damaged cords, loose connections or broken bulbs. Avoid overloading outlets and turn off lights before leaving or going to bed. Keep candles away from flammable materials.

Space Heater Safety

Keep portable heaters at least 3 feet from flammable materials. Plug directly into a wall outlet and turn off before leaving or sleeping. Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms regularly.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Permit Report

- 67 Single-Family Permits
  $21,844,923 Valuation
- 21 New Commercial Permits
  $36,235,708 Valuation
- 8 New Multi-Family Buildings
  $36,145,395 Valuation
- 151 Miscellaneous Permits
  $23,096,755 Valuation
- 381 Trade Permits
  $2,308,946 Valuation
- Certificates of Occupancy Issued
  Residential: 97 | Commercial: 3

Scan to view holiday trash & recycling schedule

Veterans Day,
Thanksgiving,
Christmas, New Year's,
and MLK Day

CITY OF Foley
407 E. Laurel Ave
P.O. Box 1750
Foley, AL 36536

UPCOMING EVENTS

FIND MORE EVENTS & UPDATES AT VISITFOLEY.COM | FOLEYSPORTSTOURISM.COM | GRAHAMCREEKPRESERVE.ORG

FOLEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY
New Location: 230 E. Orange Ave.
For activities and events, visit FoleyLibrary.org

COASTAL ALABAMA FARMERS AND FISHERMENS MARKET
Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Local produce, fresh seafood, homemade goods, and more.
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 CityofFoley.org/senior-center

NOV. 7 Kids & K9s at The Library
10 a.m. Meet friendly therapy dogs while learning about kindness, reading and the joy animals bring. foleylibrary.org

NOV. 11 Veterans Day
City offices closed (except emergency personnel). Visit cityoffoley.org for garbage and recycling pickup information.

NOV. 13-DEC. 23 Trim-A-Tree
Tanger Outlets
foleyartcenter.com or Facebook

NOV. 19 & DEC. 17 Third Thursdays
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Enjoy an evening in Downtown Foley with local shopping, dining, and fun while supporting local businesses.
FoleyMainStreet.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

NOV. 21 Nutcracker Storytime
10 a.m. Enjoy a storytime featuring dance, music and holiday magic for the whole family. foleylibrary.org

NOV. 24 Pre-Thanksgiving Market
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Pick up last-minute Thanksgiving essentials from market vendors. CoastalAlabamaMarket.com

DEC. 1 Library Christmas Market
4 p.m. - 7 p.m. Browse festive vendors, discover unique gifts and enjoy an evening of shopping, community and holiday cheer. foleylibrary.org

DEC. 4 Christmas in the Park
6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Stroll through the park and enjoy Christmas carols, the tree lighting, a visit with Santa, hot cocoa and snacks, plus Christmas Tree Decorating Contest awards.

DEC. 5 Let It Snow
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Fun activities, live entertainment, and photo ops in Heritage Park. VisitFoley.com

DEC. 5 Foley Kiwanis 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. 10 Christmas Night Market
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Enjoy holiday shopping and a visit from Santa.
CoastalAlabamaMarket.com

DEC. 22 Kids Christmas Party
5:30 p.m. Kids can enjoy crafts, games and plenty of Christmas cheer.
foleylibrary.org

JAN. 22 Family PJ Movie Night
5:30 p.m. Snuggle up in your favorite pajamas for a cozy family movie night in Canopy Hall featuring Toy Story 5!
foleylibrary.org

Scan to sign up for our monthly digital newsletter