

OCT 2024 - SEPT 2025



Annual REPORT

The power of friendship fosters understanding, collaboration, and peace across borders.

ORGANIZATIONAL *Highlights*

- Strengthened international partnerships and community engagement.
- Expanded leadership structure with the formation of advisory and alumni groups.
- Increased visibility through events, publications, and fundraising initiatives.
- Continued focus on cultural exchange, youth leadership development, and global connection.

quarter **ONE**

- **Welcomed and hosted international guests from Hennef**
- **Hosted the 2nd Annual Foley Sister Cities 5K Oktoberfest Run**
- **Proclamation**
- **Fundraising Partnerships**
- **Christmas Tree Decorating Contest**
- **Christmas Parade Participation**
- **Community holiday engagement and visibility**



WELCOMED AND HOSTED INTERNATIONAL GUESTS FROM *Hennef, Germany*

- 14 students, 3 teachers
- Experiences Included:

Alligator Alley

Attending High School Classes

Beach Turtle Training

Dolphin Cruise

Foley High School Football Game

Mardi Gras Museum

Naval Aviation Museum

Oktoberfest 5K

Train Depot

USS Alabama



Hennep, Germany ✈️ Foley, Alabama





OCTOBER 5, 2024

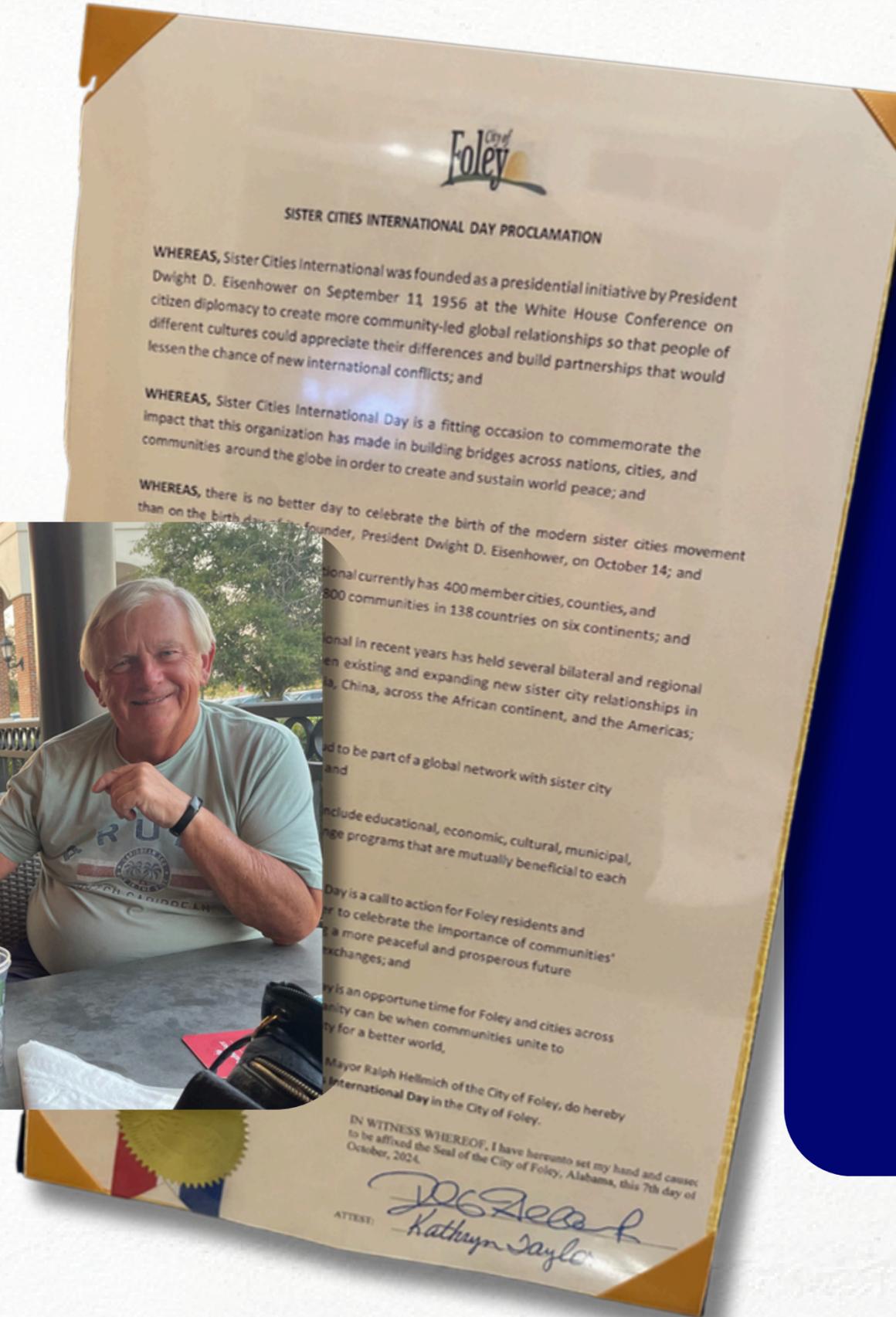
- 119 Runners
- Raised over 15K
- Participants Representing Six States and Germany



SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL DAY

proclamation

OCTOBER 14, 2024



WINTER *Fundraising*

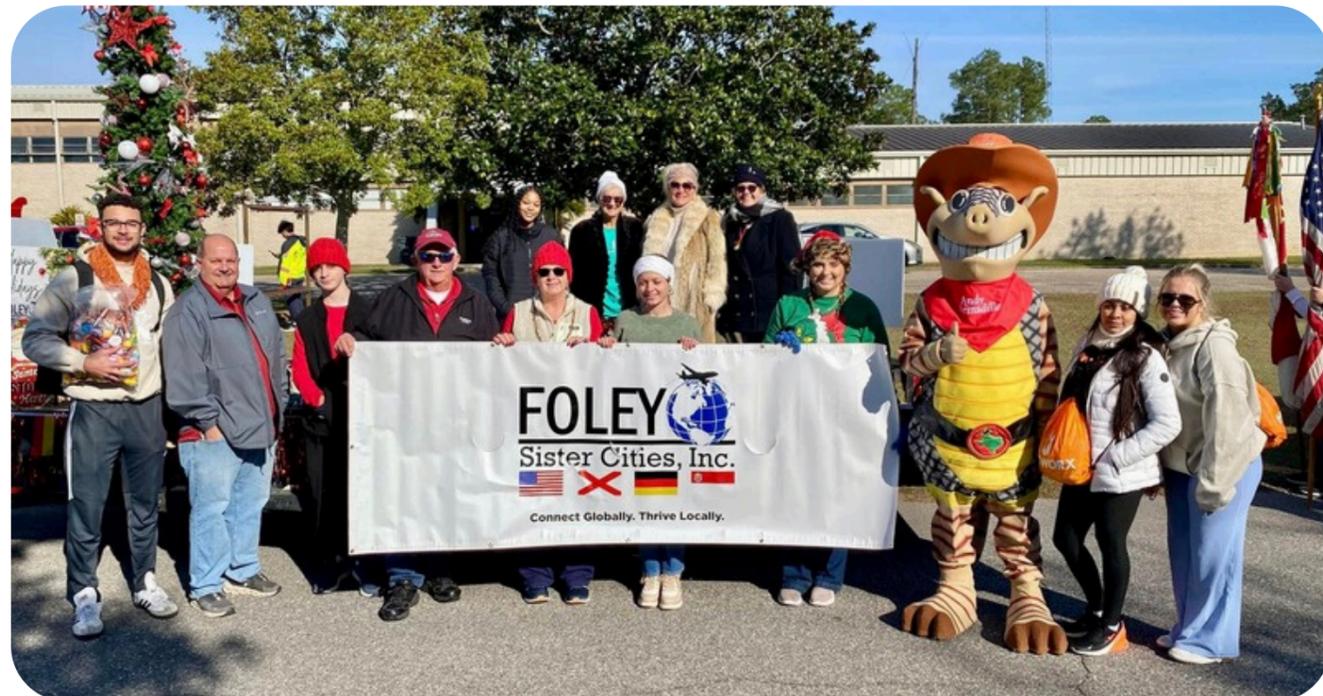


- **Texas Roadhouse Gift Card Fundraising**
- **Toast to Sister Cities Fundraiser & Silent Auction**

Merry Christmas

FROHE WEIHNACHTEN

- Christmas in the Park Tree Decorating Contest
 - Placed 3rd
- Foley Christmas Parade



quarter **TWO**

- **Foley Sister Cities Global Leaders Advisory Council**
- **Feature in *Find it Local* publication article**
- **Recruited and interviewed student candidates for 2026 international travel program**



formed

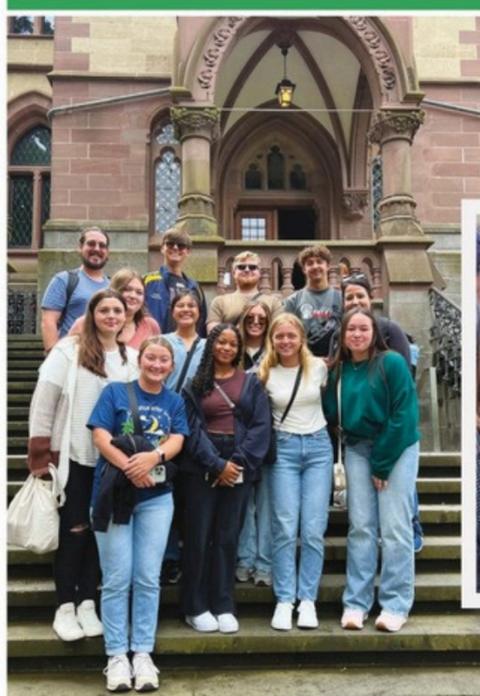
FOLEY SISTER CITIES GLOBAL LEADERS ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Engage and inform community leaders about the mission, programs, and impact of Foley Sister Cities.
- Serve as ambassadors by helping share information and promote Foley Sister Cities throughout the community.
- Provide strategic guidance and insight on events, fundraising initiatives, partnerships, and long-term planning.
- Actively participate in key events and initiatives to strengthen visibility, support, and community engagement.



FIND IT LOCAL

feature



The goal of the Commission is to promote long-term, global, people-to-people relationships through the development of international leadership, friendship, and understanding.



THE FOLEY SISTER CITIES PROGRAM

Students Immerse in a Cultural Exchange

Local students are gaining life experience and making life-long memories through a cultural exchange program that couples the City of Foley with a European counterpart. In the summer of 2024, 11 Foley High School seniors spent two weeks in Germany as part of the Foley Sister Cities Program. They served as educational and cultural ambassadors for the City of Foley and

Foley High School. In October, their German counterparts visited South Baldwin County.

The exchange is part of the efforts of the Foley Sister Cities Commission, which has developed a Sister City relationship with Hennef, Germany. When the Foley students visited Hennef, they stayed with host families and attended local schools. They had the opportunity to explore the cities of Frankfurt, Cologne, Bonn, and Munich, among others. Touring

historical sites was a highlight and included Dachau Concentration Camp and the childhood home of Ludwig Van Beethoven. They also enjoyed visits to castles, cathedrals, museums, chocolate factories, and bakeries. The students were also welcomed to Hennef City Hall for a meeting with Mayor Mario Dahm.

Many of the students, like Claire Reissiger say the trip was an unforgettable experience and they felt very welcome. "My family was amazing," she said. "They really welcomed me." She noted many aspects of "exploring another culture," that ranged from how they grow their food to how they do laundry. Of course, she said, traveling and exploring were a highlight of the trip.

For Alex Beckworth, the trip has ignited an interest in future travel. "It was wonderful," he commented. "I would like to go back and visit some other European countries."

The goal of the program was to create relationships across the world and organizers are confident that goal was met.

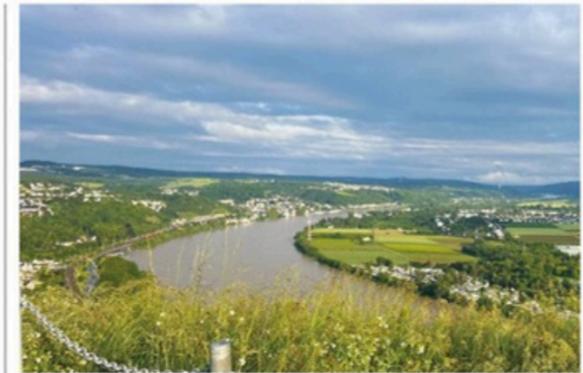
"This trip of a lifetime allowed our students to extend their family across the world. By attending school and living with their host families in Germany, they gained invaluable insights into teenage life abroad."

—Kylie Raulerson, Executive Director of the South Baldwin Chamber Foundation

"This trip of a lifetime allowed our students to extend their family across the world. By attending school and living with their host families in Germany, they gained invaluable insights into teenage life abroad. We were beyond excited to welcome these same German students and teachers to Foley, further strengthening our international bonds." - Kylie Raulerson, Executive Director of the South Baldwin Chamber Foundation.

When the students from Hennef visited, they attended school with their local counterparts and also visited many local tourist attractions in South Baldwin and Mobile Counties. They also had the opportunity to participate in the annual "Foley Sister Cities 5K Oktoberfest Run" held at OWA Parks & Resort as a fundraiser for the program.

The goal of the Commission is to "promote long-term, global, people-to-people relationships through the development of international leadership, friendship, and understanding." The effort seeks to facilitate partnerships and citizen diplomacy through cultural, educational, and commercial exchanges. The Board of Commissioners is working year-round to meet those goals and provide a diverse slate of opportunities for educational and cultural exchange.



2026 STUDENT Delegation



Joseph Cruz

Corey Bentley

Dylan Thomas

Lily Ingraham

Dylan Lockhart

Gracie Whitson

Catherine Busby

Colton Watkins

Cole Reid

Sarah Branscomb

Reygan Watson

McKenzie Beavers

Lucas Bodiford

Makayla Shoenight



quarter **THREE**

- **Cooking Connects Cookbook Debut**
- **Hosted Cookbook Signing Events**
- **City of Foley Recognition of the 2024 Student Delegation**
- **PenPal Program**
- **Delegation orientation & meetings**
- **Travel preparation and Planning**



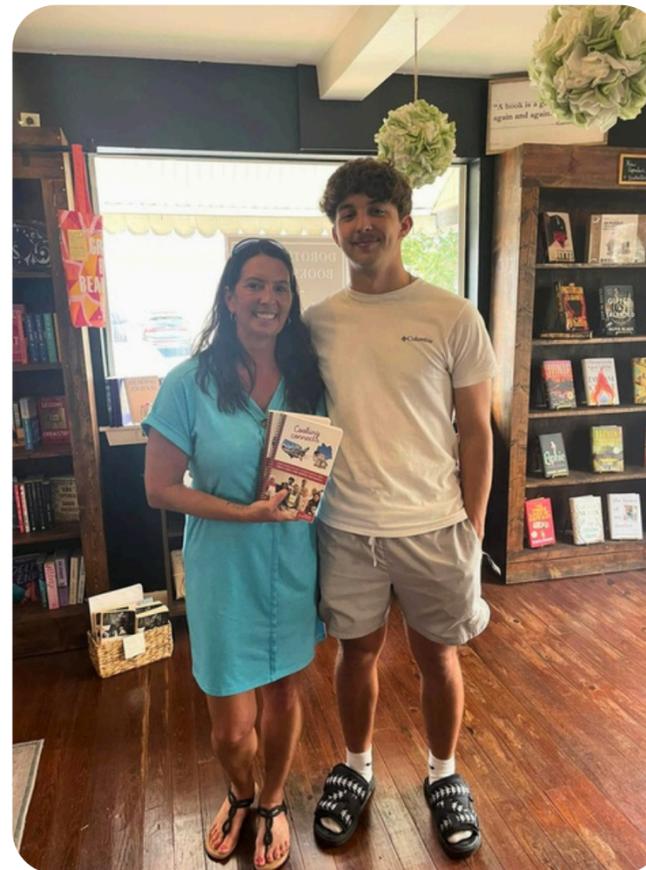
Cooking Connects

COOKBOOK DEBUT

- 500 copies produced and printed
- High school students partnered with senior citizens in both countries to collect recipes
- 80 total recipes gathered — 40 from each country
- International, intergenerational cookbook published in both English and German in collaboration with students in Germany
- Cookbooks available for purchase locally at:
 - Dorothea June Booksellers – Foley
 - The Book Exchange – Foley
 - Amazing Finds – Summerdale
 - Baldwin County Heritage Museum – Elberta
 - Forgotten Finds – Elberta



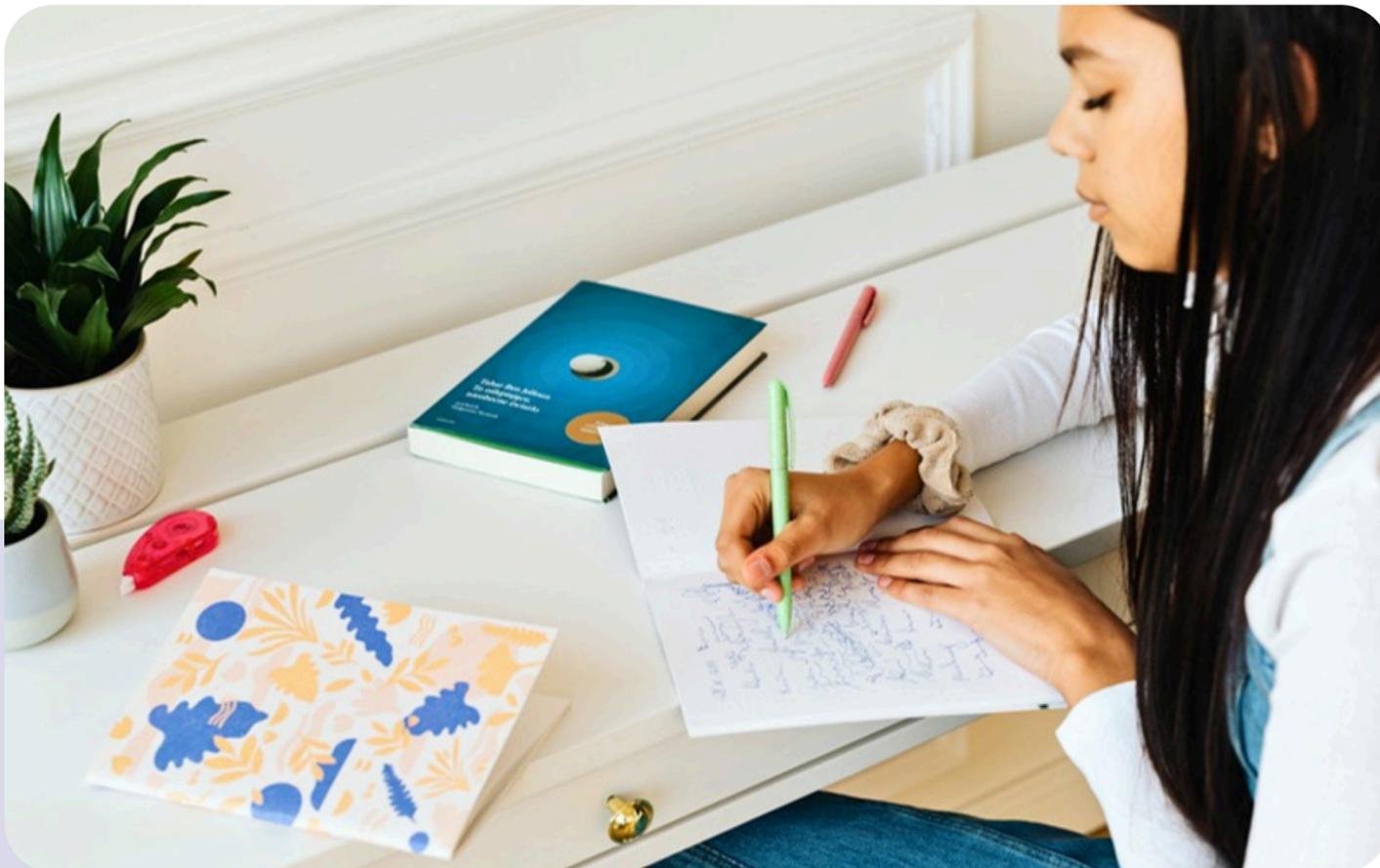
BOOK SIGNING & PROMOTION



CITY OF FOLEY RECOGNITION OF THE 2024 STUDENT *delegation*



penpal **PROGRAM**



- **100 students participated in the Pen Pal program**
- **Each student wrote 5 letters, totaling 500 written correspondences**
- **Interactive learning activities included virtual school tours using Google Earth to explore schools in Hennef**
- **Strong engagement from ESL students, increasing excitement and motivation to learn both English and German simultaneously**
- **Future plans include expanding the program to 5th and 6th grades to allow more time for student participation at Foley Elementary School**
- **The program continues to evolve and improve as participation grows and opportunities expand**
- **Rising postage costs and long delivery times have prompted consideration of digital solutions, such as scanning and sharing letters electronically**

quarter **FOUR**

- **Foley Sister Cities Global Leaders Alumni Association**
- **Continued program planning and event preparations**
- **Continued outreach and promotions**
- **Alabama–Germany Partnership Networking Event**



formed

FOLEY SISTER CITIES GLOBAL LEADERS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

- **Maintain active relationships with alumni and contacts in Hennef, Germany**
- **Promote global awareness and cultural understanding in the South Baldwin community**
- **Mentor current and future Foley Sister Cities student participants**
- **Promote the mission of “Building Peace Through People” through outreach and storytelling**



ALABAMA GERMANY PARTNERSHIP *networking*



Alabama Germany Partnership (AGP) is a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to the development of the educational, business, cultural, and social relationships among individuals and organizations with ties to both Alabama and Germany. The organization was formed in 1998 and is membership driven.

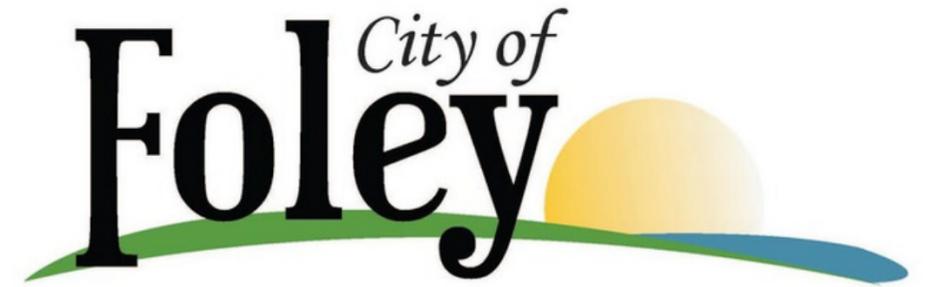
LOOKING *ahead*

- Continued Christmas programming and community engagement
- Student international travel preparations
- Student Germany delegation visit to Foley
- Expansion of alumni involvement
- Continued development of leadership initiatives and partnerships
- Record-breaking Oktoberfest 5K numbers
- Planning for upcoming fundraisers and exchange programming



Thank You

OCT 2024-SEPT 2025



RALPH & JO HELLMICH  Collins Aerospace **GROOVY**  **GOAT** **HELLMICH ELECTRIC**



Accent Financial, LLC
Alabama Credit Union
Baldwin EMC
Bier Shack Taproom
Bryant Bank

Complete Kitchen
Crimson Capital Group
Design Print Promo
Fern Medical Village
GlenLakes Golf Course
Groovy Goat

Manning Jewelry
Moyer Ford
Pinnacle Pools
Spangrud & Associates
Swindle Photography