

THE SCENIC VIEW

Scenic Walton's Monthly Newsletter

*Scenic*Walton

Inside the Issue:

April 2021



RIDE GOWAL

Take advantage of free transportation in Walton County with the GoWal system.



CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

The underpass is finally beginning construction. Local & state dignitaries came out to shovel sand.



UNDERPASS PRESS

Thank you to every reporter and news outlet for sharing our the groundbreaking!

COMMUNITY CELEBRATES UNDERPASS



BIG TURN OUT FOR GROUNDBREAKING

Thank you to everyone who celebrated the groundbreaking of the \$5.6 million Inlet Beach Underpass with us on March 26, outside of Shades Bar & Grill.

It was a beautiful day, and Leigh Moore, executive director of Scenic Walton, was proudly joined on stage by local and state officials.

The ceremony kicked off with a rousing rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner performed by singer Sarah Davidson, followed by a brief synopsis of the project by Moore.



Senator Gainer, Walton County Commissioners, representatives from Florida's Department of Transportation, representatives from the Walton County Tourist Development Council, Leigh Moore, executive director of Scenic Walton, John Freer, owner of Shades Restaurant and Bar, and Brian Corr, developer of 30Avenue, mark the official groundbreaking.

Approximately 100 people attended the groundbreaking and viewed maps, renderings, and videos of the underpass entryway.

“It was a momentous day for Walton County,” Moore said. “We have worked tirelessly at Scenic Walton for the construction of a pedestrian underpass because we know it will save lives. It’s exciting to see construction begin.”

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(Left) Executive Director Leigh Moore answers questions for WMBB News Channel 13 Reporter Emily McLeod during the event. (Right) The impacted area for construction is highlighted on this map. Road construction will not begin until after 8:30 p.m., and will end at 5:30 a.m.

GROUNDBREAKING CONTINUED ...

Senator Gainer, former Walton County Commissioner Bill Chapman, Commissioner Boots McCormick, and John Freer, owner of Shades Restaurant and Bar, all spoke briefly about how locals and visitors will benefit from the underpass.

“I am so glad to see this today,” Sen. Gainer told the crowd. “I’m glad to see this is a result of everyone in Walton County working together. You should be very proud of all the leaders up here. I appreciate that I got to be a small part of it. If we don’t save but one life, it’s going to be worth everything we’ve all done.”

In keeping with the scenic appeal of 30A, a National Scenic Byway, the Cultural Arts Alliance is partnering with Scenic Walton to create a public art component for the underpass.

As part of CAA's Art in Public Spaces program, sculptures and murals will transform the underpass into a unique entry to 30A.



Senator Gainer (standing) speaks to the crowd and shares his enthusiasm for the Inlet Beach Underpass project.

Jennifer Steele, executive director of the CAA, said the theme of the art installations would be connectivity and relationship among and between humans and our connection with the built environment through creativity.

The Art in Public Spaces program currently supports the sculpture trail in Rosemary Beach, the sculpture collection in Alys Beach, and the new Monarch Art Trail along S. Watersound Parkway.

Two artists or teams will create and install the sculptures. One artist or team will paint the interior murals in collaboration with local students through the CAA’s ongoing partnership with the Walton County School District in the Spring of 2022.

The FDOT will also:

- Improve drainage in the area,
- Add a new US 98 Eastbound right turn lane onto 30A,
- Enhance pedestrian crosswalks and sidewalks,
- Add lighted access points,
- Landscape the surrounding area,
- Construct both stair and ADA compliant ramps for underpass access.



GOWAL provides public transportation every Monday - Friday from 6:00 AM - 6:30 PM.

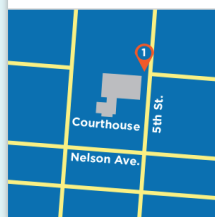
Enjoy:

- Free WIFI
- Bike Racks
- Bus Tracker

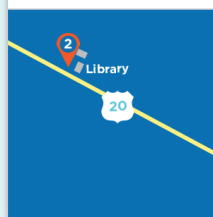


Ride Free!

1
DeFuniak
Courthouse



2
Freeport
Park & Ride



3
Freeport
County
Offices



4
South
Walton
Annex



SCENIC WALTON IN THE NEWS

Washington Post
April 16, 2021

“One of the things we know about Americans is that they love their cars and the open road. That is a big part of this,” said Mark Falzone, president of **Scenic America**, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving the country’s beauty. “We are seeing a revival in scenic byways, and it couldn’t come at a better time, because of covid-19 and restrictions.”



Scenic Highway 30A in Florida parallels the Gulf of Mexico and is trimmed with white sand beaches. (Sean Couchy/JWC Studios)

Scenic Highway 30A, Florida

Where: Inlet Beach to Dune Allen

How far: 24 miles

What: The two-lane road rides shotgun to the Gulf of Mexico. There are no cities along the coastal route, only towns and communities with “sea” or “beach” in their names; state parks, such as the sand dunes-studded Topsail Hill Preserve State Park; and long stretches of pearly white sand.

30A.com
March 26, 2021



Groundbreaking also featured in:

The DeFuniak Herald
March 31, 2021

Northwest Florida Daily News
March 25, 2021

WMBB News 13
March 26, 2021

SoWal Life
April 6, 2021

The Walton Sun
March 19, 2021

Highway 98 Underpass groundbreaking marks start of construction in Inlet Beach

