



Storm Recovery News

September 2005

FOR UPDATES, CALL THE RECOVERY INFO LINE AT 435-6300

BILOXI IS COMING BACK

My fellow Biloxians:

It's been 18 days since Hurricane Katrina devastated Biloxi and our neighboring communities, and I want to say how proud I am of the way our city employees and our city residents have handled this crisis.

Employees in the Biloxi Police, Fire and Public Works departments were on the job before, during and since the storm, and, in many cases, neglecting their families and personal losses to focus on the safety and welfare of the citizens of Biloxi. All city departments and available offices are working as part of the recovery effort.

The City Council and I are profoundly proud of our employees and how they've risen to this unprecedented challenge, and we're grateful for the abundance of assistance we're receiving from other states, cities and towns across the country and around the world..

Biloxi is comin' back – and we're going to rebuild this city in a way that will once again make it one of the country's greatest communities.

I plan on following through on President Bush's words: "Mayor Holloway," he said to me, "do what you have to do to rebuild, and I'll find the money."

Our citizens have handled this ordeal as we have in the past – with a resiliency that has driven us for generations. The local

churches have reached out to their congregations; civic and community groups have made donations of clothing, cash and food; and social service agencies such as the American Red Cross and Salvation Army have set up aid stations to help the needy.

As Bishop Thomas Rodi told our city emergency and relief workers during a service the other day at the Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center: "This is a time when you all become instruments of God, when He performs His work through you."

Just as our ancestors did in generations before us, we are overcoming the huge challenge of recovering from an unprecedented natural disaster. Now, let's continue to have an unprecedented response – one that will make us all proud.

Meantime, I ask for your prayers, your patience and your perseverance as we go about our tasks.

God bless you and keep the faith. Biloxi IS on the way back.



Mayor A.J. Holloway describes the storm surge to President Bush, Sen. Thad Cochran and Gov. Haley Barbour.

A.J. Holloway
Mayor
Sept. 15, 2005

Disaster Recovery Center now open; temporary housing on the way

With few east Biloxi buildings large enough to provide sufficient space to house a Disaster Recovery Center, FEMA has been forced to open its Biloxi office at the Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center on Pass Road, and the City of Biloxi and Coast Transit Authority have established free shuttle service for east Biloxi residents to travel to the center.

FEMA hopes to operate the Disaster Recovery Center, or DRC, daily from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. initially and will expand hours as needed.

"We realize that the majority of the destruction has been on the east end of town," Mayor A.J. Holloway said, "and that's exactly what made it difficult to find suitable space on that end of town. "However, Coast Transit has established shuttle service for residents that will allow them a way to get to this center, and FEMA officials have promised to expand hours as long as necessary to meet the high demand that we certainly will have." (You can see a map of the bus routes inside this newsletter.)

A DRC is a facility established in or in close proximity to a community affected by the disaster where persons can meet face-to-face with represented federal, state, local, and volunteer agencies.

Among the objectives:

- Discuss their disaster-related needs
- Obtain information about disaster assistance programs
- Teleregister for assistance
- Update registration information
- Learn about measures for rebuilding that can eliminate or reduce the risk of future loss
- Learn how to complete the SBA loan application
- Request the status of their application for Assistance to Individuals and Households
- Residents should bring (see brief on back)

Residents also may register by phone by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) (hearing/speech impaired ONLY – Call TTY: 1-800-462-7585). If you get a busy signal, calling after 10 p.m. or on the weekends when fewer people are trying to call.

When you apply you should have a pen and paper available to write down important phone contacts. You will need your social security number, current and pre-disaster address, phone numbers, type of insurance coverage, total household annual income, and a routing and account number from your bank if you want to have disaster assistance funds transferred directly into your bank account.