

A New Day

HURRICANE KATRINA RECOVERY NEWS FROM THE CITY OF BILOXI

My fellow Biloxian:

It's been a week now since Hurricane Katrina devastated Biloxi and our neighboring communities, and I wanted to say how proud I am of the way our city employees – and our city residents in general – 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 property issues to focus on the safety and welfare of the citizens of Biloxi.

The City Council and I are profoundly proud of our employees and how they've risen to this unprecedented challenge.

I'm just as proud of how our citizens and how they've handled this ordeal. The 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.

As Bishop Thomas Rodi told our city workers during a service Sunday: "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 have overcome a huge challenge. We survived an unprecedented natural disaster. Now, let's have an unprecedented response – one where we'll rebuild this city – again – to one of the greatest communities in America.

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



Points of distribution for food, water and ice

Points of distribution have been established in Biloxi at these locations by 7 each morning:

- Cedar-Popp's Shopping Center, Cedar Lake and Popp's Ferry roads, south of I-10 Cedar Lake exit.
- Wal-Mart at Pass Road in west Biloxi.
- Food Tiger supermarket, Division Street at I-110 overpass.
- Chevron station, Woolmarket Road.
- Biloxi Community Center, Howard Avenue, east Biloxi.

FEMA establishes number for disaster assistance

Homeowners, renters and businessowners can apply for FEMA disaster assistance at 1-800-621-FEMA (1-800-621-3362).

Those who call should have the following info: A phone number, Social Security number, mailing address, address of damaged property, brief description of damages and, if you have insurance, information about your coverage.

The number for the deaf and hard of hearing is 1-800-462-7585.

Humane society sets up animal info hotline

Residents who have missing pets or who have found lost or disoriented pets can call 1-888-722-3166. The service, based at the Jackson County Fairgrounds, is being provided by the Humane Society of the United States.

More than a quarter of Biloxi now has power

Six days after Hurricane Katrina made landfall, Mississippi Power Co. reports that its crews and partner agencies have now restored power to about 50 percent of the company's customers, including 3,580, or 24 percent of its customers in Biloxi.

Power Company spokesman Kurt Brautigam reports that power should be restored for all eligible customers by the end of the day Sunday, Sept. 11.

Says Mayor A.J. Holloway: "This is phenomenal news. I remember I was without power for three weeks after Camille. Mississippi Power Co. and its partners should be proud of their work in the aftermath of the storm. I congratulate all of them, and I'm sure the people of Biloxi are thankful, too."

Wondering about the status of a missing person? Call National Red Cross Missing Person line, toll-free, at 1-877-568-3317.

Don't pay for work in advance; check license

Property owners are warned to beware of transient contractors who typically set up shop in the wake of disasters such as Hurricane Katrina.

Ask to see the person's City of Biloxi license card, which is required to do business in this city. Do not pay any money in advance. Do not sign any contracts. And do not pay any money until the work has been inspected and approved by a city inspector.

If you have any questions or concerns, call the Community Development Department at 435-6280.

News and notes

Curfew: A dusk-to-dawn curfew exists in Biloxi, and residents are asked to limit traffic during the day. Highway 90 remains closed to the motorists and pedestrians.

Volunteers needed: Anyone interested in volunteering in the Katrina relief effort should call 435-6112.

Feed the masses: The Salvation Army is offering free meals at Yankee Stadium and at its location on Howard Avenue on Point Cadet.

Wastewater: Since the city's wastewater treatment system is still being restored, residents are asked to refrain from using their restrooms. Instead, do this: Place a plastic supermarket bag in the bowl of your commode, with the handles of the bag overhanging the rim of the bowl. After use, tie the handles of the bag and drop it into your blue BFI trash receptacle.

Garbage pickup: BFI expects to begin residential garbage pickup service beginning Tuesday.

This newsletter will be printed and distributed every day at key locations throughout the city, such as supply distribution points; city facilities, churches, businesses, etc.