

THE State of the City

ONE YEAR LATER



We're well on our way to making history – again

My fellow Biloxians:

As I write this, we're approaching the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the storm that has forever changed our lives and the look of our city.

We've removed the vast majority of the debris that filled our streets and neighborhoods.

We've issued thousands of repair permits and more than a hundred permits for new homes. At this point, many property owners, particularly those in east Biloxi and Eagle Point, are either waiting on insurance settlements or grants or other financing, contemplating the impact of the new flood elevations, or still unsure of where they are going to rebuild. In many cases, your city government is facing the same issues.

But one thing is clear: Biloxi is coming back stronger and stronger every day.

I have seen the future and it is bright, exciting and inviting. You can see it, too, in a number of places. You can catch a glimpse in the Reviving the Renaissance report, highlights of which are included in this report. The effort represents the thoughts, ideas and recommendations from 200 of your fellow Biloxians who met for months on various quality-of-life committees, poring over information from the Governor's Commission and generating their own ideas on how Biloxi can build back better and responsibly.

The best place to see the future of Biloxi, however, is to look at our past. The story of Biloxi is the most compelling you'll find anywhere in the Katrina recovery zone.

In the decade before Katrina, we were enjoying the most prosperous and productive time in the 300-plus year history of this community.

We oversaw \$6 billion worth of development in Biloxi. Nine casino resorts helped create 15,000 new jobs and opportunity for all. We saw the number of hotel rooms in our area grow from 6,000 to nearly 20,000, and we went from a million visitors a year to between 8 and 10 million a year.

We hadn't built a new school since 1960, but during that decade or so of prosperity, we invested \$80 million in public education, building three new state-of-the-art elementary schools and a \$35 million high school, and we gained worldwide attention as being the first school district in the country to have surveillance cameras in every classroom of the district.

At the same time, we invested tens of millions of dollars in affordable housing, public safety and recreation. We invested in our heritage and culture, and preserved historic neighborhoods. We were doubling the size of our airport and were getting ready to launch a project to double the size of our convention center. And, let's not forget, we cut our city property tax rate in half while we were providing our residents a much-deserved and enhanced quality of life.

Then Hurricane Katrina came along.

Katrina destroyed 6,000 of the 25,000 homes and businesses in Biloxi. Hundreds of historic homes and landmarks were leveled. Entire blocks of neighborhoods were reduced to debris fields. Huge casino barges broke from their moorings and were pushed across U.S. 90 as far as three-quarters of a mile down the road.

Our infrastructure was decimated. And 53 people lost their lives in Biloxi alone, according to the county coroner.

But months after Katrina, even as we were dealing with day-to-day issues of recovery, we came to realize something.

The decade of prosperity we were enjoying before the storm was only a glimpse of what our potential is today. We stand poised to reach even greater levels of prosperity and opportunity.

And this is not just A.J. Holloway talking. The facts bear witness to what I'm reporting.

Today, thousands of our residents are back at work. Many returned to their jobs at the five casino

resorts now back in operation, with two more on the way. More and more businesses and amenities will be returning over the next several months. More and more homeowners are going to move forward in their rebuilding process.

We're already seeing encouraging signs in our economy. Casino tax revenue, which represents more than a third of our operating budget, is at 83 percent of its pre-storm levels.

We saw \$6 billion in development in that decade leading up to Katrina, and we've seen concrete proposals for nearly as much since the storm.

The painstaking recovery from this unprecedented natural disaster will spawn the largest building boom ever seen in these parts.

Governor Barbour has said he wants to see a renaissance created as part of the rebuilding process. We agree, and here in Biloxi, we're going to go about reviving the renaissance we were enjoying prior to Katrina.

And that's what we're going to do.

I want to thank all of you for the support and encouragement that you've shown. Not a day goes by when I don't hear something positive from a resident or business leader.

You, however, deserve the credit for the remarkable things we're seeing here in Biloxi. Just as generations before us have done, we're successfully dealing with adversity.

I said something in the wake of the storm and you're making it happen: People across this country are going to remember Katrina not so much for the devastation, but for the remarkable recovery effort here in Biloxi.

We have a ways to go and we'll face a number of decisions, but we're headed in the right direction. We're building back better and responsibly. We're on our way to reviving the renaissance.

God bless you and God bless Biloxi.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A.J. Holloway".

August 2006



Updated information about your city at your fingertips

Since 1999, the City of Biloxi's Public Affairs Office has produced an annual State of the City newsletter, normally in conjunction with the mayor's State of the City address in February.

The brochure fulfills the state law that requires the mayor to provide an annual report "to the council and the public on the work of the previous year."

This year's "State of the City: One Year Later" is an expanded version of the annual report, providing residents and a national audience a status report on the community's ongoing recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

You also can find detailed information about the city's recovery as well as read previous State of the City reports on the city's web site at biloxi.ms.us.



City Council

Mayor and members of the City Council at their swearing-in ceremony, which was a mere 60 days before Hurricane Katrina (clockwise from lower left): David Fayard of Ward 7, Mike Fitzpatrick of Ward 5, William "Bill" Stallworth of Ward 2, Edward "Ed" Gemmill of Ward 6, George Lawrence of Ward 1, Tom Wall of Ward 4, Charles T. Harrison Jr. of Ward 3 and Mayor A.J. Holloway.

Biloxi to mark a month of milestones in August

Biloxi residents will see a host of recovery-related events and milestones over the next several weeks and through Aug. 29, as the community marks the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

The city will conduct a Katrina memorial observance on Tuesday, Aug. 29 at 8 a.m. on the Town Green, where seating will be provided. A host of volunteer organizations, national figures and first responders from across the country have been invited to the ceremony.

Later on the morning of Aug. 29, Beau Rivage will re-open its doors, creating more than 3,000 jobs, new tax revenue and returning 1,600 hotel rooms online.

Those events are merely the most significant in a series of community gatherings that also includes an Aug. 19 volunteer appreciation production at the Coast Coliseum, and the 37th anniversary of Hurricane Camille on Aug. 17, when the city plans to have the final telecast of the "A Lady Called Camille" documentary on Cable One Cable TV.

In fact, on the first anniversary of Katrina, the city will employ a new tool to educate residents about the dangers of storm and flooding. "Biloxi &

Katrina," the city's 50-minute documentary about the city's encounter with the storm, will have its inaugural airing on Cable 13 in Biloxi that day. The

overall 80-minute DVD – which will be shown throughout the day at the Saenger Theater on Aug. 29 – remains on sale in Wal-mart in South Mississippi and online at biloxi.ms.us.

The city also expects a wave of national media coverage around the first anniversary of the storm. Reporters from virtually every major print and electronic news media organization around the world have either visited the community or carried stories of the storm or recovery effort.

"We've worked to tell the story of Biloxi and to make sure the rest of the nation sees us a community that was thriving before and is looking to be a great city again," Mayor A.J. Holloway said. "The best tool we have in telling that story is the manner in which our residents have dealt with this ordeal. We have a very compelling story here."

The month of milestones in Biloxi

- **Thursday, Aug. 17**
 - 10 a.m., 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. – Final annual cablecast of "A Lady Called Camille," to 100,000 Cable One households along the Gulf Coast. This program had been used by the City of Biloxi each year in its efforts to educate residents about the dangers of storms and flooding.
- **Saturday, Aug. 19**
 - 4 p.m. – "Katrina Remembrance," Coast Coliseum. Features stage production and video montage in a program designed to thank the thousands of volunteers who have helped in the Katrina relief and recovery efforts
- **Tuesday, Aug. 29**
 - 8 a.m. – "Biloxi & Katrina: One Year Later," a city-organized memorial observance on the Town Green, U.S. 90 at Lameuse Street. Seating and bleachers available on limited basis. Sixty-minute program will include local clergy, Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church Choir, the singing trio Ame, Mayor A.J. Holloway and others.
 - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Continuous screenings of 50-minute, city-commissioned "Katrina & Biloxi" documentary, along with national newscasts that aired in immediate wake of storm.
 - 9:30 a.m. – Kickoff of daylong build of new playground at John Henry Beck Park in east Biloxi; sponsored by The Home Depot, KaBOOM!, Playworld and Hands On.
 - 10 a.m. – Beau Rivage Resort & Casino re-opens.
 - 10 a.m., 8 p.m. and 11 p.m.: Airing of city-commissioned documentary "Katrina & Biloxi: A story of resolve and resilience" to 100,000 Cable One households along the Gulf Coast.
 - 1 to 7 p.m. – A Katrina Memorial Blood Drive, Edgewater Mall, near Dillard's entrance. The Red Cross says this drive "is dedicated to those we lost, the heroes, survivors and volunteers helping to rebuild the Coast." To schedule an appointment: www.givelife.org and use sponsor code Katrina.
 - 2 p.m. – "Heroes Helping Heroes," Saenger Theater, downtown Biloxi. A ceremony to thank the many first responders working in our community in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Program will include remarks by Biloxi Fire Chief David Roberts, Biloxi Police Chief Bruce Dunagan and others, along with airing of Atlanta Fire Department's 15-minute documentary "Heroes Helping Heroes."
 - 8 p.m.: Airing of "Katrina & Biloxi" on Cable 13 in Biloxi.
- **Friday, Aug. 31**
 - Daylong build of new playground at Miramar Park in west Biloxi; sponsored by The Home Depot, KaBOOM!, Playworld and Hands On.

(See schedule updates and additions online at biloxi.ms.us)

Debris-removal efforts nearing end

The city's debris removal teams – which at one point involved as many as 300 workers on the job 12 hours a day six days a week – have removed the bulk of storm from city streets and neighborhoods, but the remaining rubble will be the most time-consuming to haul.

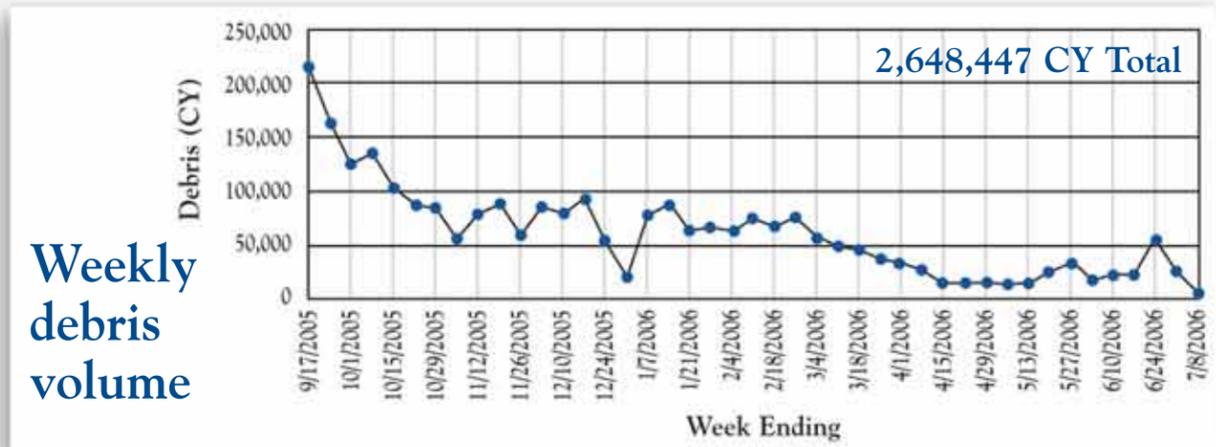
By mid-July, crews had removed more than 2.65 million cubic yards of debris – enough to cover a football field and stand more than 124 stories tall. And the cost of the effort in mid-July had reached more than \$56 million – matching the city's operating revenue from gaming, sales and property taxes for Fiscal Year 2004.

"At the outset, we were able to move a massive amount of debris because there was so much of it and it was on city rights of way," said Jonathan Kiser, who has overseen the city's debris removal efforts. "That first week of the contract, we moved 215,000 cubic yards, but as we move into mid-July, we're hauling only about 10,000 cubic yards a week. That's because the remaining debris is primarily on private property and the owners may have an issue with their insurance company or financing, or maybe just haven't decided what they're going to do."

The city has hauled debris to two approved sites north of Interstate 10. Only about 20 percent was burnable. The bulk of the rubble – 2.1 million cubic yards – was unburnable.

The process of clearing the massive amount of debris – the storm claimed 6,000 of the city's 25,000 pre-storm homes and businesses – actually began in the waning hours of the Aug. 29 hurricane. The city's FEMA-authorized, pre-storm debris contract had private debris crews on standby and able to work alongside city Public Works crews in the first 70 hours after the storm. The crews pushed debris to the edges of major roadways to allow emergency vehicles to pass.

At the same time, the city advertised for bids for a permanent debris removal contract, which in mid-September was awarded to three contractors at a rate of \$15.69 a cubic yard of debris. A separate contract hired debris monitors to ensure compliance with FEMA regulations.



Weekly debris volume

Debris by the numbers

Burnable	456,826 cy
Non-burnable	2.16 million cy
Appliances	33,391 cy
Electronics	534 cy
Total	2.65 million cy

(as of July 11, 2006)

As part of the plan, the city published notices and erected signs on private residential properties in the hardest hit areas of the city – east Biloxi, Eagle Point and Holly Hills – to notify those property owners of the city's intent to remove debris from their private property.

"The majority of the debris, 68 percent, is from public rights-of-way, with the remaining portion removed from private property," Kiser said, who noted that the city's plan strived to protect the rights of property owners, but ultimately was driven by those properties where debris represented a threat to public safety or public health.

Kiser noted that the city's initial estimate of 4 million cubic yards of debris may have been accurate, even though the current estimate is 3 million cubic yards. "You have to consider that we handle only the debris that FEMA declares eligible," he said. "If you consider the amount of debris that has been moved

by private contractors, such as the casino barges, and if you consider the debris in waterways, that 4 million figure may have been very accurate."

Debris along waterfront is next issue

"The remaining work effort for debris removal within the city is primarily within the public rights-of-way, navigable waterways and drainage ways within the city," Kiser said.

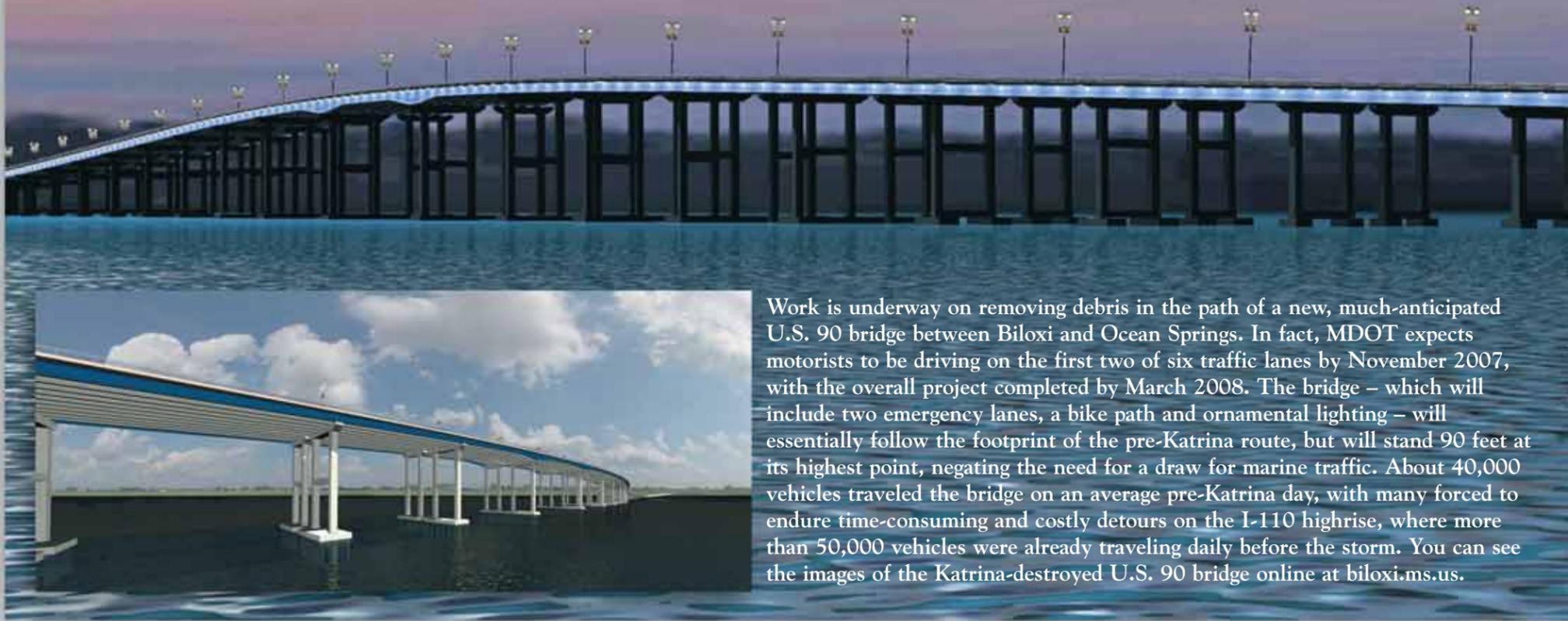
"The National Resource Conservation Service awarded two contracts in Biloxi on June 21 for removal of storm debris from the major drainage ways within the city. A total of 47 sites were approved by NRCS, and the two contractors have about 35 days to complete this work.

"DMR anticipates the award of the coastline cleanup contract for the three Mississippi coastal counties next week. The contractor for the marine debris removal project will have about 90 days to complete the debris cleanup from below mean high tide to a half mile off shore."

Mayor A.J. Holloway said he appreciated the work done by the debris crews and the public's patience and understanding over the past several months.

"I realized early on that it was very important that we got as much of this debris hauled off and that we did it as soon as we could," Holloway said. "No rebuilding or repair work could begin until then, and, frankly, seeing such massive destruction day after day starts to take a psychological toll on people."

The look of the future gateway to east Biloxi



Work is underway on removing debris in the path of a new, much-anticipated U.S. 90 bridge between Biloxi and Ocean Springs. In fact, MDOT expects motorists to be driving on the first two of six traffic lanes by November 2007, with the overall project completed by March 2008. The bridge – which will include two emergency lanes, a bike path and ornamental lighting – will essentially follow the footprint of the pre-Katrina route, but will stand 90 feet at its highest point, negating the need for a draw for marine traffic. About 40,000 vehicles traveled the bridge on an average pre-Katrina day, with many forced to endure time-consuming and costly detours on the I-110 highrise, where more than 50,000 vehicles were already traveling daily before the storm. You can see the images of the Katrina-destroyed U.S. 90 bridge online at biloxi.ms.us.

On the money

No city tax increase, \$41 million in major projects

Mayor A.J. Holloway has presented the City Council an FY '07 municipal budget that proposes to continue the 13-year trend of no increase in city property tax rate and includes \$41 million in capital improvement projects

The budget projects that Biloxi's revenue from casino gaming and sales taxes would reach 87 percent of its pre-Katrina level, but property tax revenue, the city's third primary revenue stream, would be off 30 percent, reflecting the storm's destruction of a quarter of the city's 25,000 pre-storm homes and businesses.

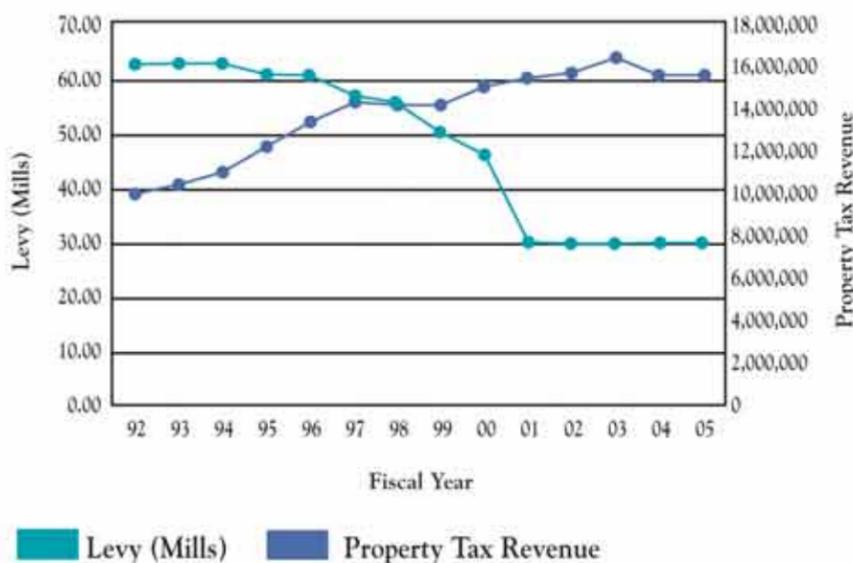
Holloway's budget also proposes to set aside \$10 million in proceeds from the city's much-discussed business interruption insurance to offset the lack of similar insurance, as well as cushion a reduction in the level of property insurance and to minimize any interruption in gaming revenue this hurricane season.

"For years, we've talked about being conservative in the event of a storm," Holloway said, "and, of course, not even I could have been conservative enough to prepare for a storm like Katrina. We are in moderately good shape financially – considering everything – but it's going to be a few years before we're comfortable financially."

Holloway delivered the proposed budget to the City Council Aug. 2. The budget would cover the Fiscal Year 2007, which runs from Oct. 1, 2006 to Sept. 30, 2006. It must be in place in September.

Director of Administration David Staehling told council members that the projected \$6.5 million

Property taxes and tax revenue



beginning fund balance for the budget actually ballooned to \$37.8 million. Said Staehling: "Cost-cutting measures invoked in the wake of the storm – a hiring freeze and suspension of all capital projects spending – reduced expenses by \$5.5 million, and the \$6 million ending fund balance we originally projected to have in hand at end of the FY turned into \$37.8 million, thanks to that measure and \$27.5 million in insurance proceeds."

Staehling and Holloway also noted that more than \$70 million in FEMA reimbursements has flowed through city coffers since the storm for debris removal and other recovery issues, and another \$60 million is pending in requests.

Additionally, FEMA requires the city to use any insurance payments to match FEMA revenue intended to repair or replace damaged city assets.

The budget includes a 2.5 percent pay increase for city employees, but no funding for non-profit organizations, which had grown to more than a million dollars a year in the past several years.

"We still have a huge number of pressing needs, as much as \$50 million in rebuilding the decimated drainage systems under streets throughout our city," Holloway said, "so we're far from out of the woods. It's going to take a few years, but we'll get there."

Massive project underway to restore street lighting, signage and signals

Motorists traveling the streets of Biloxi will soon be seeing city contractors installing new traffic signals, street signs and lighting as part of the city's \$2.5 million initiative to repair or replace storm-damaged fixtures.

The first phase of the work will begin this month when workers begin a million-dollar, nine-month project to replace or repair street signs and posts on 630 streets, representing about three-quarters of the streets in the city.

And in December, new traffic signals will be in place on Howard Avenue at Reynoir and Caillavet streets, as well as on Eisenhower Drive at Switzer Road and at Irish Hill at White Avenue. Cost of that work is expected to be \$150,000.

The largest phase of the repair work will be replacing the remaining signals and flashing red lights on streets throughout the city and restoring street lighting on a two-mile section of U.S. 90 between Rodenburg Avenue and Beauvoir Road.

That work is expected to be completed by March.

In all, about three-fourths of the most vital of the 61 signalized intersections throughout Biloxi had been restored seven months after the storm. Also remaining to be restored are about a dozen or so signals on less-traveled roadways, including along Howard Avenue, Division Street and Back Bay Boulevard. The city also has a number of flashing red Stop lights and school crossing signals to replace, according to Jason Elliott of Neel Schaffer, an engineering firm that has managed the project for the city.

"This has been a time-consuming process, but we've had to make sure that we followed the FEMA guidelines to ensure that Biloxi taxpayers were not left with this \$2.5 million bill. We certainly appreciate everyone's continuing patience as we've worked through this process," Mayor A.J. Holloway said.

The city has also been able to re-open all but two of the 52 neighborhood streets connecting to U.S. 90. Those that remain closed are at Sadler Beach Drive and Chalmers Drive in west Biloxi.

Police are advising motorists to use caution in these areas, since the improvements were made in only the last week or so.

Housing issue remains major challenge of storm recovery

One of the biggest of all of the challenges Biloxi faces in the Katrina recovery effort is rebuilding the city's housing stock.

Katrina either destroyed or led to the destruction of 6,000 of the city's 25,575 homes and businesses, nearly a quarter of the total number of pre-Katrina structures.

The city had issued more than 7,600 construction-related permits in all of 2005, and more than 13,000 repair and storm-related permits have been issued between September 2005 through June 30.

However, 10 months after Katrina, the city had issued only 122 permits for new homes.

Typically, the city issues about 3,500 permits a year, and has averaged about 145 permits for new homes each year.

Replacing the homes lost to Katrina would take years judging from the past, but the storm presents a host of other issues, particularly in hard hit areas such as Eagle Point in north Biloxi and especially on Point Cadet in east Biloxi, where blocks and blocks of generations-old homes were reduced to debris fields. Many of the homes were built before regulations existed to guide construction in flood zones. In fact, many may have not been able to meet the city's existing regulations, much less any post-Katrina regulations.

Additionally, the small lot sizes in east Biloxi may not be large enough for homes to meet front or side setback requirements.

"And," Mayor A.J. Holloway adds, "there's the issue of money. Homeowners who might have sold their land for \$15 or so a square foot before the storm are looking for as much as \$100 to \$125 a square foot today."

"Today, we think many of the property owners in east Biloxi are dealing with a number of issues before they can begin rebuilding, if they decide to rebuild. I suspect many have yet to settle with their insurance companies, or are waiting on either a grant through the state's Homeowners Grant Program, or they're worried about the flood elevations or they might be considering offers to sell and build elsewhere in the city."

A developer seeking to build affordable housing in east Biloxi faces a difficult task, Holloway said. Buying land to build homes would be expensive, he'd face higher construction costs in this post-storm environment, and then he'd look to sell homes in an area where about 45 percent of the homeowners had an annual household income of \$24,000 or less before the storm.

"These factors all make it hard for the numbers to work."

Holloway points to a familiar answer to guide property owners and the city in resolving the housing issue: Look to the past for guidance.

Before the storm, the mayor said, the city and partner agencies were addressing this difficult challenge in east Biloxi. "We'd invested around \$5 million in the past three years in programs that have seen the restoration or completion of hundreds of homes in east Biloxi. We provided a million dollars to the housing authority in its efforts, where hundreds of housing opportunities were created alone in Hope VI."

Holloway also noted that in the past three years city programs have seen more than more than \$380,000 in down-payment assistance – plus training – to create 25 new homeowners in east Biloxi, along with more than \$1.8 million in rehabbing 40 homes, while also providing nearly a half-million dollars for an ongoing Back Bay Mission-administered program in which nearly 60 sub-standard homes have been rehabbed in east Biloxi.

"Today, we're in the process of deeding 12 parcels to Habitat to Humanity, which had completed about seven new homes in Biloxi."

"There is no easy answer to this challenge in east Biloxi. The private sector investment is needed for the long-term sustainable recovery and economic vitality, but it is also the very factor that drives up the cost of land."

Where do we go from here?

"We'll continue employing the many sources of revenue and partnering with the agencies we've successfully partnered with in the past, and we'll have new opportunities to look at through the Reviving the Renaissance report, which suggests a number of options to help sidestep the financial issues."

Said Holloway: "The best thing that we can do for our residents is to make them aware of their options. We need to make sure they are aware of the elevations to rebuild to, and what financing options and pool of volunteer labor is available. People will be able to make sound decisions if we make sure to give them a clear picture of their options. By doing that – and by building on the things that gave us the great quality of life and opportunity we had in the past – we'll build back better and in a responsible manner."



Work will soon begin on restoring homes in the HOPE VI subdivision on Biloxi's Back Bay.

Despite \$57 million in damages, public housing on the way back

When motorists pass by the blocks of 235 brand-new, storm-ravaged townhomes of the Hope VI affordable housing project in east Biloxi, Delmar Robinson hopes they are reminded of the tremendous strides the community was making in affordable housing.

The \$35 million federally-funded development was the centerpiece of a revitalization effort that was sweeping east Biloxi, along with tens of millions being spent on public education, social services and improving the flow of traffic.

None of the work, particularly the housing was for naught, says Robinson, a Biloxi native who returned to the city in 1992 and accepted Mayor A.J. Holloway's request to serve on the Biloxi Housing Authority.

Before Katrina, BHA oversaw 777 units at seven different sites throughout Biloxi, and had a 76-unit seniors village under construction at Point Cadet when Katrina struck and plans for an additional 34-unit apartment complex in east Biloxi.

The housing authority's work and its HOPE VI endeavor – a program designed to provide Housing

Opportunities for People Everywhere – would play a major role in the city's efforts to lure a major grocery store to east Biloxi.

Now, some many wonder if HOPE VI will be mowed down.

"None of them will be," Robinson said. "They withstood the wind, but what you see on the front as you pass on Bayview is where they had to rip the siding off to determine the extent of the damage for insurance purposes. There also were tractor trailers that had broken loose from different areas during the storm and slammed into some of the units."

"When I looked at the overall damage, I felt that I would not be retiring when I had anticipated. I'll have to work to get them all back – and more. I know that I need to do at least four more years."

"When I met with A.J., I guess it was maybe a month after the storm, I told him that Biloxi was my home, and I was going to get these things repaired – to get these units up and running and the other units that we need to add."

"We're going to get it done, just like we were doing before the storm, but on a much bigger scale."

Robinson provided a site-by-site status report on public housing in Biloxi:

Estimated Public Housing Losses – The Biloxi Housing Authority's Hurricane Katrina loss was estimated to be approximately \$57 million. We have received a \$7.8 million disaster relief grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and are awaiting finalization of all insurance claims. A summary of the status of each development is as follows:

- **Oakwood Village, Beach Avenue:** All of the 110 units at Oakwood Village received flood waters of up to 8 feet. A contract has been issued for the rehabilitation of Oakwood Village. Repairs have begun on site, and we anticipate the first units will be ready for occupancy in early 2007.

- **Suncoast Villa, Iberville Drive:** The 100 units at Suncoast Villa received wind damage. The units are occupied by tenants while repairs continue.

- **Covenant Square, off Pass Road** – These 60 units also received wind damage, but no flood damage. The units are occupied by tenants while repairs continue.

- **Beauvoir Beach, U.S. 90:** This 72-unit development was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The land has been cleared, and the Housing Authority has received disposition approval for this property from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Biloxi Housing Authority is in the process of locating other properties in the area on which to rebuild these units lost in the storm.

- **Back Bay Place, Oak Street and Bayview Avenue:** This 100-unit development sustained extremely heavy damage from Hurricane Katrina,

and was condemned and cleared. The Biloxi Housing Authority has received disposition approval for this property from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. All units will be replaced, and we are in the process of locating other properties in the area on which to rebuild these units lost in the storm.

- **Fernwood Place, off DeBuys Road:** Wind damage was received at many of the 100 units at Fernwood Place, and repairs continue on this property. However, all units are currently occupied.

HOPE VI:

- **Bayview Place & Bayview Oaks, off Back Bay Boulevard:** These 235 units sustained up to 11 feet of water in each unit. The Housing Authority is finalizing insurance claims on these sites. A contract will be issued in the next several weeks which will allow for the rehabilitation of all units on the side of the property under the control of the Biloxi Housing Authority.

- **Cadet Point Senior Village, Maple Street:** Construction continues on the three-story, 76-unit senior village on Maple Street in east Biloxi. It should be available for occupancy in the late fall/early winter of 2006.

- **East End Homes, Maple Street** – The Biloxi Housing Authority has received 9 percent Low Income Housing Tax Credits for the development of 34 multi-family units on Maple Street. We are in the process of requesting additional credits for this site, and hope to begin construction in the fall of 2007.

"We're going to get it done, just like we were doing before the storm"



Hundreds of Biloxians gathered on Strangi Street in east Biloxi on June 1 for a "Welcome Home to East Biloxi" celebration where 11 east Biloxi families became the first of nearly two dozen families to be officially welcomed into homes that were restored by hundreds of volunteers from Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia. The Arlington-based Habitat group and Lord of Life Lutheran Church led a relief team to Biloxi on Sept. 8, days after Katrina devastated the city. In their first month, the volunteers operated a free clinic and distribution point at Bethel Lutheran Church on Pass Road. Volunteers soon began concentrating efforts in east Biloxi, where more than a hundred workers "mucked out" nearly two dozen homes by day and slept in temporary quarters at Bethel Lutheran by night. Mayor A.J. Holloway and Councilmembers George Lawrence and Bill Stallworth all thanked the volunteers for helping Biloxi with one of its most difficult issues – providing affordable housing.

Seven of nine casino resorts in operation by one-year mark

One of the aspects of the Biloxi recovery that has captured nationwide attention is the status of the city's gaming industry. "And with good reason," Mayor A.J. Holloway said, noting that the Biloxi industry employed 15,000 workers before the storm, and the tax on gross gaming revenues alone provided as much as a half-million dollars a day in revenue to the state and about \$50,000 a day to the city. Gaming revenue, in fact, accounts for more than a third of the city's annual operating revenue.

Three casino resorts – the IP, Isle of Capri and Palace – re-opened in December, four months after the storm, and Boomtown and a scaled-back Treasure Bay opened in June.

Gaming figures released in May show that the three operators were generating 78 percent of the pre-Katrina revenue of nine resorts, and in June that figure had risen to 93 percent.

The big news, however, is this month: Grand Casino will re-open Aug. 17 and the Beau Rivage is scheduled to re-open Aug. 29.

In all, seven of the city's nine pre-Katrina casino resorts will be back in operation by the first anniversary of the storm. Hard Rock, which had been scheduled to open the week of Katrina, is aiming for a July 2007 opening; Harrah's purchased Casino Magic on Casino Row; and the President Casino, which had planned to re-locate before the storm, may see another operator in its west Biloxi location.

Said Holloway: "This industry is important to our city for a number of reasons. First, the jobs, which we expect to be at least 10,000 by the end of the year; the tax revenue, which will also help revive our sales tax revenue here in Biloxi; and the overall impact the resorts have on other businesses in Biloxi."

Another indication of the importance of the casino resort industry is the link between hotel and airport traffic, which is indicated in a chart on Page 10 of this report.

CTA on the move in post-storm recovery

Coast Transit Authority experienced \$14.5 million in damage to facilities, fleet and equipment from Hurricane Katrina, but nonetheless has met the public transportation recovery needs of Biloxi and other coast communities.

After Katrina, CTA had busses running quickly to help people who lost cars in the storm. For months, CTA offered free rides to Disaster Recovery Centers and other relief locations. Federal grants funded the free rides. Government grants and private donations came in to help CTA provide vital services after the hurricane.

CTA has restored Paratransit services for the disabled, Senior Citizen programs in Harrison and Hancock counties and all pre-Katrina Fixed Route services except the Beachcomber route which operated on Highway 90. CTA has expanded daily hours on all routes and increased the number of routes offered on Sunday.

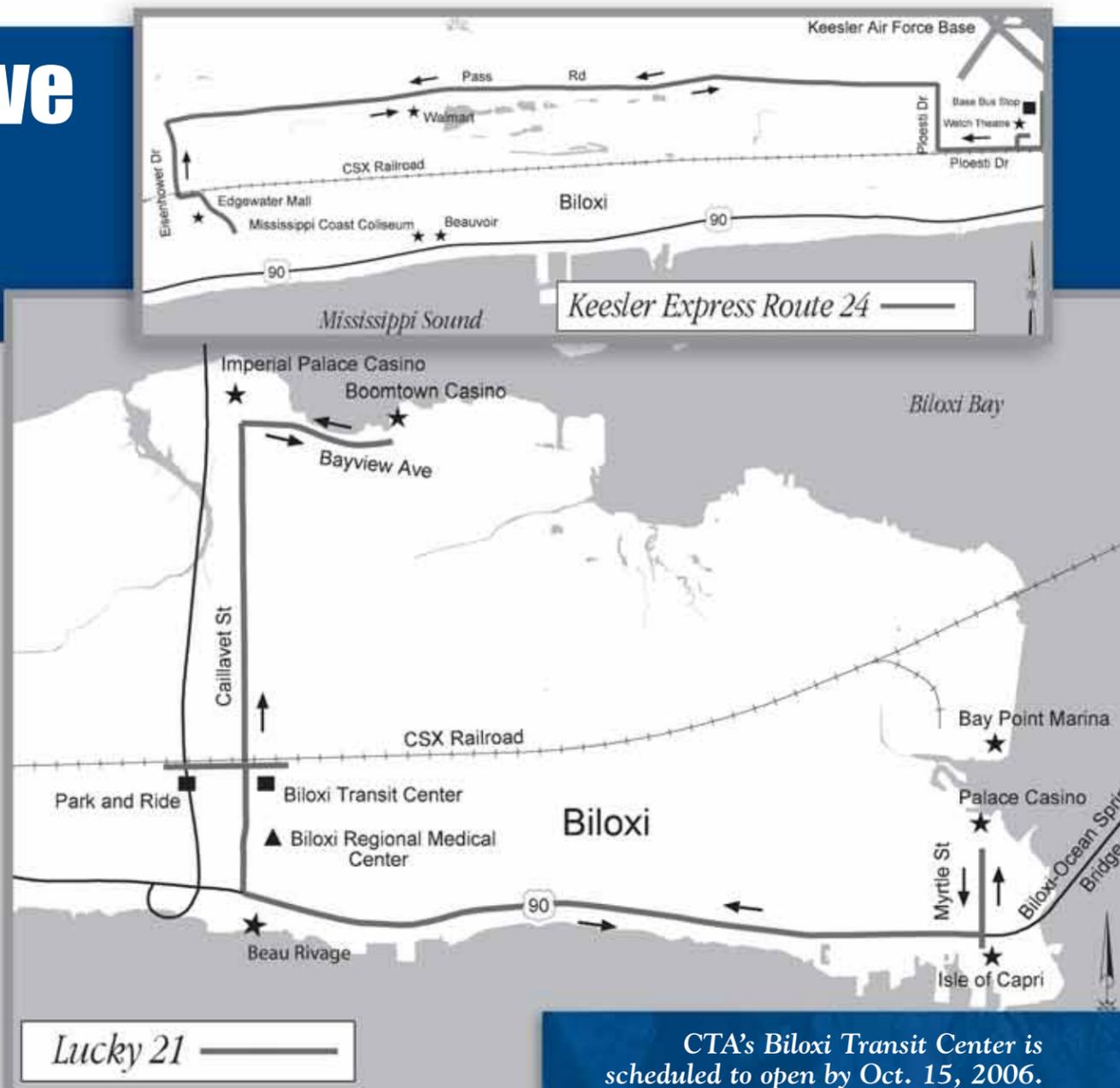
CTA's Biloxi routes include the Keesler Express Route, the Lucky 21 Route serving east Biloxi casino areas, the Back Bay Route and the Pass Road Route.

"As we are rebuilding all that was lost or damaged, we are also planning for a future that includes a CTA that is more responsive to the needs of the communities we service," said CTA Director Kevin Coggin.

CTA's Biloxi Transit Center on Martin Luther King Boulevard is scheduled to be completed by Oct. 15, 2006.

Like everyone in Biloxi, Coggin said, CTA is adapting to meet the needs of citizens in the post-Katrina world.

CTA has implemented a new evacuation transportation program for the Harrison County Emergency Management Agency. CTA along with local school districts will provide transportation for those who do not have their own transportation. Transportation will be provided to a centralized staging area where MEMA using state Department of Education school buses will transport Harrison County residents to a shelter in Hinds County. MEMA will provide safe shelter in Hinds County for the duration of the event. Pick up points will be established in each City and in the County where residents will be picked up by the school buses and transported to the staging area.



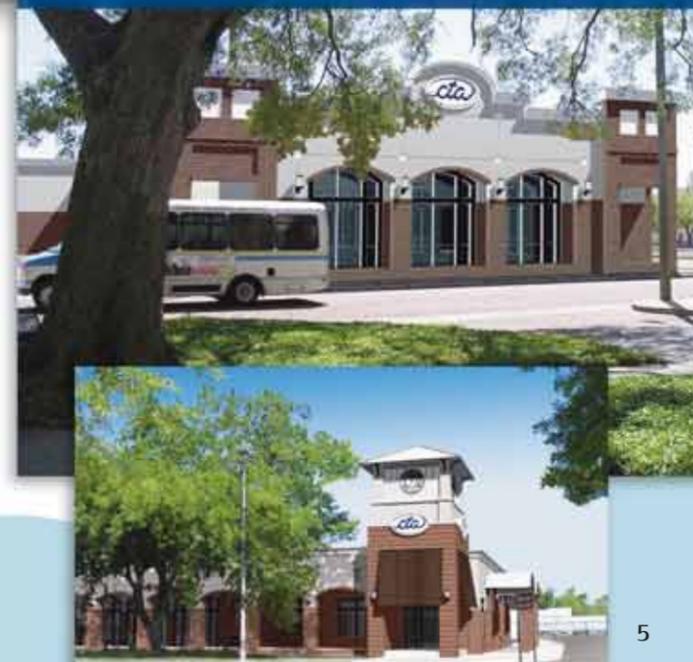
CTA's Biloxi Transit Center is scheduled to open by Oct. 15, 2006.

CTA will provide door to door service for persons unable to travel to the community pick up locations. CTA will also provide transportation to a local shelter of last resort, however all residents are strongly encouraged to evacuate the County when the Harrison County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) issues an evacuation order.

You can register by calling the CTA offices at 896-8080. Said Coggin: "We will gladly answer any questions you may have during the registration process."

In June, CTA was honored the Community Transportation Association of America System of the Year award for 2006. The annual award recognizes excellence by transit systems in serving the needs of people in their communities.

Coggin praised CTA employees with selfless dedication to providing critical transportation services in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina.



Classes resumed 19 days after storm; Gorenflo, Nichols to re-open in January

By Dr. Paul A. Tisdale
Superintendent, Biloxi School District

Nineteen days after Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast, students were back in class adjusting to the "new normal" and taking advantage of quality educational opportunities available through Biloxi Public Schools.

Of the 6,100 students enrolled before the storm, almost 3,200 were in their classrooms September 26 when schools reopened. Enrollment, currently at 4,500 students, is expected to increase as more families repair or rebuild their homes.

Several schools sustained significant or extensive roof damage. Two elementary schools in east Biloxi, Nichols and Gorenflo, received eight and six feet of water, respectively. When all is said and done, the cost of repairs and renovation is expected to approach \$23 million.

Students and staff from Nichols Elementary School are temporarily housed at the Jeff Davis Elementary School campus; students and staff from Gorenflo Elementary School are temporarily at the Beauvoir Elementary School campus. Renovations to Nichols and Gorenflo are scheduled to be completed before the Christmas holidays, and students and staff will return to their "new" schools a month later, in January, 2007.

The district's fiscal outlook warrants some concern since about 45 percent of the district's revenues come from local property taxes, and a number of those properties no longer exist. Coupled with the state legislature's failure to fully fund the Mississippi Adequate Education Program and reduced revenues associated with Impact Aid (federal dollars the school district receives from military schoolchildren), it will take some years to recoup the loss of millions of dollars projected to occur in the next three to four years.

A strategic planning initiative, launched in February, is expected to conclude in the next six to 12 months. Biloxi residents will then have a chance to review and comment on the district's new goals and objectives.

Although decreased student enrollment has resulted in the need for fewer teachers and support personnel for this school year, the district will continue to maintain a desirable pupil-teacher ratio. Biloxi Public Schools continues to offer the community it serves quality instructional opportunities and experiences.

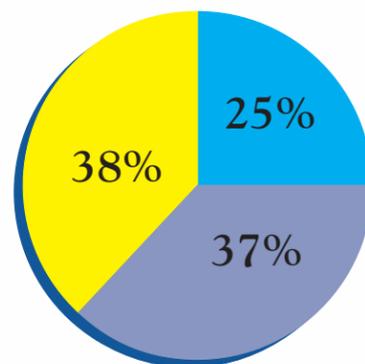
Finally, a word of thanks to the volunteers who have helped us in our recovery, to city officials who supported our effort to reopen the schools as soon as possible, and to school trustees and staff who offered their hearts and hands to help others in our community at a most difficult time. We are grateful.



Workers with Starks Contracting of Biloxi were busy making repairs at Nichols Elementary in anticipation of its January 2007 reopening.

Budget

Biloxi Public
School District
Revenues for
2006-2007



Total revenues of
\$66.75 million

- Local - \$24.40 million
- State - \$25.36 million
- Federal - \$16.99 million

School Name	Address	Phone	Principal	Student Enrollment		
				Before Katrina Aug. 17, 2005	Sept. 26, 2005	Aug. 8, 2006
Beauvoir Elementary	2003 Lawrence Avenue	(228) 436-5131	Susan Brand	437	219	309
Gorenflo Elementary	771 Elder Street (temporary location: 2003 Lawrence Ave.)	(228) 436-5145	Tina Thompson	368	84	146
Jeff Davis Elementary	340 St. Mary Blvd.	(228) 436-5110	Bernell Kelly	532	185	354
Lopez Elementary	140 St. John Avenue	(228) 432-7783	Andrea Petro	316	119	174
Nichols Elementary	590 Division Street (temporary location: 340 St. Mary's Blvd.)	(228) 436-4648	Melissa Nance	327	69	150
North Bay Elementary	1825 Popp's Ferry Road	(228) 435-6166	Laurie Pitre	843	572	812
Popp's Ferry Elementary	364 Nelson Road	(228) 436-5135	Ricky Reed	631	329	463
Michel 7th Grade	1400 Father Ryan Avenue	(228) 435-4540	Carl Fantroy	488	266	352
Biloxi Junior High	1424 Father Ryan Avenue	(228) 435-1421	Murray Killebrew	982	535	773
Biloxi High School	1845 Richard Drive	(228) 435-6105	Pamela Manners	1,201	789	1,011
TOTAL				6,125	3,167	4,544

Recreation facilities, programs continue to recover

By Cecilia Dobbs
Parks & Recreation Department

The city's Park and Recreation Department has definitely begun its recovery process.

The Biloxi Community Center and the Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center are the only two of five buildings that the department has remaining.

The Biloxi Community Center, at 591 Howard Ave. received massive damage from the hurricane winds and rain, but for several months after the storm, it was able to serve as a disaster relief center.

The center offered clothes, food, water, and a free medical clinic to Biloxi residents. Soon, the center will receive massive repairs.

The Donal Snyder Community Center, at 2520 Pass Road, was dealt the least amount of damage. The center was immediately set up as a disaster recovery center, acting as the city's core for FEMA and MEMA, providing residents with a location to file the proper paperwork and make necessary claims. In July 2006, FEMA and MEMA left the building and the space has been occupied by the Small Business Administration since.

Several of the center programs are now offered. The fitness center, racquetball courts, walking track, and basketball courts are open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The pool is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m., 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. for adults.

Persons ages 17 and under are able to swim Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. On Saturday, the pool is open to all ages from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission for the pool is \$2 per adult and \$1 per child.

The center also conducts senior programs, including bingo, stretch and strength class, craft class, movie and popcorn days, and senior luncheons. Beginning in October, the multi-room will be available to rent for various occasions. For more information, call 228-435-6281.

Natatorium, aquatics programs

The Parks and Recreation department has resumed many of its other programs since the hurricane. The Biloxi Natatorium on Father Ryan Avenue, which reopened its doors Nov. 15, offers swimming to adults Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and to persons 17 and under may swim Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, all ages may swim from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission to Natatorium swimming is \$2 per adult and \$1 per child.

The Aquatic Swimming Lessons and Biloxi Red Tide also recommenced. Lessons are Monday through Thursday for two weeks and last forty-five minutes each day.

During the summer classes are offered in the morning and in the evening. Throughout the rest of the year, lessons will be offered in the evening. Fees are \$30 a person for Biloxi residents and \$40 a person for non-residents.

The Biloxi Red Tide Swim Team practiced Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. this summer. The team successfully completed the session on July 29 with the Championship meet that was held at the Biloxi Natatorium. For more information, call the aquatics division at 228-435-6205.

Recreation and sports programs

In addition to aquatics, the City's Summer Playground program had their eight to nine week summer program. The summer day camp is for children ages five to fourteen. Children are afforded the opportunity to attend field trips along the Gulf Coast, participate in arts and crafts and organized games. The summer playground programs concluded at the end of July. The department will also host various other programs and events: Start Smart program, Punt, Pass and Kick, holiday dances and Halloween events.

The Biloxi Sports Complex, which received wind damage, resumed most of its sports leagues. Soccer, baseball and softball held practices and

New playgrounds in the works

Beck Park

The Home Depot, KaBOOM! And Playworld will join with volunteers from Hands On and the surrounding neighborhoods to build new parks in east and west Biloxi. The new playspace at John Henry Beck Park on Division Street will be built on Aug. 29 and the new playspace at Miramar Park will be built on Aug. 31.



Miramar Park

Margaret Sherry Park

The All-State Foundation and the Injury Free Coalition for Kids led dozens of volunteers recently in the construction a new playground at the Margaret Sherry library on Popp's Ferry Road, north of the Bay of Biloxi.



conducted their tournaments from June through July. Football and Cheerleading registration began in August and will have practices in September.

The Farmers Market also began operations this year. The market, which reopened April 4, operates each week at a new location, under the I-110 overpass at Howard Avenue. It is open each Tuesday and Thursday from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., with vendors offering fresh vegetables, fruits, and plants. For more info, call 228-435-6281 or e-mail cbell@biloxi.ms.us

City parks, playgrounds

As for the City's parks, all received damage from either winds, water or both. Since the hurricane, most of the parks have been cleaned up and are back in use. Others, such as Miramar, Henry Beck, and the Margaret Sherry parks are receiving new playgrounds.

Since July, two volunteer groups, Injury Free Coalition for Kids and KaBOOM!, have been putting up playgrounds at the three city parks. All the work is being done by volunteer groups with assistance from local volunteers.

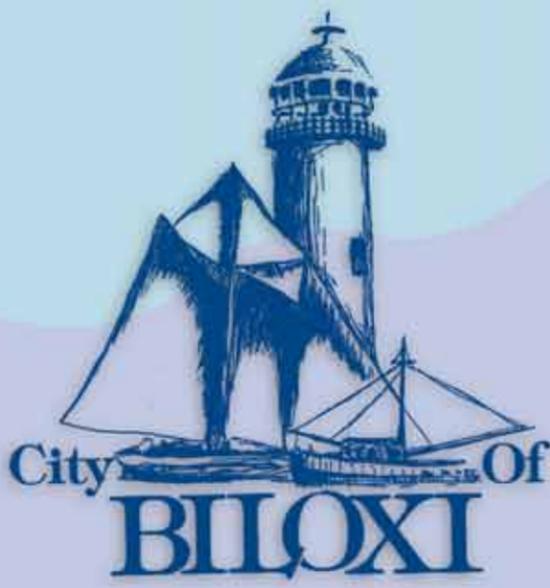
Besides the volunteers, the City's Park and Recreation department received a \$10,000 donation from the National Recreation and Parks Association. The money will be used to renovate the Dukate Gym which is located on Howard Avenue across from the Biloxi Community Center.

City parks

- Bay Terrace Park, 370 Porter Ave.
- Businessmen's Park, 481 Forrest Ave.
- Cavalier Park, 259 Lawrence St.
- Clay Point Park, corner of Maple and Seventh
- D'Anella Park, 380 Bonner Drive
- Doris C. Busch Park, 645 Esters Blvd.
- Hiller Park, Hiller Drive
- John Henry Beck Park, 671 Division St.
- John Joseph O'Reilly Park, Division St.
- Lopez Park, Benachi Ave., refurbished by Lions Club
- Margaret Sherry Complex, Popp's Ferry Road
- Miramar Park, 1592 Beach Blvd.
- Oak Park, Kensington Drive
- Pennzoil Park, 385 Churchill Ave.
- Peresich Park, Oaklawn Place
- Popp's Ferry Recreation Area, 2150 Popp's Ferry Road
- Savarro Park, 1353 Irish Hill Circle
- St. Mary's Park, 1651 Wiltshire Blvd.
- Tangelwood Park, 348 Park Drive
- Todd Miguez Park, 425 Parker St.
- Volunteer Park, 335 Agincort Ave.
- Woolmarket Park

City Parks & Rec buildings lost

- O'Hanlon Center, 135 Pine Street
- East Division Center, 595 Division Street
- Point Cadet Plaza, 121 Cadet Street



A massive program of improvement projects

Pre- and post-Katrina
work in the pipeline



City has nearly \$130 million in requests pending with FEMA

Eleven months after Katrina, Biloxi had \$129.6 million in funding requests pending with FEMA, based on assessments of dozens of storm-damaged city-owned facilities and equipment.

The funds from FEMA, along with supplemental matching grants from MEMA, would help return city assets to their pre-Katrina condition.

The pending requests include \$68 million debris-related expenses; more than \$25 million in damages to more than four dozen city facilities such as fire stations, museums and historic properties; nearly \$14 million in repairs to the city's water and sewer infrastructure; and as much as \$11.2 million in damages to the city's marinas, harbors and public piers.

City staff and a team of architects, engineers and contractors have worked closely with FEMA in preparing the necessary documents – known as “project worksheets” or PWs – for more than 220 projects. The FEMA funding would either be decreased or increased, to cover any insurance settlements or insurance shortfalls.

“The city must fill out the PWs to include such information as the name of the project, an assessment of the damage, and how much it will cost to return that particular asset to its pre-storm condition,” Holloway said. “FEMA then reviews each of the PWs and decides whether it's approved and, if approved, sets aside the money, which is funneled through MEMA.”

Under the process, once FEMA approves a project and obligates funding, the city “will have teams of engineers begin preparing the scope of work and the construction specifications so we can get these projects out to bid. Then the projects are awarded and construction begins.”

Director of Administration David Staehling said that nearly all of the city's damage assessments have been completed, and FEMA's decision on the requests could be made in 60 to 90 days.

Here's a breakdown on the \$129.6 million in requests, by asset:

Buildings	\$25.4 million
Contents	\$632,000
Debris-related	\$68.1 million
Equipment	\$179,500
Emergency repairs	\$806,450
Ballfields and parks	\$1.0 million
Labor	\$2.9 million
Piers and marinas	\$11.2 million
Roads	\$2.1 million
Sidewalks	\$116,450
Vehicles	\$2.1 million
Water/sewer	\$13.9 million
Other	\$977,000

To see a detailed list of projects, visit biloxi.ms.us.

PRE-KATRINA CAPITAL PROJECTS

These lists reflect the city's capital projects program. The list was originally included in the FY '05 budget, with essentially the same list for the FY '06 budget, which was enacted days before Hurricane Katrina and runs through Sept. 30, 2006. The Mayor and City Council are currently drafting the FY '07 budget, to cover the period from Oct. 1, 2006 through Sept. 30, 2007. The list, which will be updated from the list below, will be in place by the end of August 2006.

Major streets and drainage projects

(includes projects completed, under construction or under design)

1. Cedar Street drainage improvements (design)	\$25,000	budgeted
2. Final phase of First Street drainage improvements	\$1.27 million	completed
3. Improvements to Kuhn-U.S. 90 intersection	\$500,000	budgeted
4. Reconstruction of Keller Avenue	\$950,000	completed
5. Nichols Drive reconstruction	\$1 million	completed
6. Delauney Street improvements	\$20,000	under design
7. Caillavet Street revitalization project	\$9 million+	ongoing
Ph. I, widening of Anglada	\$582,000	completed
Ph. II, install drainage outfalls	\$501,000	completed
Ph. III, ROW demolition	\$90,000	completed
Ph. IV, construction of new Caillavet boulevard	\$6.8 million	under construction
8. Benachi Street reconstruction (Division to Bayview)	\$300,000	budgeted
9. Irish Hill at White Avenue intersection upgrade	\$348,000	budgeted
10. Miller Street drainage improvements (design)	\$25,000	budgeted
11. Pass Road intersection and signal upgrades	\$550,000	under design
12. Bent Oaks drainage improvements (design)	\$25,000	budgeted
13. Saylor Drive drainage improvements (design)	\$25,000	budgeted
14. Popp's Ferry-Atkinson Road intersection improvements	\$400,000	completed
15. Bay Vista drainage improvements, Ph. IV	\$136,000	completed
16. The Landing drainage improvements	\$541,687	completed
17. Rue Petit Bois drainage improvements	\$835,000	under construction
18. C.T. Switzer Sr. Road drainage, Ph. II	\$750,000	under design
19. DeBuys Road sidewalks	\$25,000	budgeted
20. Popp's Ferry, Ph. 2A (Sherry library to causeway)	\$3.8 million+	completed
21. Sunkist drainage improvements		
Ph. I (drainage easements off Sunkist streets)	\$777,550	completed
Ph. II (Rustwood and Baywood areas)	\$800,000	completed
Ph. III (Baywood and neighboring streets)	\$1.2 million	budgeted
22. Wildwood Trace drainage improvements		
Design	\$25,000	completed
Construction	\$286,504	completed
23. Popp's Ferry, Ph. 2B (Country Club to Jam Lane)	\$3.3 million+	completed
24. Campbell Drive sewer installation	\$200,000	awaiting DEQ approval
25. Brodie Road A&E widening	\$25,000	budgeted
26. Installation of Brodie Road water line	\$100,000	completed
27. Popp's Ferry, Ph. 4 (Cedar Lake-Gay Road)	\$150,000+	under design
28. Cedar Lake traffic signal, south of I-10	\$100,000	completed
29. Cedar Lake subdivision road reconstruction	\$800,000	completed
30. Cedar Lake Bridge repairs	\$1.8 million	design underway
31. Install waterline from Cedar Lake Bridge to Miss. 67	\$250,000	design pending
32. Husley Road improvements	\$250,000	budgeted
33. Woolmarket sewer collection system design	\$100,000	underway
34. Install water line in Woolmarket (south on Oaklawn)	\$400,000	budgeted

Major public works projects

(includes projects completed, under construction or under design)

A. Marina repairs	\$257,000	budgeted
B. Point Cadet Plaza hangar improvements	\$130,000	underway
C. Golden Fisherman site upgrade	\$90,000	pending
D. East Biloxi elevated water tank (off Sixth Street)	\$1.65 million	under construction
E. Construction of new fire station for east Biloxi	\$948,500	near completion
F. Crawford House interior restoration	\$300,000	pending
G. New Biloxi Community Center design	\$75,000	
H. Biloxi Library chiller replacement	\$105,000	completed
I. Downtown plaza refurbishment	\$50,000	under design
J. Keegan's Bayou restoration and conservation	\$192,000	budgeted
K. Relocation of Bond House on Howard Avenue	\$50,000	budgeted
L. Mardi Gras Museum relocation to Dantzler House, Ph. I	\$125,000	under construction
M. Biloxi Lighthouse interpretive display design		
N. Public Safety training room	\$125,000	under design
O. Lopez Park project	\$20,000	budgeted
P. Hiller Park, installation of pier and boardwalk along Bay	\$300,000	under design
Q. Donal M. Snyder Community Center, interior masonry wall	\$29,500	completed
R. Parkview lift station upgrade	\$650,000	completed
S. Popp's Ferry causeway park		
master plan	\$22,000	completed
clearing and grubbing	(county labor)	completed
removal of derelict pilings	\$345,000	completed
Ph. I construction (pilings for boardwalk)	\$383,000	completed
Ph. II, upgrade ramps, parking and lighting		
T. Sports complex		
Ph. I (clearing land, install utilities)	\$934,000	completed
Ph. II (concession and restroom building for five-plex, covered bleachers, scorers booths)	\$698,000	completed
Ph. III (3 softball and 4 soccer fields, concession and restroom buildings, lights, roads, parking)	\$2.27 million	completed
Ph. IV (one softball field, one adult baseball field, five Little League fields with concession and restroom building, lighting, roads, parking)	\$2.4 million	completed
Ph. V (tennis complex and multi-use meeting room, maintenance building, water well, roads, parking)	\$1.7 million	completed
U. Construction of new Woolmarket fire station	\$950,382	near completion
V. Construction of Woolmarket Park	\$502,200	under design
W. Construction of Woolmarket elevated water tank	\$1.59 million	under construction
X. Water well to serve Woolmarket	\$486,000	under construction
Y. Lorraine Road bridge	\$500,000	budgeted

Citywide streets and drainage projects

(includes projects completed, under construction or under design)

• In-house construction and cured-in-place piping	\$1.5 million	ongoing
• Traffic signalization analysis and upgrades, Ph. I	\$250,000	completed
• Upgrades to computer hardware and software	\$600,000	ongoing
• Maintenance of elevated water tanks	\$590,000	ongoing
• ADA improvements	\$254,000	ongoing
• Lift stations upgrades and maintenance	\$843,827	ongoing
• Street overlay	\$500,000	ongoing
• Construction materials for in-house construction teams	\$300,000	ongoing
• Stormwater Ph. II	\$26,000	under design
• GIS mapping	\$134,000	ongoing
• FEMA buyout program	\$890,000	(\$764,000 expended)

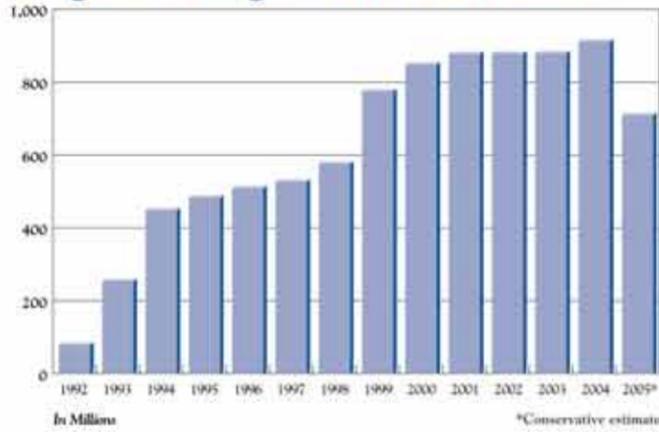
By the numbers

15-year trends

(where available)

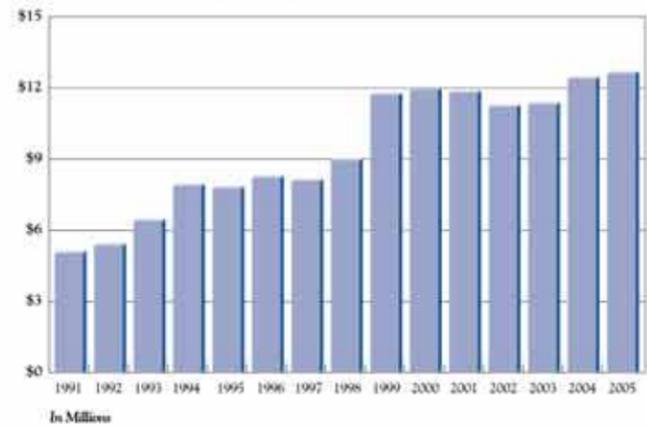
Gross gaming revenue

Annual figures show growth of Biloxi market



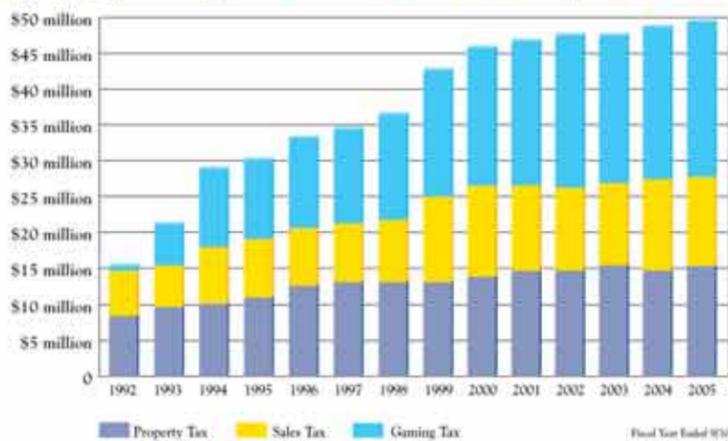
Sales tax collections

Revenue funded a quarter of city operations



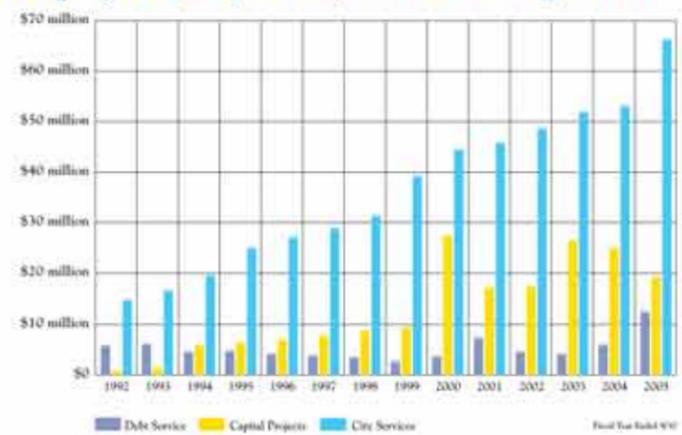
Revenues

Property, gaming and sales taxes fund city operations



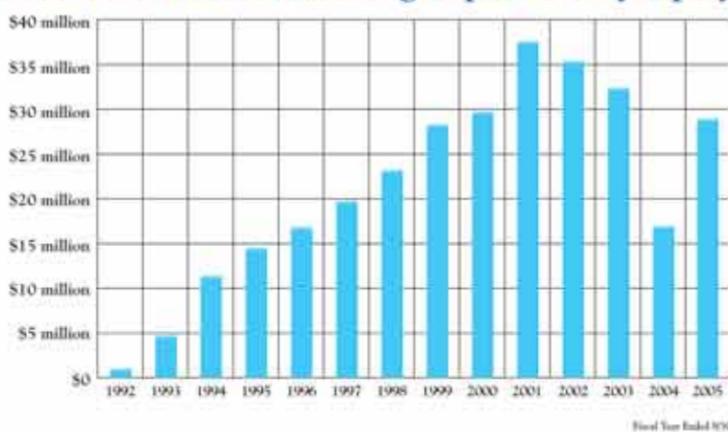
Expenditures

Capital projects, day-to-day services see growth



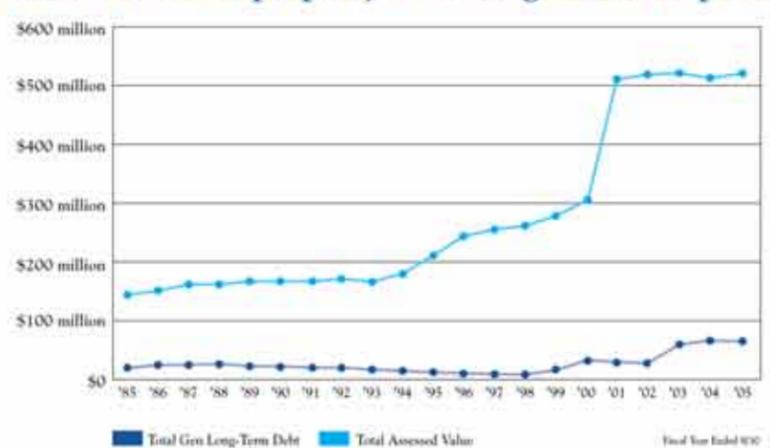
Financial health

General fund balance showing impact of major projects



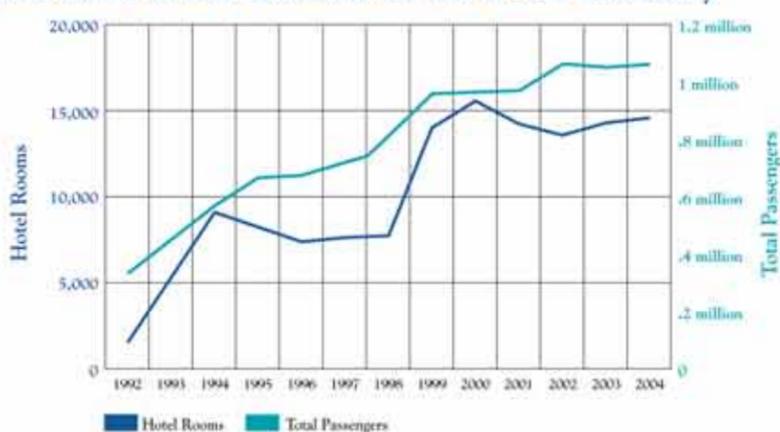
Debt and value

Assessed value of property increasing as debt kept low



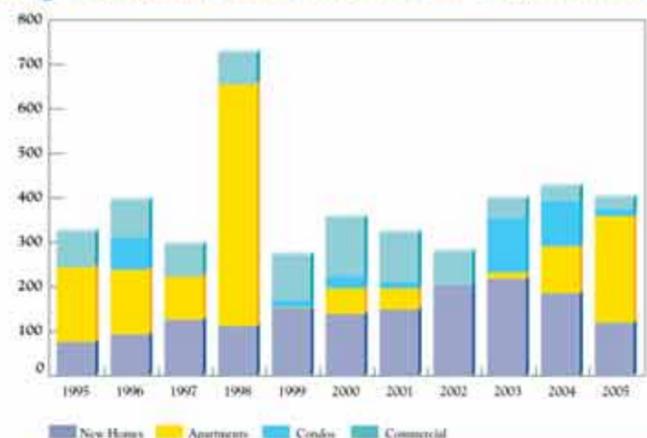
Hotel and airport traffic

Two intertwined elements of the Biloxi economy



Building permits issued

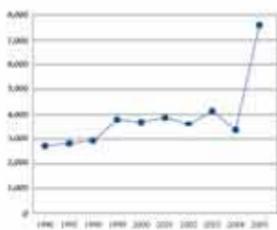
Tracking residential and commercial construction



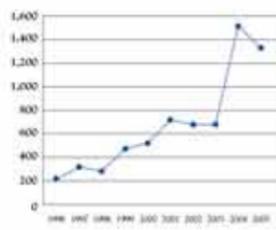
Community Development

Overseeing orderly growth and cleaning up our city

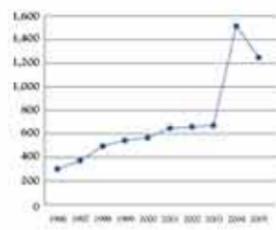
PERMITS ISSUED



CODE ENFORCEMENT NOTICES



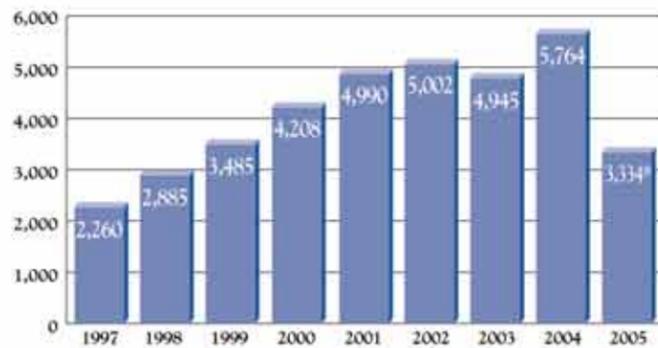
CODE ENFORCEMENT VIOLATIONS CLEARED



Youth leagues

More of our children are having a ball

PARTICIPATION IN SOCCER, BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL YOUTH LEAGUES AND SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

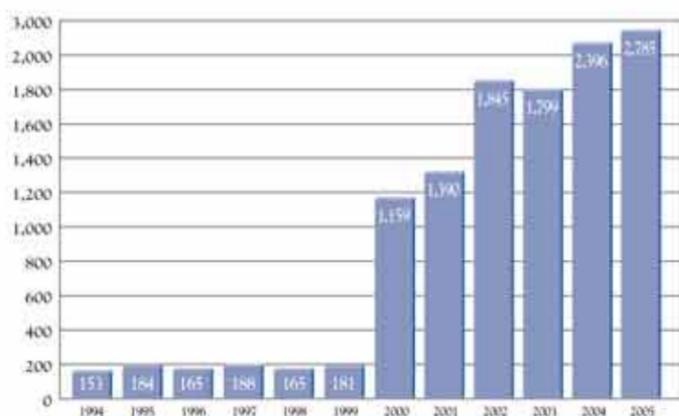


*Football season, with 650 registrants, canceled because of hurricane.

Biloxi Fire Department

We make house calls – by the thousands

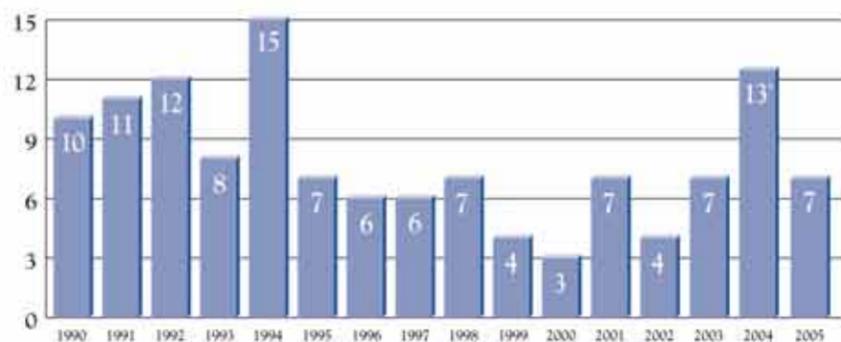
EMERGENCY MEDICAL CALLS BY YEAR



Biloxi Police Department

Making the streets safe for motorists

TRAFFIC FATALITIES BY YEAR



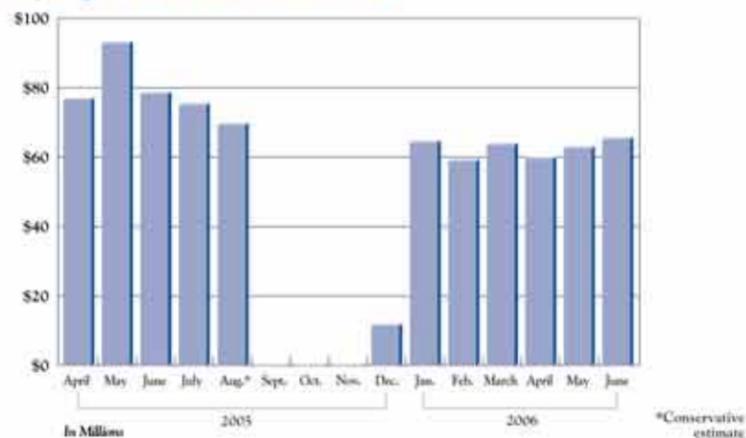
*Two traffic accidents accounted for 5 of the 2004 fatalities.

15-month trends

(where available)

Gross gaming revenue

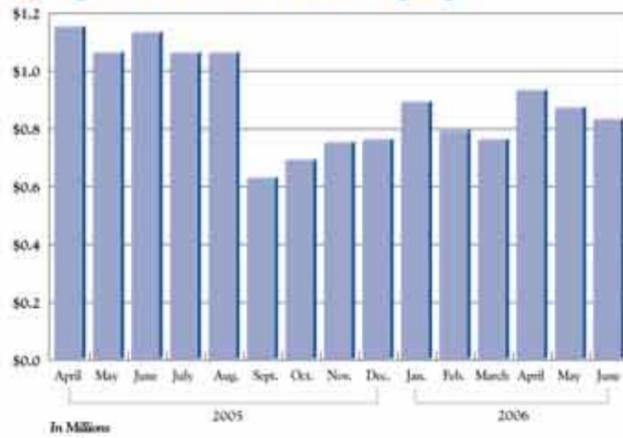
Monthly figures show rebound



*Conservative estimate

Sales tax collections

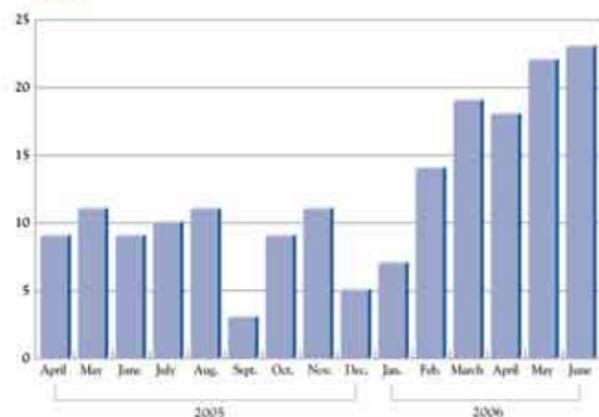
Monthly figures remain encouraging



New home construction

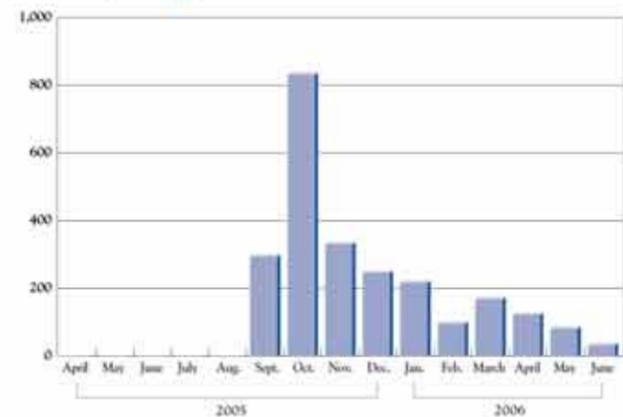
Market showing growth trend

A total of 115 permits has been issued between Sept. 1 2005 and June 30, 2006. A "new" single family home also includes "total rebuilds" of homes, which are classified as new construction for inspection purposes.



Temporary trailers

More than 2,300 permits since storm





Reviving the R

City's volunteer-driven initiative showcases Biloxi's

By Lt. Gen. Clark Griffith
(USAF Retired) Chairman,
Reviving the Renaissance initiative

As part of his State of the City address delivered just months after Biloxi and the Mississippi Gulf Coast suffered the worst natural disaster in American history, Mayor A.J. Holloway announced the establishment of the Reviving the Renaissance initiative.

This committee, the mayor instructed, would utilize the same structure as the Governor's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding and Renewal. Appropriate issue teams would research and develop specific recommendations that the mayor and the City Council could use to "revive the Renaissance" that was taking place in Biloxi before Katrina.

The mayor's charge – and our mission – was simple, but clear: develop a realistic plan, with a realistic timetable, and a realistic price tag.

The complete reports from the several committees, along with attachments and supporting data, are available online at www.biloxi.ms.us.

Following is an Executive Summary of the plan developed by our volunteer committee. It addresses the immediate challenges to bring Biloxi back to its pre-Katrina prosperity, while realizing that the devastation left behind by the storm presents unique opportunities. It clearly points out Biloxi's true potential and identifies specific recommendations that will get us there.

How it all began

For 35 years, I had the honor and privilege to serve our country in the U.S. Air Force. During that time, I saw combat, accidents, disasters, personnel/policy changes, and many other things that presented leadership challenges. None of these, however, compare to the leadership challenges we all face as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

Soon after the storm, we got our first glance at how our President, Governor, and elected officials planned to respond to these challenges. It would take everyone working together toward a common goal if that was going to happen.

We needed a plan that everyone could agree with

and support. The initial meeting of the Governor's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding, and Renewal was held in a tent outside of Gulfport on Sept. 20.

The Governor was very clear in his vision for the Commission and later stated it in a letter to each Commissioner. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to rebuild the right way and make the Coast bigger and better than ever. What we do now will decide what the Coast will look like in 10 years, 20 years, and beyond. If we build the Coast and South Mississippi back just the way it was, we will have failed." He introduced Jim Barksdale, former CEO of Netscape, who was appointed Chairman of the Commission's Executive Committee. Jim expanded the vision of the Commission to include:

The ability and charter to revitalize and revolutionize over the next several years:

- What the Gulf Coast and South Mississippi can look like;
- What it can produce in the way of jobs and income; and
- What it can change and improve in people's lives in all levels of society.

He summarized the task at hand with these words: We have been asked to do this. We will do this,

Living Cities, Knight Foundation offer plan for east Biloxi

Report cites need for housing for tourism industry workforce

A detailed rebuilding plan calls for revitalization of east Biloxi's historic neighborhoods to provide a critical need: mixed-income housing for long-time residents and for the tourist industry workforce powering the city's post-Hurricane Katrina recovery.

The action plan offers the city, its businesses and citizens a planning framework for balanced and specific land-use guidelines and recommends their swift adoption.

The report, commissioned by Mayor A.J. Holloway and prepared by Living Cities Inc. and Goody Clancy, was presented to the Biloxi City Council. Titled *Moving Forward: Recommendations for Rebuilding East Biloxi*, the report has four main recommendations:

- 1) Respond to the significant opportunity presented by the nature and scale of the impending economic development, fueled by the gaming and entertainment industries.
- 2) Shepherd growth by putting a land-use road map in place.
- 3) Strengthen the city's tools for managing development.
- 4) Make affordable housing a cornerstone of the coming economic recovery.

Said Mayor Holloway: "We're working toward a realistic plan to rebuild Biloxi, including the hard-hit eastern end of our city. Our goal is to have a plan that includes a realistic timetable and realistic price tag, and a plan that takes into account the views of the diverse population we have here in Biloxi."

Biloxi is the second largest of the 11 South Mississippi communities slammed in August 2005 by Hurricane Katrina, the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history.

Participating in the presentation were Living Cities CEO Reese Fayde and Gulf Coast consultant Gordon Brigham. Living Cities is an investor collaborative of 16 major financial institutions, foundations, and a government agency that has invested almost \$375 million in 23 urban neighborhoods throughout the county since 1991. Goody Clancy is an award-winning architecture, planning and preservation firm from Boston.

Funding for the report came from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation (a founding partner of Living Cities), the Mississippi Development Authority

and the Biloxi business community.

"We are particularly impressed that the governor, the mayor and the City Council are poised to act and that they collectively put pressure on us to deliver this report," said Fayde. "Biloxi has two of the three ingredients needed to cultivate major economic development – strong investment and a predictable customer base. This report says the missing piece is an expanded workforce that needs affordable homes."

"This is an action plan for east Biloxi – a balanced road map for rebuilding the city's economic heart and keeping intact its cultural soul," said Alberto Ibargien, president of the Knight Foundation. "The plan's recommendations provide the information needed by the city, its businesses and the long-time residents of East Biloxi to make their own informed decisions in the immediate future."

The report builds on the long-range rebuilding approach inspired by the Governor's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding and Renewal and is closely linked to the recommendations presented to Mayor Holloway by the Biloxi Reviving the Renaissance Committee, established by the mayor and chaired by retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Clark Griffith.

The planning framework anticipates East Biloxi building on its pre-Katrina direction, ultimately becoming a tourist, entertainment and gaming destination of national stature.

To accommodate the workforce, the land use planning framework anticipates a total of 5,500 housing units, up from 3,500 units before the storm, including single-family houses, townhouses and multifamily units reflecting designs sympathetic to the city's historic architecture. New lower-density housing would be incorporated into the fabric of existing neighborhoods on less flood-prone higher ground. Housing would be targeted to serve residents at every income level. Other elements include:

- A vital, attractive downtown incorporating housing and cultural attractions.
- A seafood village on the Back Bay waterfront that combines berthing space for the commercial fishing fleet, seafood restaurants and retail outlets, and commercial processing space.

renaissance

unprecedented potential after storm

The complete Reviving the Renaissance report, which includes the Living Cities focus on east Biloxi, is available online at biloxi.ms.us.

because if we fail, we will have no one to blame but ourselves. Our State, the nation, and the world stand ready and willing to help us in this noble goal after such a tragic disaster. We will not let them down.

At this point, if there were doubters in the audience about the importance of this effort, all doubt disappeared when the President of the United States walked into the meeting. President Bush was very supportive of all that had been presented and pledged his support to the effort. From the outset, the point was made that this Commission was **ADVISORY ONLY!** It would provide information on choices, options, and alternatives, along with recommendations for recovery, rebuilding and renewal. The decisions, however, would be made by the local governments, state government, and the private sector... not the Commission.

Jim Barksdale and his staff put together an aggressive organizational structure and timeline. This included several key issue committees that included transportation, infrastructure, education, health care, housing, tourism, defense and government issues, small business, finance, agriculture, forestry, and marine resources. All of these

committees began their initial meetings to explore what recommendations would be made.

A big part of this gigantic effort took place in Biloxi from Oct. 12-17, 2005. A Rebuilding and Renewal Forum was held where each of the eleven hardest-hit towns on the Coast got access to the best architects, engineers, and planners from Mississippi and around the world. Teams of professionals visited each town and asked the people what they wanted their towns to look like when they rebuild.

These ideas were put together in a massive brainstorming/designing charrette, which was presented to local officials for their comments. These included ideas on community redevelopment, rerouting of streets and highways, and actual architectural designs to retain the historical beauty and charm of each community. This also included proposed FEMA flood zone advisories and recommendations on where and how to rebuild stronger/storm resistant buildings and homes.

The biggest question becomes... how do get any or all of this done? Plans are interesting, but how do you make it happen? This is a work in progress as the

Governor, Mayors, elected officials and community leaders work this very hard. Some very positive results have already happened. These include:

- Our State Legislators passed and the Governor signed a modified "on-shore" casino rebuilding law which help revitalize a stronger and more storm resistant casino industry.
- A Federal relief plan has been worked out in Congress and signed into law by the President which will provide disaster relief to communities, businesses, and individuals for rebuilding.
- The final recommendations from the Governor's Commission have been completed and published which will provide solid recommendations to all communities on how to proceed toward the future.
- The Rebuilding Forum has published and distributed two books that provide communities and homeowners a blue print for reconstruction. These books are full of ideas of how to rebuild and how to retain the rich tradition of the Gulf Coast architectural beauty and heritage.

Continued on page 14.

- Federal money will help in the short-term, but long-term development will require good plans that attract private investment. If we do it right, we can expect 30 to 40 billion dollars to pour into the region in the next 10 years. We've got a great start on the plans.

We have proven ourselves self-sufficient and motivated. We are blessed with superb leadership that will make this happen. Therefore, we have every reason to believe that together we can create communities that are more beautiful and economically vibrant in Biloxi and the Gulf Coast.

Mayor Holloway has described this South Mississippi Renaissance this way: We survived an unprecedented event and it has made us a stronger community. We are now in a position where we can realize unprecedented potential. Personally, these are tragic times, but exciting times. Working together, we will make our home the envy of the nation. To make this happen, the Reviving the Renaissance Steering Committee was activated.

Committee work

The committee chairpersons were selected from some of Biloxi's most knowledgeable leaders. The call went out to all citizens of Biloxi to join this effort.

Over 500 people attended the first public meeting at the Saenger Theater. We had over 200 in that group to volunteer to serve on the 20+ committees/sub-committees to work all issues. We immediately got to work since the deadline was just a short time away.

Committee chairpersons were very innovative. They scheduled their meetings around already hectic schedules of work and recovery. We had a lot of meetings in the evenings and during lunch hours. Soon, the pressing issues and potential recommendations began to surface. At that point, these potential recommendations were taken to the people in three separate town hall meetings that covered all the Wards of the City. These comments were returned to the committees to re-visit and revise the recommendations accordingly.

The product

As stated, this report summarizes countless hours of discussion, deliberation, and research by over 200 of your neighbors and friends. Therefore, we respectfully present our conclusions and recommendations to the Mayor and City Council as they lead us in the recovery of our wonderful city. There are more than 160 recommendations in this report, some of which are outlined in this State of the City report.

A special thanks to all who participated. You were

thorough, deliberate, and innovative in your work. You also left out any personal agendas, personal bias, and pre-conceived conclusions out of the discussions. Bottom line, you accomplished your mission with excellence and you can all be proud of what you have done for your City.

A second report, titled Moving Forward, represents the work of Living Cities and Goody Clancy and contains recommendations for the rebuilding of East Biloxi. This Reviving the Renaissance committee is responsible for developing plans for the entire city of Biloxi; Living Cities was charged with developing specific plans of East Biloxi.

As you read both plans, you'll notice there is a great deal of duplication – and that is by design. It was anticipated that most of what can work in East Biloxi can be applied throughout the city, and vice versa. Where there are specific needs, the separate approaches allow those issues to be addressed.

The results

History will reflect what the committee and others have accomplished. History will also reflect the results. The hard choices we ducked after Camille await us today. Will we get it right this time? We firmly believe the recommendations will help guide our City to the right decisions this time. We owe it to our people.

Reviving the Renaissance Recommendations

Here are the recommendations from the committees of 200 Biloxians involved in the Reviving the Renaissance initiative. The complete report is available online.

HOUSING

- Adopt the ABFE (Advisory Base Flood Elevations).
- Utilize existing GPS Mapping System to advise citizen property owners of elevation requirements and available financial assistance
- Assess workforce housing needs throughout Biloxi
- Utilize "scattered site" multi-family and single-family low-income tax credit projects
- Work with Modular Housing providers to streamline the application and approval process
- Rehabilitate and repair low-income projects damaged by Hurricane Katrina
- Utilize the Biloxi Housing Authority to build additional units using the Hope IV model
- Resist the efforts of developers to convert apartments into condominiums
- Develop a land bank.

TRANSPORTATION

- Relocate the rail traffic from the CSX corridor
- Establish a new boulevard system throughout the peninsula and complete the Back Bay boulevard extension to Hwy 90
- Enhance Beach Boulevard as a world-class scenic thoroughfare from Gulfport to the eastern point of Biloxi
- Establish a tram along the beach connecting all the commercial centers
- Reduce the number of at-grade RR crossings (Until CSX traffic is moved.)
- Maintain the elevated height of the rail corridor (Until CSX traffic is moved.)
- Improve all the existing at-grade rail crossings to have active warning devices (Until CSX traffic is moved.)
- Establish an additional East Harrison County connector to I-10
- Improve the D'Iberville interchange to include a "Texas U-Turn"
- Construct a loop ramp for southbound traffic off I-110
- Reconfigure the southbound I-110 to Westbound Hwy 90 ramp for better safety
- Pedestrian and bicycle paths should be part of Hwy 90 improvements
- Move the main gate to Keesler AFB to Division Street
- Complete the East Biloxi Transportation Loop
- Provide aesthetic and pedestrian features on all new roadways
- Re-establish Howard Avenue as two-way traffic
- Establish an effective Inter-Modal Public Transportation System
- Develop a "park once" system
- Launch a Streetcar Trolley system, primarily along the waterfront
- Make Hwy 90 an Inter-Modal Thoroughfare and Gulf Coast Walkway/Bikeway
- Launch a public Airport Bus Service
- Launch a Work Transportation System
- Biloxi should be part of a Gulf Coast Regional Commuter Rail
- Begin with a tri-county light rail commuter system on the CSX rail bed

LAND USE

- Adopt Advisory Based Flood Elevation (ABFE) maps and regulations.
- Encourage and accommodate mixed use.
- Increase water and sewer capability.
- Establish a new Commercial Residential Zone.
- Support relocation of the CSX rail.
- Maintain the Old Biloxi Architectural style.
- Preserve the public view and the sand beach.
- Establish neighborhood nodes at select intersections.
- Promote walkability and interconnectivity.

PRESERVATION

- Review and define the historical districts and strictly adhere to the zoning and the Design Review Guidelines.
- Strictly avoid granting any commercial zoning along the beachfront in

- areas already zoned as residential.
- Historical Preservation:
- Respond to the urgency of stabilizing and securing the city-owned damaged historical
- Landmarks/structures to stop further deterioration.
- Consider these structures as priorities for preservation and restoration or rebuilding: Dantzer House, Tullis-Toledano Manor, Magnolia Hotel, Old Brick House, Bond House, Biloxi Lighthouse, Lighthouse Keeper's House, Swetman House, US Coast Guard Station, Saenger Theater, Brielmaier House, Creole Cottage, Biloxi City Hall, Biloxi Library, #3 Fire Company. (See Appendix A.)
- Obtain right of first refusal for the City when privately owned historic properties such as the Old Biloxi Library are up for sale.
- Gain agreement to establish building codes, which will create unity of design and maintain a Sense of place as recommended by the Governor's Commission.
- Keep the integrity of historical neighborhoods by placing all utilities underground.
- Avoid moving the Magnolia Hotel in order not to place it in harm's way.
- Attempt to acquire the properties at the east and west corner of Porter and directly behind the east corner of Porter to add to the visitors center complex. If these properties cannot be acquired, structures built must adhere to the AHRC Design Recommendations and meet the City's building codes.
- Begin collecting Biloxi historic artifacts that were salvaged from homes and businesses for display in the Biloxi Museum.
- Strongly enforce current signage codes and strengthen these codes if necessary to ensure signage is appropriate for historical areas.
- Beachfront property zoned residential must remain residential. Commercial businesses must not be given variances in these areas, especially businesses such as pawnshops and service stations.
- Place historical markers downtown to create a walking and driving tour.
- Strongly encourage knowledge and enforcement of ordinances and laws governing the preservation of existing structures and construction of compatible infill in the City's historic districts and around all historic resources.
- Conduct a comprehensive update of the City's six (6) locally-designated historic districts to identify remaining contributing structures; review the 1754 locally designated landmarks and the additional new designations; and reevaluate district boundaries for updating the Biloxi Land Development Ordinance and the Architectural and Historical Review Commission's "Design Review Guidelines." (See Appendix C.)
- Support the concept of leaving the Town Green as green space.
- Support the development of a Visitor's Center/museum complex on the grounds of the Dantzer House/Chamber of Commerce Property.
- Buildings that were destroyed should be reviewed and the feasibility of building replicas should be determined.
- **Trees, Green Space and Gardens:**
- Strongly encourage the preservation of the City's green spaces and centurion trees by enforcing tree ordinances. Restore the beauty of Beach Boulevard by nurturing damaged oaks and replace where appropriate.
- Protect and preserve our centurion trees. The City must not allow these trees to be replaced by saplings even when enticed by developers who promise a fifty to one ratio of replanting.
- Do not give variances to remove trees for development.
- Support the development of parks, gardens and green space.
- Support the development of the Mississippi Renaissance Gardens and Horticultural Center.
- **Funding:**
- Use FEMA monies at 90% to restore or rebuild City-owned historical buildings.
- Use FEMA Emergency funds to shore up those buildings, which are in danger of further deterioration.
- Use funds from Historical Preservation Trusts and organizations to restore City-owned historical buildings.
- Seek foundation and corporate grants such as the Kellogg Foundation

- and AT&T Corporate Responsibility program.
- Fund any remaining historic preservation needs with local, county or state appropriations.

TOURISM

- Replace, restore or repair the City's historic sites and attractions to provide tourists with a unique experience
- Work with local attractions to create a marketing program funded by a 1% food and beverage tax
- Expand the Point Cadet Marina and create a Waterfront area attraction, funded grants from the Tidelands Trust Fund or bonds repaid by leases.
- Build fishing reefs using debris from the Biloxi Bay Bridge and old fishing bridge.
- Expedite the process for approving and permitting project proposals.
- Zone East Biloxi and downtown Biloxi for mixed use and create TIF Bond Districts.
- Revise the City's parking requirements for Condotel.
- Support and encourage immediate expansion of the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center and create a "Convention Center District."
- Determine feasibility of an East Biloxi Convention Center.
- Extend hotel tax to include condotels.
- Commit property in East Biloxi for a privately developed minor league baseball stadium.
- Work with CTA to create a "Park Once" transportation systems for tourists.
- Replace the H-tract connector route.

SMALL BUSINESS

- Lobby Congress to seek changes in the HUBZone regulations to have the entire City of Biloxi designated as a HUBZone area.
- Expand the scope of the new Community Center in East Biloxi to become a multi-purpose, multi-story building to meet many needs of the community.
- Encourage USM Gulf Coast to investigate the relocation of the campus to the City of Biloxi.
- Develop a plan to upgrade wireless Internet access throughout the City to create "hot spots" for connectivity.
- Develop a commerce park in the northern portion of the City to give businesses location options outside potential flood area.
- Provide better communications and distribution of information for small businesses in Biloxi to assure all citizens are aware of the resources are available from various agencies.
- Investigate and implement grants/tax credits to small companies for employment including hiring and retaining family members as these parties are excluded as part of the Go Zone legislation.
- Adopt a residential and commercial rent stabilization ordinance to offer affordable housing and office space for small businesses.
- Adopt a vacancy fine for commercial locations to encourage property owners to lease or sell available property.
- Monitor legal issues including non-regulation of business insurance, wages paid by FEMA, and unemployment tax rate increases.
- Review and update the City's sign ordinance.
- Encourage diversity of small business in the City of Biloxi and provide assistance to all businesses.
- Revitalize the Vieux Marche area.

SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

- Increase dock space for shrimp boats.
- Develop land use for fuel, ice and an unloading facility.
- Develop a Seafood Industry Cluster
- Develop land space for shipyard use.
- Expand the dock space at Point Cadet Marina.
- Reinstall power at Point Cadet Marina.
- Maximize use of Point Cadet Marina to encourage retail seafood, a Farmer's Market and restaurants.

Mixed-use development headed for downtown Biloxi

One of the recurring recommendations from the Governor's Commission, Living Cities and the overall Reviving the Renaissance initiatives has been a suggestion to move toward mixed use zoning. The concept, which has also been advocated repeatedly over the years as a tool to revitalize downtown Biloxi, allows a mix of residential, retail and professional office in close proximity. Now, as a result of Hurricane Katrina, the recommendation appears headed for reality. Weeks ago, the Biloxi City Council approved a mixed-use development that would include 220 residential condominiums and commercial uses on a three-acre site off Water Street in downtown Biloxi. The development, known as City Place, would involve the former Dees Chevrolet site and land stretching along Water Street from Main to Dukate streets. Two buildings – one five-stories and one standing 11 stories – would house commercial uses on the ground floor, with one-, two- and three-bedroom residential condominiums above.



MILITARY/GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING

- Supplement available Keesler on-base housing through public or private sources at a price range in line with current government housing allowances.
- Review Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) plans for North/South Connector routes to ensure Keesler's near- and long-term plans (particularly housing needs) are not adversely affected.
- Support Keesler's airspace management requirements to protect the integrity of Keesler's flying mission and its potential impact on the future of Keesler Air Force Base.
- Work closely with Keesler AFB on land use issues including Keesler gate locations, additional family housing and recreational needs.
- Pursue Keesler's medical vision for the Mississippi Coast and work with Keesler, the U.S. Veterans Administration and the University of Mississippi Medical School to coordinate common needs and explore other viable options to provide and enhance available medical support.

EDUCATION

- Provide instruction on knowledge and skills for the workforce that is available after regular work hours for the City's residents.
- Provide instruction on leisure activities and hobbies available after regular work hours for the City's residents.
- Participate in the educational offerings of the Mississippi Renaissance Garden and Horticultural Center.
- Clearly define "technology training" so the public understands the nature of the training and survey employers and the community to determine the type of instruction or classes to be offered. Enhance the continuing education opportunities already offered by Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.
- Training will occur at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC), Biloxi Public Schools (BPS), or where a computer lab is located. Training will be delivered, in some cases, to individuals as online courses.
- Encourage private pre-school education providers to use the Mississippi Department of Education's Pre-Kindergarten curriculum.
- Offer pre-school instruction for 3 and 4 year olds at local schools as space permits.
- Determine if the local school district can absorb costs to offer pre-school classes. (State funds are not available for pre-kindergarten classes.)
- Determine the feasibility of reconfiguring of school grades to accommodate classes in elementary schools, i.e. serving grades 9-12 at Biloxi High School, grades 7-8 at Biloxi Junior High School, and serving grade 6 at Michel.
- Consider a pilot program at the elementary school having the greatest percentage of free and reduced lunch students.
- Assist Harrison County Head Start's efforts to locate housing in the Biloxi area to reopen its programs in Biloxi.
- Develop a planned program of remedial or extended instruction for students in after-school programs.
- Include rudimentary nutrition instruction appropriate for students served.
- Teach skills using methods that complement school instruction and utilize alternative strategies for instructional delivery.
- Providers could include Boys & Girls Club in Biloxi or similar entities. (The Boys and Girls Club currently offers after-school programs in some Biloxi schools.)
- Approach local industries to offer assistance in establishing educational child care for their employees.
- Acknowledge quality GED programs already in place at MGCCC or already in place for enrolled students who meet eligibility requirements at Biloxi High School.
- Continue having all GED students receive a college counseling session prior to taking GED exams. As a part of the counseling session, add to this a tour of the college including detailed "how-to" information on such topics as registering, applying for financial aide, etc.
- Research the need for additional locations in the evening for the convenience of prospective students.

- Identify industries in Biloxi whose employees work 24-hour shifts and need child care for their children, i.e. gaming industry, Keesler Air Force Base, etc.
- Offer industries educational assistance to set up day care programs at their work places.
- Explore the possibility of combining the efforts of industries and educational entities to develop a citywide 24-hour child care program.
- Encourage all childcare programs to use the Mississippi Department of Education's pre-kindergarten curriculum.
- Investigate partnerships with local industries to provide shuttle services between child care sites and local schools when parents/guardians are working non-traditional hours.
- Lobby state legislature for statutory approval of gaming coursework
- Gain approval/support from State Board for Community and Junior Colleges and from the Board of Trustees of the state Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) for gaming coursework

HEALTH CARE

- To better facilitate disaster communication, a designated City representative should be appointed to serve as the primary liaison between Biloxi healthcare facilities and the Mayor's office, two-way communication available between the healthcare facilities and this person once storms enter the Gulf.
- Develop a plan to address the needs of "Special Needs" patients, including shelter designation, medical staffing of the clinic, and supplies/medical equipment that will be needed by these patients. A schedule of who will be working in these shelters (doctors, nurses, etc.) will need to be developed and the staging of medical supplies and replenishing of those supplies will need to be addressed.
- Designate medical personnel as first responders following a disaster to help support their mission of taking care of the medical needs of the community.
- Develop a Healthcare clearinghouse locally, as well as a satellite center outside of the disaster affected area, for contact information for all healthcare providers to assist patients in finding their physician and medical information after the storm.
- Work with the local Universities and with available federal grant money to increase the size of Clinical Programs, (i.e., Nursing, Respiratory, Radiology, etc.) on the Coast.
- Implement recommendations made in this report from the affordable housing committee.
- Replacement of the Biloxi/Ocean Springs Bridge is imperative for the long-term stability of the healthcare providers on the Coast.
- Work collaboratively with the public and private healthcare systems on the Coast to establish a Medical School and Residency Program for physicians.
- Continued growth in the annexed areas of Biloxi will increase the demand for healthcare services on the Coast. Additional resources will be needed to meet this demand.
- It is imperative that support be given to the rebuilding efforts of Keesler Medical Center. Keesler has been a major contributor to the past growth of Biloxi. A strong Keesler Medical Center will continue to support our local economy for many years to come.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Develop a clearinghouse for non-profits to coordinate services to clients, coordinate volunteers, and disseminate information among agencies and clients.
- Reinstate social services funding from the City to address the unmet needs of children, families, seniors, and the homeless.
- Provide resources to address the problems of homelessness and hunger, including land in the inner city for additional shelters and assistance in eliminating contractor abuse of homeless workers.
- To address affordable childcare and after-school care, locate an interim site for Moore Community House and expedite permits for reconstruction.

- Restore social service funding and encourage the casino industry to support childcare for employees.
- Address problems facing senior citizens by re-instituting senior programs and senior centers, reestablishing the "Meals on Wheels" program, supporting the Mental Health Association and other senior providers, and prosecuting dishonest contractors.
- Assist citizens with disabilities by encouraging developers to build affordable homes, improving transportation to the disabled population in Biloxi, and provide homeowners and renters assistance with home modifications.
- Support programs that help people move from continued emergency services to self-sufficiency and offer an exception to the City codes for housing volunteers.
- Help provide low-cost health care by encouraging contractors to provide insurance to employees and fine or rescind, if possible, the licenses of contractors who are taking advantage of workers; insure that contractors carry workers' compensation insurance or rescind their licenses to work in the City; and help disseminate information within the City about available services and how to obtain those services by way of the City newsletter.
- Provide funding to support transportation programs in areas where a higher percentage of the population use public transportation.
- Create plans for transportation to shelters in the event of a hurricane.
- Develop strategies to prevent predatory lending, including limiting the number of lenders allowed in the city and supporting city, county and statewide legislation that limits excessive fees, abusive pre-payment penalties and harmful refinancing loans.
- Address rising mental health issues by distributing "Coping with Disaster" information; by promoting available mental health services through mailings, e-mails and the city's Website; and by funding mental health programs where appropriate.

FINANCE

- The Biloxi City Council should make a decision on the new base flood elevations.
- Officials from the City of Biloxi should begin meeting with representatives from the gaming industry to discuss work force housing and with representatives from Keesler AFB to discuss their housing needs.
- Formulate a letter from the Reviving the Renaissance Commission to FEMA requesting a current mailing list and contact information of tele-registered people who lived in the Biloxi at the time of Hurricane Katrina.
- All residents of Biloxi who think they may be eligible for the Katrina Homeowners Grant Program Phase I should complete an application for funding and set an appointment to have that application processed.
- The City of Biloxi should continue to lobby for Phase II of the Katrina Homeowners Program administered by the Mississippi Development Authority.
- The City of Biloxi should move as quickly as possible to complete infrastructure improvements (water and sewer) to the Woolmarket area, North of Interstate 10, in order to provide housing and economic development opportunities.
- Explore the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) bonds to finance infrastructure improvements and/or purchase real estate to stimulate private investment.
- The City Planning Department and City Council should explore establishing a "Rebuild Biloxi Enhancement Fee" for the approval/granting of variances that exceed the provisions of the current Land Development Ordinance (LDO).
- Continue to pursue private developers and investment groups and help expedite their development efforts.
- Work with local financial institutions to find solutions.

City Hall is open 24/7

Find a wealth of information about city programs and initiatives online



biloxi.ms.us

Information about your city government, the ongoing recovery effort and hurricane preparation is at your fingertips, and it's available for you any time, any day. And while you're there, sign up for timely e-news updates by clicking on "Are you in the loop?" The city's web site is your No. 1 source of information for all things Biloxi.



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THE State of the City ONE YEAR LATER



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