

THE State of the City 2008



We're making progress each and every day

My fellow Biloxians:

For the past two years, you've heard talk of our goal to revive the renaissance.

You heard about how we were going to look at the successes of the past and build on them for a bright and promising future.

More than 200 of you came together in the months after the storm to discuss the things that were important to this community.

Affordable housing in clean and safe neighborhoods. Good planning, land use and zoning. Quality public education. Tree-lined streets and boulevards that move traffic efficiently and drain well. First-class city facilities and services. And an appreciation for our history and culture.

I asked for and you delivered a report and a plan of action that was realistic and doable.

It's been more than 31 months since Hurricane Katrina devastated our community.

I am proud to say that we are making progress each and every day here in Biloxi.

The state of our city is recovering.

We've issued more than 20,000 permits of one type or another since the storm.

Like all cities, we have our share of challenges, but Biloxi, in my biased opinion, is the most compelling story of all of the stories in the Katrina recovery.

We went from a city that was enjoying the greatest time in its 300-year history, to a city that was devastated by a monster storm, to a city today that is reaching a milestone – large or small – each and every day.

Our potential and our promise are greater today than at any other time in our history. We are on the right track.

We would be remiss if we didn't again thank the thousands of volunteers who continue to work each and every day in our community. God bless them.

At the same time, we didn't sit back waiting on help to arrive.

Here in Biloxi, Reviving the Renaissance is more than a slogan.

It's a program of work.

Much of the work that you're seeing is coming directly from the pages of the Reviving the Renaissance report.

You told us that you wanted to see city facilities better than they were before. You told us that you wanted us to save historic structures where we could.

You told us you wanted quality public schools, quality health care and convenient public transit.

This 16-page State of the City report is designed to provide you an overview of the work that is being done to restore the excellent quality of life that you were enjoying before the storm.

Many of the projects and proposals you'll read about were suggested in the Reviving the Renaissance report. These are things that you said were important to our quality life.

But let me add this:

I drive the same streets of Biloxi as you do. It also saddens my heart to see the barren land on Point Cadet. Land where homes once stood. Land where generations of families grew up. We must face the fact that parts of Biloxi will never be the same. And in some cases nor should they be. It's up to us to make them better – and do it in a responsible manner.

Complex projects – those with significant impacts on traffic and demands on infrastructure – should not and will not be rushed through the regulatory process.

As we go about the rebuilding process, we will continue to face important land-use and zoning decisions that will have long-term impacts.

As I have said before, casinos are the engine driving our economy, but I want to be a city WITH casinos, NOT a casino city.

It's incumbent upon us to try to strike that balance that we had before the storm.

That is, that we have land zoned for casinos and land zoned for other uses.

As much as people talk about having plans and blueprints and smart growth, property owners are entitled to due process.

They have the right to make requests for any use of their land. Getting approval is another matter.

We're seeing more and more construction coming out of the ground along Beach Boulevard.

We'll continue to see more as some of the big challenges like the cost of land, insurance and construction come back down to earth.

In closing, I want to thank our many federal, state and local partners who are helping make things happen.

FEMA, MEMA, the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Mississippi Development Authority, our Congressional delegation, and, of course, Gov. Barbour and the state Legislature.

But there are so many more: The Biloxi Housing Authority. Keesler Air Force Base, the tourism industry, Coast Transit, Biloxi-Gulfport International Airport, Biloxi Regional Medical Center, Biloxi Public Schools staff and administrators. And the many social service agencies that we support.

Most of all, we rely on you.

You are the people who have worked hard to help us get where we are today. You are the people who have continued to show patience and persistence. The people who for the past 29 months and 14 days have been up to the challenge. You wake up every day, and you go out and try to make it a better day.

You help your neighbors and others in need.

You support our cultural events, our museums, and our social service agencies.

You volunteer your time to coach in our youth leagues.

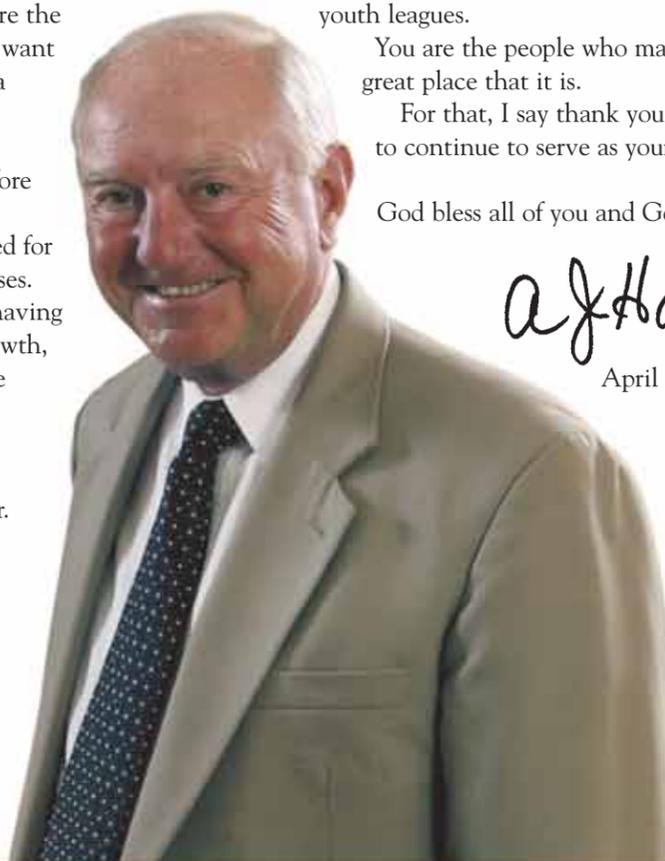
You are the people who make Biloxi the great place that it is.

For that, I say thank you, and I'm proud to continue to serve as your mayor.

God bless all of you and God bless Biloxi.

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

April 4, 2008



About the State of the City

Since 1999, the City of Biloxi's Public Affairs Office has produced an annual State of the City newsletter, normally as a follow-up to the mayor's annual State of the City address.

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 2008" is an expanded version of the annual report, providing residents and a national audience a status report on the city's ongoing recovery from Hurricane Katrina, which struck nearly 32 months ago, on Aug. 29, 2005.

You can find an online version of this report – along with State of the City reports from previous years and detailed information, video and photos about the city – at biloxi.ms.us.

City Council



George Lawrence
Ward 1



William "Bill" Stallworth
Ward 2



Charles T. Harrison Jr.
Ward 3



Mike Fitzpatrick
Ward 4



Tom Wall
Ward 5



Edward "Ed" Gemmill
Ward 6



David Fayard
Ward 7

A snapshot of the recovery

Biloxi's recovery from Hurricane Katrina has continued to see its share of milestones. Here are some of the more recent since the Aug. 29, 2005 storm:

- The Biloxi economy, buoyed by the casino resort industry, continues to recover quicker than expected.
- In calendar year 2007, Biloxi's casino market reported a billion dollars in gaming revenue, the largest figure in the 16 years of legalized gaming in Biloxi.
- Although property tax revenues were down in FY 06/07 because of Katrina damage to real and personal property in Biloxi, revenue for 07/08 will rebound.
- Proceeds from sales tax revenue for FY '07-08 is expected to be 91 percent of pre-storm revenue.
- The city has seen \$153.9 million requests approved by FEMA. The city also has a huge request – \$355 million but possibly increasing to as much as a billion dollars – to repair or replace all infrastructure in the Katrina storm surge areas.
- Housing continues to be an issue. Of the 20,000 permits issued by the city, only 362 have been for new homes. Meantime, the Biloxi Housing Authority has completed the restoration of its crown jewel, the Hope VI housing community, which will house 300 families.
- In March, Keesler will begin moving into the first of its more than 1,000 housing units that comprise the largest military housing program in the history of the Air Force.
- Biloxi High School was named one of the best in the nation last year, a Blue Ribbon Award winner, and Principal Pamela Manners was named one of the top 6 principals in the country. In 2008, ground will be broken for a \$14.5 million expansion at the high school to accommodate the move of ninth graders, sixth graders to the junior high school, and pre-K being offered at all schools in the district.
- The city plans to re-pave Pass Road and Irish Hill Drive, and plans are underway to create boulevards at Veterans Avenue in west Biloxi and Pine Street in east Biloxi. Additionally, design work continues on improvements to Brodie and Brashier roads.
- Coast Transit had a banner year in 2007. CTA had more than a half-million passengers, more than the agency was transporting before the storm. The Pass Road route had a 21 percent increase in ridership last year, which is the second year in a row for a double-digit increase. The eight-month-old Casino Hopper shuttle service is carrying more than 13,000 passengers a month.

Marlin's Art

Biloxi now has 17 Katrina sculptures along Beach Boulevard, thanks to the efforts of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., artist Marlin Miller. The wood carver was so inspired by the city's original commissioning of several sculptures carved from standing dead oaks that he has made five trips to Biloxi over the past several months, carving a sculpture or two each visit. The IP and Beau Rivage have donated hotel rooms for each of his visits, and Marlin donates his time for the effort. He plans several more sculptures over the next several months.

RTR effort continuing to help guide city's recovery

By Retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Clark Griffith
Chairman, Revising the Renaissance initiative



The Reviving the Renaissance Steering Committee continues to lead in the recovery of Biloxi.

Many of the recommendations of the committee are either completed or being actively worked at this time.

This is a real tribute to the over 200 members of the RTR Committee who developed the overall plan that was adopted by the city as a guideline for recovery.

A quick summary of what actions are being worked was presented January 3, 2008 in an article by Gene Coleman in the Biloxi/D'Iberville Press.

The article outlines the hard work the Biloxi Housing Authority is doing to "return lost housing, complete unfinished projects and begin new projects." It further states that "BHA has teamed with the East Biloxi Relief Center, Habitat for Humanity, Back Bay Mission, and other non-profit groups to tackle the lack of affordable housing. This is a key problem we continue to fight every day.

The opening of two lanes of the Biloxi Bay Bridge has done wonders for many of the businesses in East Biloxi. It has also relieved congestion through our City.

Another way to better connect our City that was recommended in the RTR Plan was to complete the expansion of Bayview Avenue and extend Pine Street to create a "Business loop" in East Biloxi. This will connect our businesses, casinos, museums, etc. in a continuous loop around East Biloxi. This is all being looked at closely and engineering studies have been started.

Another recommendation from the RTR plan was to eliminate Route H that MDOT had recommended since it would cut through Keesler's new base housing. Plans now include extending Popp's Ferry Road to Beach Boulevard which was also recommended in the RTR plan.

Gene Coleman's article also outlined another step forward in public transportation in our City that came out of the RTR recommendations.

The Coast Transit Authority has helped make this a reality with its new facility and new "Casino Hopper" that better connects our City's gaming sites.

Other steps forward from the RTR plan are taking shape. The return of our retail market is showing up by Dillard's returning, Edgewater Village returning to pre-storm size, new retail outlets at Popp's Ferry and Cedar Lake Road along with positive steps to and more water and sewer lines to the Woolmarket area.

What this all says is... we are making good progress but have a long way to go.

Members of the RTR Committee remain vigilant to proposed changes to our City. This has proved invaluable as we challenge some overzealous projects that would have changed the historical aspects and beauty of our City.

It is refreshing to hear the RTR plan quoted in Planning Commission meetings and during debates on projects being considered by the City Council. This means we continue to use this plan 2½ years after it was presented to our city leaders.

Our biggest fear was that all this hard work would be put on a shelf and the recommendations would be ignored. That has not happened because our City leaders have been true to their word to "use this plan as a guideline to recovery."

We can all be proud of how our city has responded to the largest disaster ever to hit the United States. We can also be proud that we have a plan and continue to stick to it.

City stands by forecast of 8,400 new homes

Community Development Director Jerry Creel says the city's estimate that as many as 8,400 new homes would be built in Biloxi – far more than the 6,000 homes and businesses that were claimed by Hurricane Katrina – still stands, but the process is taking longer than expected.

Although the city's Community Development Department has issued more than 20,000 permits of one type or another since Katrina struck on Aug. 29, 2005, less than 350 of those permits have been for new homes.

"Just because the permits have not been issued at the pace that we would have liked, the projects are still going forward," said Creel, whose department is responsible for land-use, zoning and construction oversight. "We expect a significant number of permits to be issued for new single-family housing within the next six months."

Developers, he said, are dealing with the same issues that face the average homeowner: the spiraling cost of construction, land and insurance.

One subdivision, Belle La Vie, part of a master-planned community that straddles the city's current northern boundary, will include 5,300 dwellings on its 1,478 acres. The developer of the land has asked that his property be made part of the city. (See Page 10.)

Said Creel: "While he's pursuing that, he's also planning to move forward on the construction of the part of his project that IS inside the city, which includes 166 acres."

Creel pointed out that subdivisions are either built out or are being built out as such locations as Hengen Place, Villa Toscano, Live Oaks on the Bay, Malpass Landing, Lauren Falls and Taylor Oaks.

"Construction continues at Destiny Plantation, and we're also seeing new apartment units at Arbor Place,



This home is representative of the homes that will be built in the Belle la Vie Subdivision. To learn more about the project, visit www.bellelaviebiloxi.com

Landmark and McDonnell Square," Creel said.

"When you consider the ambitious plans being undertaken – more than thousand units by Keesler, the more than 1,500 units by the Biloxi Housing

Authority and the work being done by Habitat for Humanity -- we're going to see quite a few homes coming out of the ground.

"It just takes time."

Biloxi Housing Authority updates Hope VI project

"When people talk about New Urbanism, 'smart growth,' walkable communities and charming homes, take a walk down the Biloxi Housing Authority's Hope VI neighborhoods," Mayor A.J. Holloway has said.

"Here in Biloxi, Delmar Robinson, Bobby Hensley and the housing board were doing it before the storm and they're still doing it."

An update of the housing authority's Hope VI project:

Bayview Place



- Unit Mix – 196 Rental Units
- Construction Completion, January 2008
- 96 Units currently occupied
- Applications are currently being accepted



Cadet Point Senior Village



- 76 Units
- Available to residents 55 and older
- Construction Completed, July 2007
- Units currently occupied



Bayview Oaks



- 39 Homeownership Units
- Construction Completion, January 2008
- Units currently available for sale

East End Homes



- 34 Units of Mixed-Income Multi-Family Housing Adjacent to the Cadet Point Senior Village on Maple Street
- Groundbreaking to take place in March 2008



Major traffic work to continue in 2008

With dozens of projects in the offing, city also keeps east-west and north-south connectors in the mix

Major infrastructure work – some storm-related and some involving projects that have been talked about for years – will begin taking shape in 2008 and will continue for the next several years, Mayor A.J. Holloway announced in his State of the City address in February.

Holloway said motorists will see a complete repaving of Irish Hill Drive and the Biloxi portion of Pass Road, two major east-west corridors, in 2008, and the city hopes to begin construction on widening the last phase of Popp's Ferry Road, from Cedar Lake Road to Lamey Road, where property acquisition is in the works.

Additionally, Howard Avenue will be rebuilt from MLK Boulevard to Myrtle Street, design work will wrap up on improvements on Brodie and Brashier roads, and boulevards are planned at Veterans Avenue in west Biloxi and Pine Street in east Biloxi. The new Pine Street thoroughfare, in fact, will connect to Back Bay Boulevard, creating a new access route from Point Cadet to Back Bay and I-110.

"In 2008," Holloway said, "Biloxi residents will see a continuation of major thoroughfare improvements that move traffic and move the economy."

The mayor also announced that initial work is underway to outline a federally funded initiative towards making Popp's Ferry a bonafide north-south corridor to connect U.S. 90 and I-10.

The mayor has asked Gov. Haley Barbour to help secure funding for an environmental assessment for another much-discussed project, the construction of a new east-west corridor to span the Gulf Coast.

"These east-west and north-south corridors are not going to be easy," Holloway declared. "They are going to take years of planning and millions of dollars, but I think we need to continue to do the ground work

because they are very important to our future."

Major infrastructure improvements – whether in streets and drainage, new roads or new schools, help move traffic and the economy, Holloway said, pointing to the tremendous growth on Cedar Lake Road.

"You're seeing this huge amount of private investment out on Cedar-Popp's because they don't have the issues like flood insurance and elevations that are slowing the recovery in other areas of our city," Holloway said.

"You're also seeing this area blossom because of the tremendous amount of improvements we made in streets, drainage, infrastructure, the sports complex and let's not forget the new high school and elementary school.

"Our role in city government is to provide all of the essentials to give you an outstanding quality of life. Our role is to set the table for economic development. And you're going to continue to see more of that."



The city of Biloxi is planning hundreds of dollars in infrastructure work, primarily in storm-surge areas of the peninsula and the Eagle Point area. Here, Public Works crews install a new water line on Kensington Drive on Back Bay.

City seeks hundreds of millions for surge areas

The City of Biloxi is applying to federal and state authorities for at least \$355 million in funds to replace infrastructure in areas inundated by the Katrina storm surge.

"This would allow us to replace and repair streets, drainage, water and sewer, and other infrastructure in all areas inundated by the storm surge," Mayor A.J. Holloway said, noting that the work would envelop the Biloxi peninsula and include a significant portion of Eagle Point.

"This would be a multi-year undertaking that would see tremendous work – and inconvenience throughout our city."

The city plans to divvy up the surge areas into grids to help facilitate the massive amount of work.

Said Holloway: "The initial figure is \$355 million, but what we've found is that once projects are put out to bid, the numbers could double. In fact, once all is said and done, we fully expect to see more than a billion dollars in improvements in our city."

City Hall is open 24/7

Find a wealth of information about city programs and initiatives online



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.

biloxi.ms.us



Transportation moving into the future

New Biloxi Bay Bridge, other traffic improvements show progress in Biloxi

By Wayne Brown
Southern District Commissioner
Mississippi Department of Transportation



The bridge is back—better than before. The new Biloxi Bay Bridge, now open to six lanes of traffic and completed ahead of schedule, has become a symbol of the remarkable state of the city. With that symbol of renewal, rebuilding, and future

hope now a reality, Biloxi has recaptured its pre-Katrina rhythm and is picking up the tempo as it heads toward a future of wide open opportunity.

The bridge accommodates more vehicle traffic and also larger marine traffic, so it will serve the area well for many years of strong economic growth. It also is in step with the character of the communities it connects, thanks to the in-depth involvement of local leaders.

I find that those two values -- a determination to come back better than before, and a commitment to sustaining a cherished way of life -- have shaped most redevelopment in Biloxi, not only transportation infrastructure. Now, at this stage of rebuilding, those values are yielding results we can be very proud of.

The bridge is the most visible transportation improvement, but work is also proceeding well on various segments of U.S. 90 and I-110.

Here is the current status of several Biloxi-area projects being executed by MDOT:

Biloxi Bay Bridge

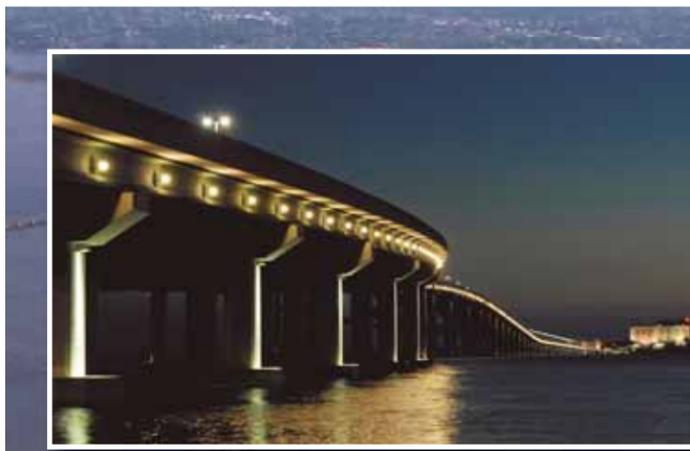
Cost: \$338 million

Expected completion: April 8, 2008

The contractor, GC Constructors, has finished all of the superstructure of the bridge and is currently applying safety features such as rail, grooving for skid resistance and installing lighting.

The asphalt has been placed except the final surface lift which will be placed under traffic to ensure proper lane markings. A traffic swap occurred February 12 and the final opening occurred before the April 16 deadline.

Traffic will remain traveling in one lane for approximately one more month. Motorist are asked to follow the posted speed limits through this area while work progresses.



April 8, 2008:
All lanes of the Biloxi Bay Bridge open to the motoring public, a week ahead of schedule.



Aerial photo by Susan Guice/Wings of Anglers. Inset: A nighttime photo of the Biloxi Bay Bridge. Photo by Nicole Lacour Young/Biloxi-D'Iberville Press.

U.S. 90, from Biloxi Bay Bridge to Rodenburg Avenue

Cost: \$20 million

Expected completion: January 2009

Lane Construction Company of Ocean Springs, Mississippi was awarded this contract.

Crews videoed and cleaned drainage pipes to improve water movement through this area.

The contractor is complete with all curb, sidewalks, driveways on the outside lanes between Oak Street and Main Street, and the first leveling lift of asphalt has been placed as well.

Traffic has been swapped at Oak Street and Main Street to the outside lanes so that demolition and reconstruction can begin on the inside lanes. Reconstruction has also begun on the north side of U.S. 90 in front of the Hard Rock and Beau Rivage casino resorts.

Motorist are asked to exercise patience and caution through this area as work progresses quickly.

U.S. 90, from Rodenburg Avenue to DeBuys Road

Cost: \$18 million

Expected completion: February 2009

Superior Asphalt Inc. was awarded this contract. The contractor has been acquiring subcontract approval request through Contract Administration Division and has started pouring foundation for an asphalt plant.

The contractor also videoed and cleaned drainage pipes



MDOT contractors install new curbing, part of the total remake of Beach Boulevard.

for improved water movement.

Demolition has begun in the area between DeBuys Road to Camelia Avenue, and crews have begun placement of curbs through this area. Traffic signal foundations are currently being installed at intersections. Motorist are asked to exercise patience and caution through this area as work progresses quickly.

S.R. 605 from I-10 to S.R. 67

Work has been completed.

Fender Repair Project at I-110

Cost: \$240,000

Completion: Completed.

Contractor Tony Parnell has completed this project to repair the timber fender system under the I-110 bascule bridge that was previously damaged.

Small craft harbor repairs may be completed by June

A new Biloxi Small Craft Harbor, with water as deep as 12 feet and more hurricane-resistant construction, is scheduled to be complete by June, and design of the repairs are in the works for Point Cadet Marina, the commercial harbor adjacent to the small craft harbor and at the Coliseum pier.

At the small craft harbor, dredging is complete and pile-driving and land-based utility work are both about 75 percent complete.

"Boaters will see several improvements when we unveil the new harbor in several months," said civil engineer Dreux Seghers of Wink Engineering. "They'll see concrete pilings supporting the piers instead of the wooden pilings of the past. We're also employing a technique that will have most of the utility lines – electrical and water – run within protective chases within the piers, and not hanging over the water as they had been in the past."

The work, funded by FEMA and MEMA, is expected to cost \$6.7 million.

Seghers said some demolition remains to be done, such as clearing the former site of McElroy's restaurant, and construction would soon begin on a new pavillion building adjacent to the Port Division administration building.



New moorings are installed at the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor.

Point Cadet Marina

Plans for repairs at Point Cadet Marina are complete and have been approved by FEMA. The project was scheduled to be bid by the end of March and a contract for construction is expected to be underway within 60 days.

Work, which is expected to take several months and cost about \$5 million, will include replacing damaged piers, and the installation of new power panels, and water and sewer lines.

Commercial harbor

Commercial boaters now in the Biloxi commercial harbor will be moored at a privately owned marina when repair work takes place this summer at the commercial harbor.

The city is continuing negotiations with FEMA on several design features in the commercial harbor. "The piers and pilings were mostly intact in the commercial harbor," Seghers said, "but we feel they have been structurally compromised, and we're seeking to replace them with concrete pilings."

The harbor work is expected to take several months and could cost between \$3.5 million and \$5 million.

Piers

The city has received tentative approval from FEMA to use concrete pilings for repairs to the Coliseum pier, and similar approvals are being sought for the Kuhn Street pier and the Lighthouse Pier.

The Coliseum Pier should take from 3 to 6 months to complete once construction begins, but no timetable is available on the Kuhn Street or Lighthouse piers.

Biloxi Public Schools: One exciting year after another

By Dr. Paul A. Tisdale
Superintendent, Biloxi Public Schools



The Biloxi Public School District has just completed a significant year of accomplishment, and another exciting year lies ahead.

Our student enrollment continues to increase although our enrollment is still 20 percent down from

the pre-Katrina student enrollment of 6,100. As more housing returns, particularly with the Hope VI development established in east Biloxi and Keesler Air Force Base's 1,063 housing units, we will continue to witness a steady increase in enrollment.

The district received two national awards last year: Biloxi High School was designated a National Blue Ribbon School; the district's first school to be so honored, and Pamela Manners, principal at Biloxi High School, was one of six school principals to receive national recognition.

Biloxi High School was recognized for dramatic gains in state proficiency assessments despite having more than 40 percent of its students considered "at-risk" and from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The award, administered by the U.S. Department of Education, is one of the most prestigious educational honors in the country and recognizes schools for helping students achieve at very high levels and for making significant progress in closing the achievement gap.

Manners, a 20-year educator with Biloxi schools, was one of six principals in the country to receive the Terrel H. Bell Award, an honor named for the former Secretary of Education and presented to school leaders who have played a vital role in overcoming difficult and challenging circumstances.

The awards validate our belief that Biloxi High School offers a quality education for students who embrace learning and as well as those students who are most challenging to teach. It's a testament to the hard work by teachers, support staff, and administrators on that campus. We are extremely proud of them all.

I also note that these honors would not have possible without supportive parents, a community that values education, and a school board committed to providing a quality education for all students.

Exciting opportunities on the horizon

Construction of an addition to Biloxi High School to accommodate 500 ninth grade students on that campus is expected to begin in the near future. The \$14 million expansion, which may be in place for the 2009-10 school year, will provide more academic and extracurricular opportunities for ninth grade students.

The move will permit seventh grade students to move to Biloxi Junior High School's campus, sixth grade students to move to what is now Michel 7th Grade School, and create space for pre-kindergarten classes at each of our seven elementary schools.

Offering pre-kindergarten classes, which the state permits but does not fund, will save young parents thousands of dollars in daycare expenses and give our youngest citizens a head start on a first rate education... with no tax increase!



Proposed Addition – Biloxi High School

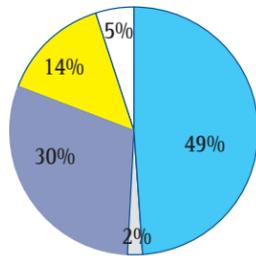
Rendering courtesy of Guild Hardy Architects

Other news and notes

- In 2007, the auditorium at Biloxi Junior High School, a thousand-seat facility used frequently by community groups, was renovated. Among the improvements to the auditorium, originally constructed in 1960, are new theater seating, handicapped seating areas, new stage flooring, new lighting, and sound system.
- Sandra Higgins, in her 18th year of teaching at Beauvoir Elementary School, has been named the Biloxi Public School's Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Higgins partnered with high school seniors and obtained snacks from local restaurants to launch an after-school mathematics tutoring program that saw her class score some of the highest math scores in the state. She's been an innovator throughout her successful career.

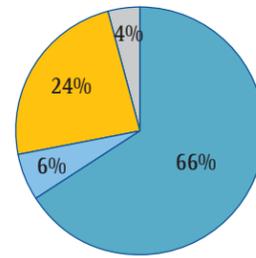
By the numbers

FY '07-08 Budgeted General Fund Revenues



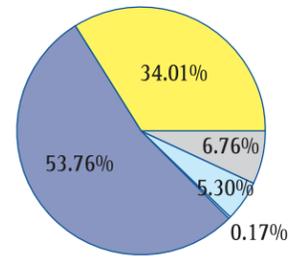
- Local - Ad Valorem
- Local - Gaming
- Local - Other
- State Funding
- Federal Funding

FY '07-08 Budgeted General Fund Expenditures



- Instruction
- School Admin
- Instructional Support
- District Admin

Demographics as of 3-26-07



- Caucasian
- African American
- Asian
- Hispanic
- Native American

Assessment / Tax Levy

School Assessment/Tax Levy (mills)	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08
Bay-Waveland School District	57.00	N/A	44.50	44.00	44.00	44.00	N/A	44.00
Biloxi School District	30.93	31.43	35.18	36.68	38.03	38.03	38.03	38.03
Gulfport School District	52.73	53.74	54.85	57.85	57.85	57.85	57.85	57.85
Hancock County School District	50.38	50.38	47.64	47.64	47.64	47.64	47.64	47.64
Harrison County School District	38.16	39.88	45.48	46.04	44.15	42.56	40.79	39.68
Jackson County School District	55.31	55.32	59.49	54.54	55.01	55.22	55.21	53.23
Long Beach School District	53.14	55.22	55.59	60.52	63.70	59.75	59.75	59.75
Moss Point School District	72.20	72.20	69.90	75.70	79.73	78.73	71.13	64.62
Ocean Springs School District	75.52	71.88	62.22	62.53	62.10	62.38	62.10	61.38
Pascagoula School District	51.94	52.94	51.64	51.64	52.39	52.39	52.39	52.39
Pass Christian School District	48.10	48.10	51.60	53.59	54.69	54.69	54.69	54.69

Student Enrollment

Pre-Katrina	School	Oct 05	Jan 06	May 06	Aug 06	Jan 07	Jan 08
437	Beauvoir (K-6)	219	308	306	314	313	315
368	Gorenflo (K-6)	84	140	170	152	146	150
532	Jeff Davis (K-6)	185	324	354	360	361	361
316	Lopez (K-6)	119	169	195	180	189	199
327	Nichols (K-6)	69	133	155	149	138	182
843	North Bay (K-6)	572	705	774	815	810	800
631	Popp's Ferry (K-6)	329	472	484	527	562	585
488	Michel (7)	266	356	384	358	361	399
982	Biloxi Jr. High (8-9)	535	723	740	798	796	774
1201	Biloxi High (10-12)	789	951	964	1019	987	1027
6125	Total	3167	4281	4526	4672	4663	4792

The Biloxi school district has a new information source, an easy-to-use web site at www.biloxischools.net



CTA well on the road to recovery

Ridership increased 42 percent, to pre-Katrina levels, in 2007, a year that saw the unveiling of the Biloxi Transit Center and the Casino Hopper



By Kevin Coggin
Director, Coast
Transit Authority

CTA experienced a 42 percent increase in overall ridership in 2007. Total passenger count for the year was 586,000, which exceeds pre-Katrina levels of ridership.

The new Casino Hopper route began service in place of Route 21 in April. The service began operating with three new buses with special Casino Hopper frog graphics. The legendary Frogman Henry helped CTA introduce this new service, which became an instant success carrying an average of 13,250 passengers a month.

Route 34 Pass Road, which serves Biloxi and Gulfport had a 21 percent increase in ridership, which is the second year in a row with a double-digit increase.

The new Coast Commuter vanpool program began the year with four vanpools providing 1,100 work trips a month and ended the year with 12 vanpools providing 4,000 work trips a month.

In 2007, we opened the new Biloxi Transit Center.

We completed the Transit Development Plan, which will guide growth of the system to the year 2030, a copy of which is on the CTA website.

In addition to the new Casino Hopper and Coast Commuter services, CTA fully restored all other types of services. CTA currently offers fixed route, ADA Paratransit, work commute, hurricane registration and evacuation, senior citizen transportation, and contract services for persons with disabilities.

Various services are provided in all three coastal counties, and all types of service are provided in the City of Biloxi. We offer a low-cost service to meet most every need.

With great assistance from our Washington congressional delegation, CTA has secured FEMA and Federal Transit Administration recovery grants sufficient to fully recovery all damaged assets. Our goal is to complete all recovery activities by the end of 2008.

A total fleet replacement project began with a christening ceremony for nine new demand response buses at the Biloxi Transit Center on Feb. 8.



A Casino Hopper pulls into the Biloxi Transit Center, with the Beau Rivage in the background.

We are bringing back the popular streetcar replica trolley buses, and upgrading the fixed route buses on some routes to use 30-foot, low-floor, heavy duty buses, which are a smaller version of the type of vehicle that you typically see in larger cities.

The main operating facility on DeBuys Road will be repaired, modernized and renovated. When completed, the facility will support the system well into the 21st century.

New bus stop shelters will be purchased and installed beginning with Route 34 Pass Road as part of our program to improve the system of passenger waiting facilities.

The combination of new buses and improved

waiting facilities will improve the overall comfort, convenience and safety of the system and sustain consistent increases in ridership. In summary, our plans for 2008 are to fully rebuild the system so we can look to expansion of the system in 2009 into such areas as the Popp's Ferry Road area of Biloxi, the City of D'Iberville and the St. Martin community.

Hurricane season starts soon. We recommend you update your evacuation plan now. You can register for hurricane evacuation transportation any time and obtain information on all the services that CTA offers by calling the CTA information number at 896-8080 or by visiting the website at www.coasttransit.com.

New plan for Visitors Center resembles look of the past

The proposed new Visitors Center planned for a site north of the Biloxi Lighthouse is taking on the look of the Dantzer House, an historic city-owned beachfront structure that was demolished by Hurricane Katrina.

The Visitors Center, in fact, will be situated near the former location of the Dantzer House, but will be elevated to 22 feet above sea level and be built atop concealed piers. Its exterior walls will be concrete masonry with a painted brick veneer. Its construction also will feature steel columns and beams.

The two-story structure will offer nearly 25,000 square feet.

The first floor plans include a reception, information and exhibit space along with offices. A grand staircase will take visitors to the second floor, where they will find conference rooms, space for exhibits or receptions, and a theater that can also be used for lectures or educational seminars.

The center of the building is a double height space with a balcony that is open to the information area below. "The goal," according to architect Leigh Grimes Johnson, AIA, of the firm Dale and Associates, "was to have an unobstructed view of the lighthouse with green space in front of the building, which would be nice for photos."

Expansive porches, much like those on the Dantzer House, will line the front of the first and second floors of the center.

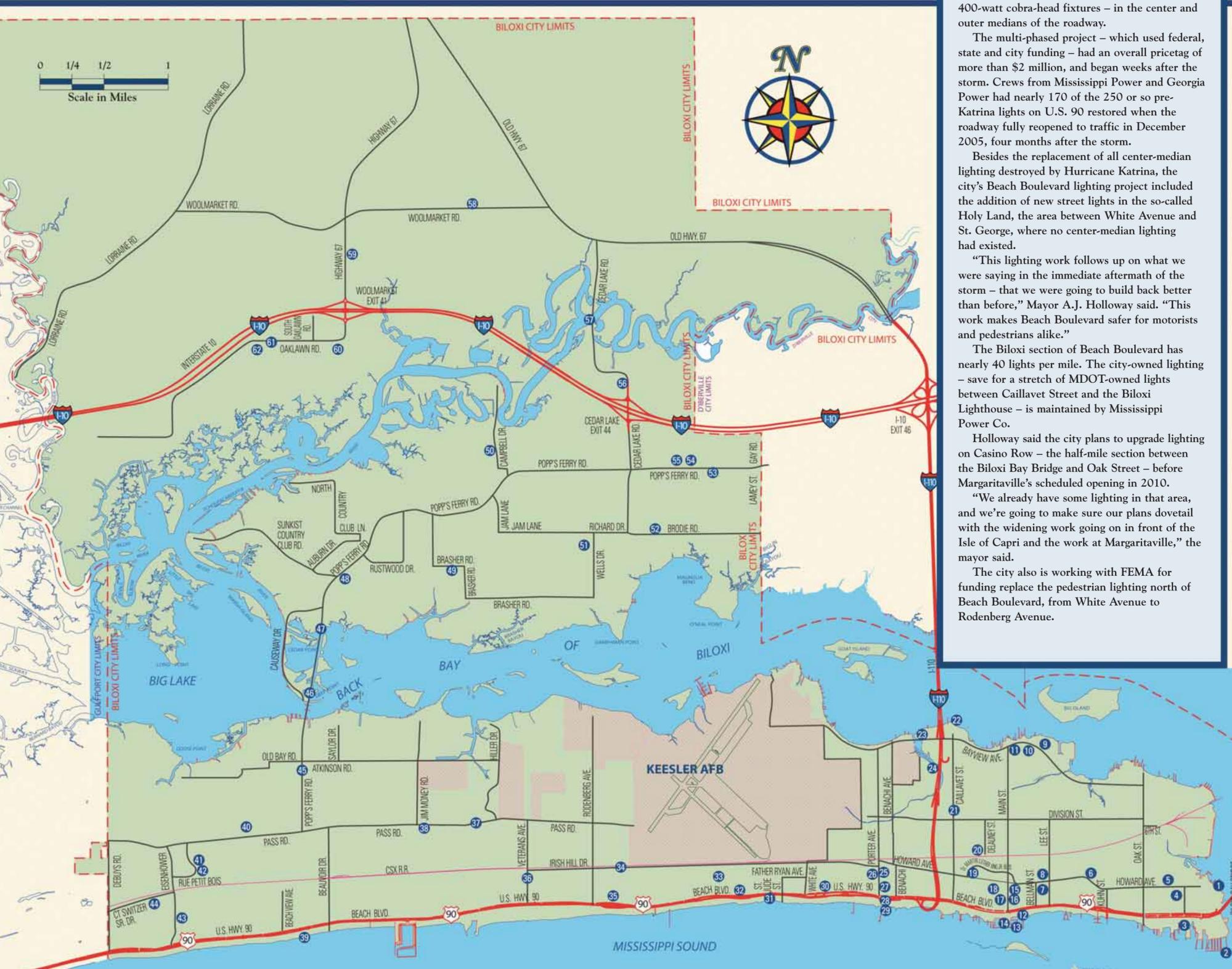
Rendering courtesy of Dale & Associates

The final rendering of the new Visitors Center bears a striking resemblance to the Dantzer House. The new Visitors Center – cost undetermined at this writing – would be funded by federal recovery money. Construction would begin once the city completes acquisition of property northeast of the Biloxi Lighthouse.



A massive program of improvement projects

Pre- and post-Katrina work in the pipeline



The lights of Beach Boulevard: Better than ever

The city reached a huge milestone in improving its major traffic corridor in 2007, when virtually all center-median street lights were restored along U.S. 90.

In fact, today, the 8.2-mile stretch of Beach Boulevard is illuminated better than it has ever been, with industry-standard lighting now installed from DeBuys Road in west Biloxi to Casino Row in east Biloxi.

In all, the city has installed more than 300 break-away light poles – most topped with twin 400-watt cobra-head fixtures – in the center and outer medians of the roadway.

The multi-phased project – which used federal, state and city funding – had an overall pricetag of more than \$2 million, and began weeks after the storm. Crews from Mississippi Power and Georgia Power had nearly 170 of the 250 or so pre-Katrina lights on U.S. 90 restored when the roadway fully reopened to traffic in December 2005, four months after the storm.

Besides the replacement of all center-median lighting destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, the city's Beach Boulevard lighting project included the addition of new street lights in the so-called Holy Land, the area between White Avenue and St. George, where no center-median lighting had existed.

"This lighting work follows up on what we were saying in the immediate aftermath of the storm – that we were going to build back better than before," Mayor A.J. Holloway said. "This work makes Beach Boulevard safer for motorists and pedestrians alike."

The Biloxi section of Beach Boulevard has nearly 40 lights per mile. The city-owned lighting – save for a stretch of MDOT-owned lights between Caillavet Street and the Biloxi Lighthouse – is maintained by Mississippi Power Co.

Holloway said the city plans to upgrade lighting on Casino Row – the half-mile section between the Biloxi Bay Bridge and Oak Street – before Margaritaville's scheduled opening in 2010.

"We already have some lighting in that area, and we're going to make sure our plans dovetail with the widening work going on in front of the Isle of Capri and the work at Margaritaville," the mayor said.

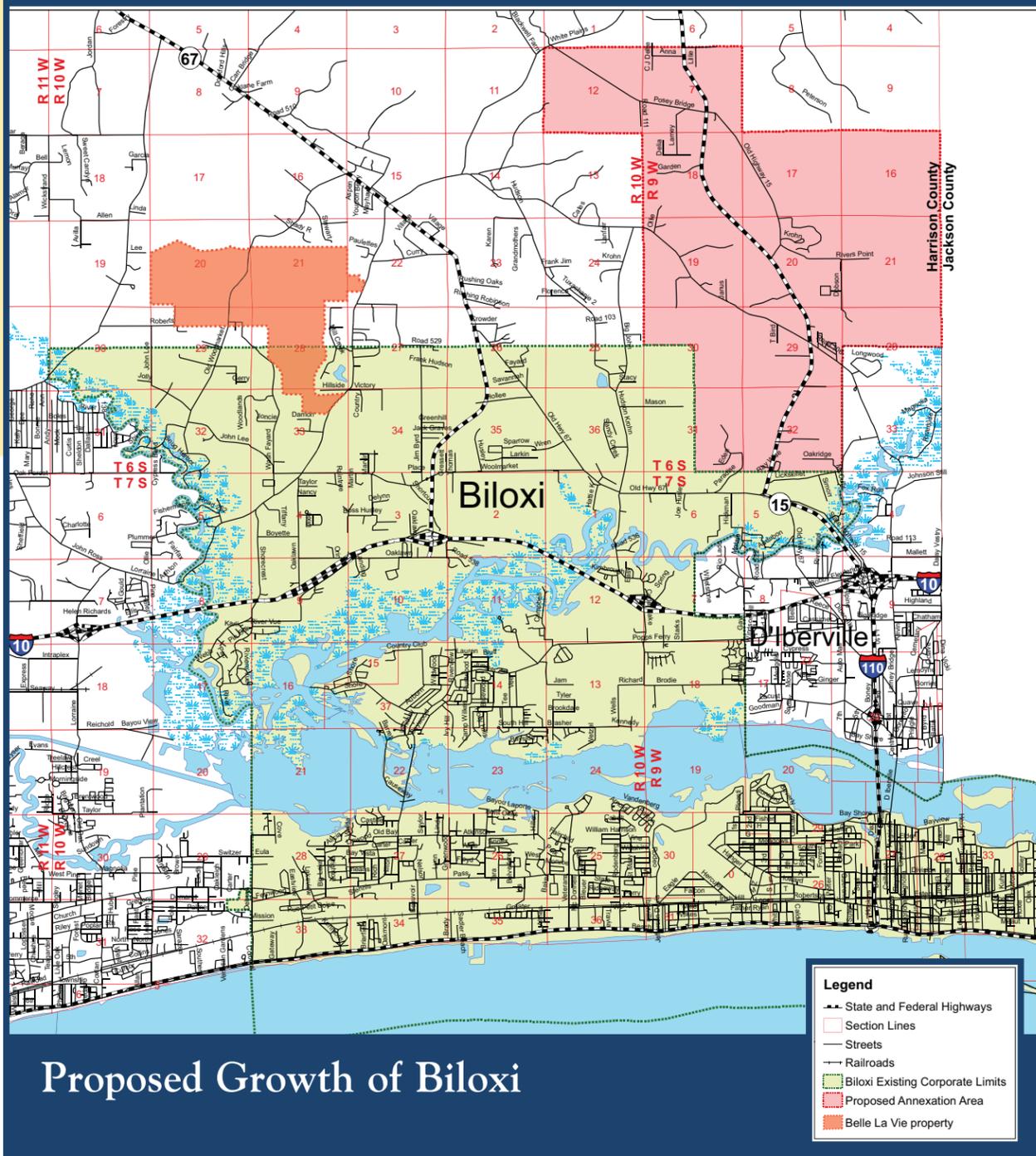
The city also is working with FEMA for funding to replace the pedestrian lighting north of Beach Boulevard, from White Avenue to Rodenberg Avenue.

Major public improvement projects

1. Point Cadet Fishing Bridge	\$3.1 million obligated for demo, removal	
	\$5.2 million obligated for rebuilding	
2. Point Cadet marina repairs	\$4.1 million obligated	under design
3. U.S. 90 lighting repairs (Oak to Myrtle)	\$187,000	under design
4. Pine Street boulevard design	\$500,000	budgeted
5. East End Fire Station repairs	\$340,000	under construction
6. Howard Avenue rebuilding (Dukate to Holley)	\$3 million	under design
7. Biloxi Community Center refurbishment	\$2.5 million	complete
8. Cultural center/library		under design
9. Old Brick House repairs	\$214,000 obligated	under design
10. Bayview Avenue Lighting (Caillavet to Main)	\$90,000	under design
11. Back Bay Fire Station	\$160,000 estimate	under design
12. Port Division admin. building repairs	\$693,000	under design
13. Small Craft Harbor repairs	\$7 million	under construction
14. Commercial Harbor repairs	\$1.36 million obligated	under design
15. City Hall repairs	\$112,800 estimate	under design
16. City Hall annex repairs	\$422,900 projected	under design
17. Rue Magnolia street lighting	\$165,000	under construction
18. Magnolia Hotel repairs	\$294,000 projected	under design
19. Saenger Theater repairs	\$182,600 projected	under design
20. Public Works building		
21. Caillavet Street reconstruction	\$9 million	complete
22. Back Bay Fishing Bridge	\$1.1 million obligated for demo, removal	
	\$2.39 million obligated for rebuilding	
23. Keegan Bayou restoration	\$160,000	complete
24. Lighting repairs under I-110	\$289,000	under design
25. Lopez Park fencing repairs	\$10,100	under construction
26. Public Safety improvements	\$55,000	under construction
27. Nativity BVM School	\$110,000	under construction
28. Lighthouse Park and Visitors Center		under design
29. Lighthouse repairs	\$71,600 obligated	under design
30. City Cemetery repairs	\$250,000	complete
31. U.S. 90 street lighting (Holy Land)	\$500,000	completed
32. U.S. 90 sidewalk lighting (Porter to Rodenburg)	\$229,000	under design
33. Natatorium repairs	\$1.2 million	under construction
34. Irish Hill Drive repaving	\$800,000	under design
35. Miramar Park fencing repairs	\$29,000	under construction
36. Veterans Avenue boulevard design	\$1 million budgeted	under design
37. Pass Road resurfacing	\$2.6 million	under design
38. Pass Road intersection improvements	\$565,000 for fed match	under design
39. Coliseum pier repairs	\$732,500 obligated	under design
40. Donal Snyder Community Center repairs	\$40,000	under design
41. Rue Petit Bois Drainage Phase I	\$800,000	completed
42. Rue Petit Bois Drainage Phase II	\$1.7 million	under design
43. Edgewater drainage (Balmoral)	\$230,000	complete
44. C.T. Switzer Drainage Phase II	\$850,000	complete
45. Popp's Ferry Road resurfacing (From Pass Road to Popp's Ferry bridge)	\$400,000	under design
46. Popp's Ferry Bridge submerged power cable	\$600,000 budgeted	under design
47. Popp's Ferry bridge and approaches	\$6 million budgeted	under design
48. Sunkist Drainage Phase III	\$1.9 million	under construction
49. Brasher Road improvements	\$1.25 million budgeted	under design
50. Campbell Drive sewer	\$270,000	under construction
51. Biloxi Sports Complex Storm repairs	\$170,000	under construction
		completed
		pending
52. Brodie Road improvements	\$1.25 million budgeted	under design
53. Popp's Ferry Road, Phase IV (widening from Cedar Lake to Lamey)	\$7.4 million budgeted	under design
54. New fire station	\$1.5 million	under design
55. Police Department Quonset Hut	\$72,000	under construction
56. Improvements to East Street, Summer Lane Spring Lane, Holly Bluff Water	not budgeted	under design
57. Tchoutacabouffa River Bridge repairs	\$1.1 million	completed
58. Install water service along Woolmarket Road	not budgeted	under design
59. Woolmarket water and sewer, Phase I	\$1.3 million budgeted for federal match	
60. Woolmarket sewer Phase II, design	\$140,000	under design
61. Oaklawn Drive paving	\$360,000	complete
62. Installation of water line	\$300,000	complete

Citywide streets and drainage projects

• Infrastructure improvements in Storm surge area	\$450,000 million requested	pending
• Sanitary Sewer Pump station repairs	\$2.9 million	under FEMA review
• Repair and/or replace traffic signals	\$500,000	near completion
• Cured in-place piping, Phase III	\$1.4 million	on-going
• Debris removal	\$80 million	complete
• Standing dead tree removal	\$1.45 million	complete
• Submerged debris removal	\$164,300	complete
• Temporary repairs to water wells (Bradford, Porter, St. Michael, Kuhn, Tullis)	\$170,000	complete
• Permanent repairs to water wells (Bradford, Porter, St. Michael, Kuhn, Tullis)	\$1.87 million	under FEMA review



Proposed Growth of Biloxi

City seeks to grow to northeast; property owner seeks to become part of Biloxi

Two cases are pending in court that could see Biloxi's boundaries expand northward.

The first is an "inclusion case" in which property owner James C. Frisby is asking that 1,312 acres he owns just outside the Biloxi city limits near Old Woolmarket Road and immediately adjacent to the city's existing northern boundaries be made part of the city.

Frisby, who plans to create more than 5,000 housing units on his overall 1,478 acres of land, said he wants the city-level fire and police protection the city offers. As part of his development, called Belle La Vie, he plans to construct and donate a fire station and municipal center to the city. A total of 166 acres of the proposed development are already in the city.

"We certainly welcome someone being part of our city," Mayor A.J. Holloway said, noting that only property in the Belle La Vie project is involved in the inclusion suit. "Mr. Frisby is saying that he likes what he sees in Biloxi, and he wants to be a part of it. This is a great third-party endorsement."

The Frisby case is scheduled to be in court May 12, 2008.

In the second case, the City of Biloxi has begun the process of enlarging its boundaries to extend municipal-level services to an area of about 12-square miles on the city's current northeastern edge.

The City Council passed a resolution that would annex an area that runs several miles to the north of the city and meets the existing borders of Jackson County and D'Iberville on the east. D'Iberville and Harrison County are both contesting the annexation.

The case is scheduled for trial Oct. 6, 2008.

Said Mayor A.J. Holloway, who introduced the proposal: "Biloxi must protect and preserve its path of future growth, and the city is in the best position to serve this area."

"I don't want to see Biloxi boxed in, like Jackson or Hattiesburg, which are surrounded by smaller cities and unable to grow."

Biloxi to continue water, sewer progress in Woolmarket

In all, \$64 million in improvements on tap

The much-anticipated water and sewer services are a step closer to becoming a reality in Woolmarket.

Mayor A.J. Holloway, during his State of the City address in February, reported that the city has now received two of the three necessary approvals to install water and sewer lines along Highway 67, which would expand city service north of the interstate.

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality on Jan. 24 approved the city's application to install a sewer line. The Mississippi Department of Transportation had given approval to install water and sewer lines along the same route, and now the city is awaiting approval from the Mississippi Department of Health.

"In all, there is \$64 million in water and sewer work that will be done in Woolmarket over the next three years," Holloway said, noting the funding is being provided by state and federal grants. "This work will include installing water and sewer lines, water wells, pump stations and a new wastewater treatment plant to serve this area."

The city last year completed installation of an elevated water tank off Oaklawn Road and introduced city water service to residents and new businesses on Oaklawn south of Interstate 10, and completed a half-million project to install a water well just north of the interstate.

In fact, City Engineer Damon Torricelli said, the city had completed sewer design plans and received approvals from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Mississippi Department of Transportation to install sewer lines along Highway 67, and was in the process of approaching City Council members to cover a funding shortfall when Hurricane Katrina struck.

"With everything we were dealing with in the wake of the storm, the permits expired, and now we're having to re-submit to DEQ and MDOT," Torricelli said. "But now we're taking things a step further, and instead of just installing sewer, we're going to use federal funds to also install water service at the same time."

Q&A on city services in Woolmarket

Biloxi has invested millions each year providing municipal-level services to the residents of Woolmarket and others who became part of the city in 1999.

Some examples, based on reports from individual departments:

•**Biloxi Police Department:** Averages 160 calls a day for service in the Woolmarket community, with a response time of under five minutes in 92 percent of the cases. The Police Department has six patrol officers assigned to Woolmarket, totaling more than \$350,000 paid in annual salaries.

•**Biloxi Fire Department:** Averages 77 emergency calls a month in Woolmarket, with an average response time of about 4 minutes and 44 seconds. The department operates three stations that serve Woolmarket – including a two-year-old, million-dollar station on Oaklawn Road. A total of 50 firefighters are assigned to Woolmarket, working in three 24-hour shifts, with a total annual salary of \$3.04 million.

•**Public Works Department:** Since 2000, has cleaned more than 508 miles of ditches in Woolmarket, and repaired nearly 40,000 potholes. The department has invested \$7.4 million in major improvement projects, personnel and equipment. Among the major projects: \$1.7 million for an elevated water tank; \$1.1 million for repairs to the Cedar Lake Bridge; \$585,500 on installing a Woolmarket water well, \$407,000 in upgrades to the Woolmarket treatment plant; and \$351,000 in Oaklawn Road improvements. The Public Works Department has 21 workers assigned north of the Bay, accounting for \$947,000 in total salaries.

•**Parks and Recreation Department:** Has invested more than \$1.4 million on programs, personnel and park improvements since Woolmarket became part of the city. Each year, more than 300 or so Woolmarket youth take part in a year-round menu of city sports leagues in Woolmarket, with no

city registration fees required. Each year the city has also operated two Woolmarket sites for its eight-week summer camp program, offering an array of activities for campers. In 2007, the program grew to three Woolmarket sites.

•**Community Development Department:** Issues an average of 885 construction permits of one type or another each year in the Woolmarket area. The department currently has either approved or is reviewing plans for 14 subdivision in the community, mostly one or two lot subdivisions, except for the 544-lot Belle La Vie proposal. The department investigates 20 to 25 code enforcement cases in Woolmarket in an average month.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What about the city's promise to provide water and sewer service to Woolmarket?

The city has invested millions on water and sewer service, and is currently going through the state permitting process to resume work interrupted by Hurricane Katrina. As part of the plan, the city will install water and sewer lines a mile north of Interstate 10, along Highway 67. Budget for the work: \$2.2 million.

Municipal water systems are supposed to be operated as a business, and, as such, services are expanded where "economically feasible." As a result, installation of city water and sewer began south of Interstate 10, where the majority of residents in the newly incorporated area resided, and is now moving north of I-10.

How much money in property taxes do residents of Woolmarket pay to the city each year?

Woolmarket residents pay about \$900,000 a year in property taxes. If you look at services, employee salaries and equipment, the city spends about five times that amount in Woolmarket each year.

The mayor said he is aware of the importance of providing water and sewer service in the community.

"However, the issue of installing water and sewer service in an area where no previous service or suitable treatment plant ever existed is a time-consuming task, which is obvious by the time it has taken to date. But the fact is, we were starting from scratch. More progress has been made in the past several years than at any other time in the history of Woolmarket. Last year, the city installed a million-

gallon elevated water tank as one of the first steps in bringing water service to the area."

As part of that project, Holloway said, the city installed water service and fire hydrants in the area of Oaklawn, south of I-10. "We have essentially three fire stations serving the Woolmarket community and each is manned by four firefighters 24 hours a day," Holloway said. "This gives Woolmarket residents a sense of security, and, more importantly, lower fire insurance rates."

City finances show growth, strength in Katrina recovery

Good news from the city's financial front: The city's financial health continues to be strong.

In fact, says Director of Administration David Staehling, "all of the city's major revenue sources – gaming, sales and property taxes – have recovered faster than expected."

Those three primary revenue sources provide nearly three quarters of the funds that allow the city to provide services and operate the city on a daily basis.

The revenue from the tax on gross gaming revenue provides a third of the city's annual operating revenue. In calendar year 2007, Biloxi's casino market reported a billion dollars in gaming revenue, the largest figure in the 16 years of legalized gaming in Biloxi.

Although property tax revenues were down in FY 06/07 because of Katrina damage to real and personal property in Biloxi, revenue for 07/08 will rebound.

Said Staehling: "Based on the size and amount of development that is under construction or in the planning process, the city's property tax base will continue to increase and will exceed pre-Katrina levels within two to three years."

Proceeds from sales tax revenue for FY '07-08 is expected to be 91 percent of pre-storm revenue.

"The city has also lifted the spending and hiring constraints that were imposed in the wake of the storm," Staehling said. "The city's operating departments' expenditures now equal or exceed pre-storm level. We have replaced most of the City's vehicles and equipment that we lost in Katrina.

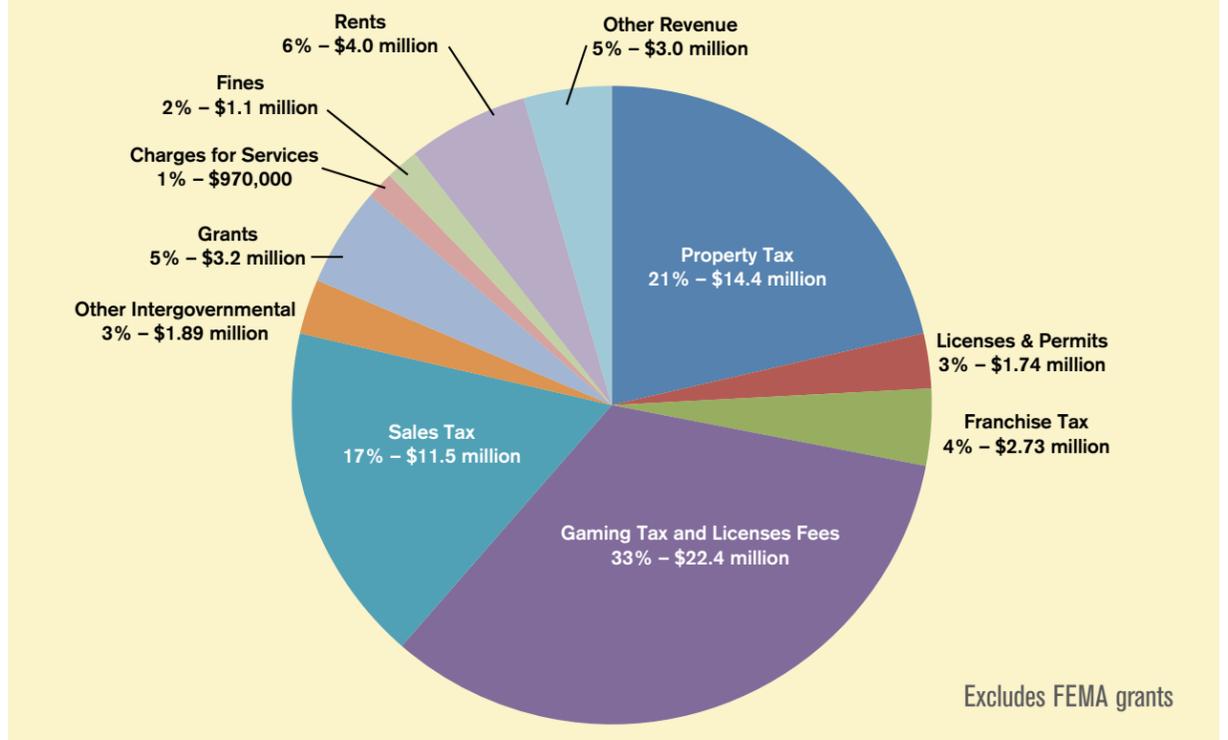
"The city is making a significant investment in technology to enhance efficiency in city operations and services.

"For the next several years, the city will have large amounts of cash committed to recovery projects. We will have to get these projects through the design, construction, audit and close-out phases before FEMA will provide full reimbursement. This will place a tremendous burden on the city. We must continue to be diligent in managing the city's resources."

Other factors, Staehling noted, continue to unfold.

"We're continuing to see reports that the nation's economy may be slowing down or that the nation may be headed for a recession," he said. "That's something that we need to keep an eye on. We're also still waiting to see corrections in the price of construction and insurance, and until those issues are resolved, which they will be in time, we continue to be conservative."

City's revenue streams (FY 07-08 budget of \$67.2 million)



Casino resort industry sets record

Biloxi's casino industry reported its largest ever annual gross gaming revenue in 2007, more than a billion dollars, according to figures compiled by the city.

The city's eight casinos reported total gross gaming revenue of \$1.007 billion for 2007, a year in which nine months saw revenue of more than \$80 million, including an all-time monthly high of \$97 million in July 2007.

The city announced the figures at the outset of 2008, once December's gross gaming revenue figure – \$78.3 million – was reported.

Mayor A.J. Holloway had previously acknowledged that November's revenue figures had pushed Biloxi gaming revenue to \$929 million for the year, eclipsing the previous record year of \$911 million in 2004.

"This is a huge milestone, not only in our recovery, but in the overall growth of the casino resort industry in Biloxi," Holloway said.

Holloway said the gaming revenue has helped the city provide enhanced day-to-day services over the years, as well as make quality-of-life improvements.

"To give you an idea of how expenses have grown in Biloxi," the mayor said, "our police and fire departments had an annual combined budget of \$4.5

million the year before gaming. The police and fire combined budget in the current budget is \$28.9 million. We knew we had to be proactive in that area because public safety – whether it's fighting crime or fires – is a basic tenet of quality of life."

"Another basic quality of life tenet is the providing quality education. We went for more than 30 years – from 1960 to the mid-'90s – without building a school, but in the past 15 years, we built four new schools, including a state of the art high school, and made

renovations at every school in the district. Holloway also pointed out that the city has invested more than \$200 million in streets and drainage work, parks and recreation and historic preservation, while building new city facilities like the Donal M. Snyder Community Center, the Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center and the Biloxi Sports Complex.

"And," he observed, "we did all of these things while lowering the property tax rate in Biloxi."

Where the money has gone

As of January 2008, the Biloxi casino industry had generated \$10.58 billion in gross gaming revenue and paid taxes of \$1.29 billion on that revenue.

Here's the breakdown on the taxes:

- \$846.4 million for the state (8 percent, or lion's share, of the 12 percent tax)

About 4 percent of it was divvied up locally, as follows:

- \$252.5 million to the city
- \$95.5 million to Harrison County
- \$67.7 million for Biloxi Public Schools
- \$33.8 million to county schools

New fire station to serve North Bay area

Construction will soon begin on a new fire station at Cedar-Popp's, which will serve the North Bay and Woolmarket areas.

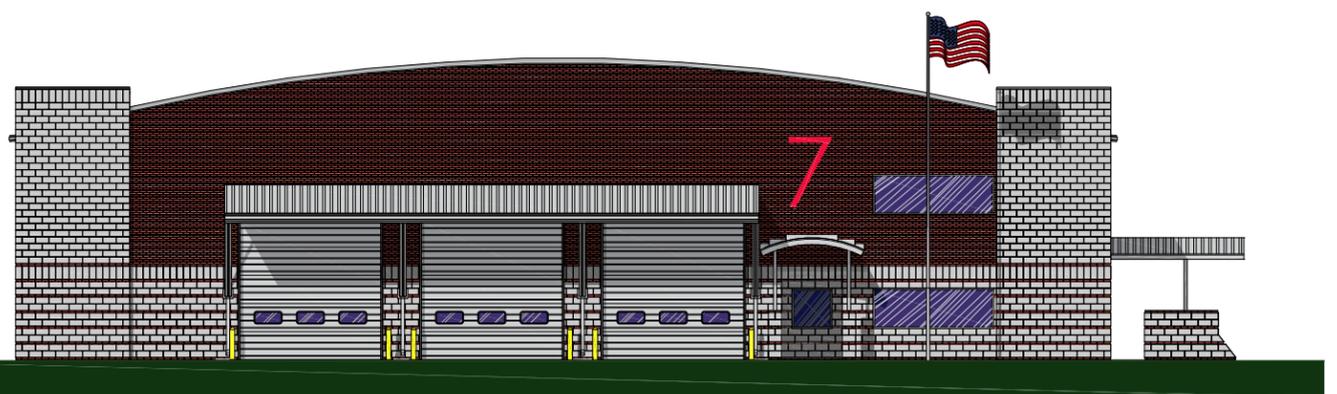
The work is part of the city's initiative to make improvements at nearly all fire stations throughout Biloxi. Repairs also are underway at stations on Back Bay and East End, both of which sustained several feet of floodwaters in Katrina.

The \$1.3 million, two-story station at Cedar-Popp's will offer 14,136-square feet and will feature three engine bays for up to six firefighting vehicles. The station will have an emergency generator for full backup power and will be able to comfortably sleep three shifts of 14 firefighters.

Additionally, the station will house a small police precinct to serve the rapidly growing Cedar-Popp's area.

The station is scheduled to be completed in February 2009.

Architect Mark Williams of the Biloxi firm Williams and Associates designed the new station to be able to withstand 160 mph winds and to be specially "hardened" to endure the extremes of a Category 4 hurricane. All windows are completely shielded with removable pre-manufactured heavy-gauge aluminum hurricane panels. The roof's



Rendering courtesy of Williams and Associates

structural system involves additional roof purlins at 2'-0" on center, allowing for a more concentrated roof panel attachment procedure to ensure stability.

"Mark Williams designed the stations at East End and Woolmarket, and those stations performed flawlessly in Katrina," Mayor A.J. Holloway said. "Of course, the East End station sustained six feet of water from the storm, so we're having to do some restoration work. But, structurally, we were very pleased with how those stations came through the storm."

The Cedar-Popp's station, also known by the Fire Department as Station 7, is being built on city property near the public safety communications center and public safety garage. The station will have

an 8" thick concrete approach pavement and the building pad, and the building itself will be primarily a concrete block construction interior with lay-in acoustical ceiling tile and exposed structure in the pumper hall for low maintenance. Site parking is poured-in-place concrete.

Williams used many of the safety features in 2004, when he designed Fire Stations Number 2 at Howard Avenue and Station 9 in Woolmarket.

Besides Williams and Associates, the design team on the new station includes structural and civil engineering, Neel Schaffer; electrical engineering, Cannon Engineering; and mechanical engineering, Myron James & Associates.

Keesler houses the Air Force's best

These days, base is concentrating on the three Rs: Rebuild, Renew and Reload

By Col Greg Touhill
Commander 81st Training Wing



The year 2007 was a year of continued progress and notable achievements at Keesler Air Force Base. Our challenge of training the high-tech warriors needed by our nation to fight the Global War on Terror continued unabated.

The rebuilding of the Keesler's infrastructure remained in full swing. And Keesler's commitment as a good neighbor with the people of the Mississippi Gulf Coast strengthened and grew throughout 2007.

While we have, some 2½ years after Katrina, achieved significant milestones, there is still much to be done. During 2008, you'll see your Keesler airmen focusing on the three main components of our mission: Rebuilding the Base, Renewing the Community, and Reloading the Air Force.

Rebuild

The people of the United States signaled their commitment to the Gulf Coast community and the Air Force by investing \$950 million toward reconstruction of Keesler Air Force Base.

We remain a steadfast part of this community.

If you are on base, you can see that Keesler is on the move. We have begun the largest military family housing project in the history of the Air Force, which will soon provide us with over a thousand new homes for our Airmen and their families.

You will see the first houses completed this spring with other phases quickly following through 2010.

The ground has been broken for a new Base Exchange and Commissary complex. A new gas station with a restaurant is to open in the next few weeks.

Repairs have been made to our main administrative building, the Sablich Center, and we are counting down the days until its offices there will be back in business.

Once we have finished what we have started, Keesler Air Force Base will not only be one of the jewels in the crown of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, but the showcase base of the Air Force.



Work progresses on a Keesler housing subdivision.

Renew

Keesler AFB and its airmen are part of the Gulf Coast community and remain committed to serving our Mississippi home.

While many of us come from other parts of the nation, we quickly come to appreciate the great Southern hospitality that makes this our new home.

Our airmen feel their service extends beyond their duties on the base and freely volunteer their time and labor to help out their fellow citizens.

After Katrina, groups of volunteers were sent out daily to clear debris in the surrounding Biloxi neighborhoods. This continues today, and whether it's such things as helping build a house with Habitat for Humanity, manning a booth at the Biloxi Seafood Festival, or serving as a proctor for GED or college testing,

I want the people of the Mississippi Gulf Coast to know that the men and women of Keesler are here to help as we continually renew our partnership with the community.

Reload

Our Air Force has been at war for 17 straight years, and Keesler AFB remains an instrumental part of the nation's war-fighting capability.

Ever since the beginning of Operation Desert Shield in 1990, your airmen have constantly been engaged in combat operations around the world.

Keesler's training mission reloads the Air Force with the high-tech warriors it needs to ensure our national

security. It is our ongoing task to provide the absolute best technical training in a variety of fields: air traffic control, avionics, communications, meteorology, personnel, and finance, to name just a few.

Our instructors are savvy in the latest technological advances, the young men and women who attend their classes here are determined students, and those who support them do their utmost to make sure they have the proper infrastructure to accomplish what is needed.

It is no understatement to say that the thousands of students who graduate from Keesler each year leave our classrooms well-versed and battle-ready, able to be inserted into a combat situation and ready to perform their jobs flawlessly. But our training mission is not the only part of Keesler AFB reloading the Air Force.

Our staff and permanent party personnel are frequently tasked to deploy forward to serve in the combat zone. In fact, as of this writing, we have over 200 Keesler AFB Airmen deployed in support of operations around the world. Your Keesler Airmen reload the Air Force with its finest warriors.

Keesler AFB has a global reputation as the world's premier technical training location, not just because of the quality men and women stationed here, but also because of the welcoming atmosphere provided by a supportive local community that allows us to thrive.

Your Keesler AFB airmen are committed to Rebuild the Base, Renew our Community, and Reload the Air Force.

With your help, 2008 promises to be a very good year.



Keesler Air Force Base Fiscal Year 2007 Economic Impact Analysis

MANPOWER	PAYROLL
3,121 In On-Base Housing	\$ 39,262,604
3,788 In Off-Base Housing	\$ 128,894,115
6,909 Keesler Employees Total Payroll	\$ 168,156,719
Purchasing - Local Vendors/Contractors (Construction, Services, Healthcare, etc.)	\$ 149,734,456
Secondary Jobs Created (Keesler Dollars Spent In Local Economy)	\$ 120,625,791
TOTAL KEESLER DOLLARS	\$ 596,734,402
ECONOMIC IMPACT FY 2007: (Using Standard Economic Multiplier*)	\$ 596,734,402
Military Retiree Payroll (9,145 members within 50 mile radius)	\$ 150,356,550
Appraised Value of Volunteer Hours: (89,629 Total Volunteer Hours Recorded)	\$ 1,682,336**
Keesler's Total Economic Impact FY 2006:	\$ 1,131,527,894 (\$1.1 Billion)



*Standard Economic Multiplier: An accepted principal where initial dollars expended are re-spent again and again, creating jobs and income for businesses and other workers. A multiplier is used to determine the greater economic impact of Keesler's expenditures. **Standard average rate for non-agricultural wages, Source: U.S. Dept of Labor.

Mayor outlines day-to-day activities in key departments

Here is Mayor A.J. Holloway's overview of the day-to-day progress made by city departments:

As we were making progress on our long-term recovery, our city departments and divisions were continuing to provide the vital day-to-day services essential to our excellent quality of life.

We currently have a total of 722 city employees and we're staffed at 85 percent.

We've now purchased more than five and a half million dollars in vehicles and heavy equipment for city departments, most to replace vehicles and equipment destroyed in the storm.

Police and Fire departments

You already see many of 41 new police cruisers and dozens of public works vehicles out working the streets now.

We'll see the arrival of four new fire trucks in a matter of weeks.

In 2005, the year of the storm, we had more than 123,000 emergency calls to our police and fire department, more than at any other time in our history.

I'm pleased to report that in 2007 we saw the numbers back to pre-Katrina levels, at 76,000 calls for service.

On average, our emergency dispatchers answer 1,100 calls a day, and I'm proud of the professional manner in which they handle those life-and-death situations.

Our Police Department today is staffed at 94 percent, as far as the number of sworn officers.

I'm proud of the job that Chief Bruce Dunagan continues to do in leading this department.

Bruce took action to modify work shifts to help retain officers, and he continues recruitment efforts to ensure that our police department is well-staffed, with personnel who exemplify our excellent level of professionalism and integrity.

In 2007, our firefighters responded to more emergency medical calls than ever, and in the past year.

They underwent more training than at any other time in the history of the Biloxi Fire Department. 35,000 hours of training in all.

We're asking them to do more, and they're meeting the challenge.

At the same time, we're working to provide better facilities. In fact, this year, we'll be moving back into stations on Back Bay and East End.

In fact, we'll be making significant repairs to just about all of our fire stations, and we're building a new 1.5 million dollar station at Cedar Lake and Popp's Ferry, the fastest growing area of our city.

Public Works Department

Our Public Works Department oversaw the completion of nearly two dozen major construction and repair projects in 2007, including the complete re-lighting of Highway 90, completion of Caillavet Street, drainage projects at Rue Petit Bois, C.T. Switzer Drive, and the widening and paving of Oaklawn Drive.

Every major project in this city, whether it's with public or private funding, goes through our Public Works Department.

Parks and Recreation

Many of you have already attended a carnival ball or two at the restored Biloxi Community Center.

You've seen the repairs at the sports complex and other playgrounds and parks throughout the city.

In addition to those accomplishments, our Parks and Recreation Department is back up to more than 3,500 participants in our youth sports leagues and summer camp last year. Our goal is to get back up to 5,000.

In a few months, we'll re-open the Biloxi Natatorium, where a new roof is being installed now, along with a refurbished swimming pool and refurbished restrooms.

Now that the tennis courts are completed at the Biloxi Sports Complex, we'll begin paving the parking lots and dressing up the entrance to this 10 million dollar facility.

Design work also continues on our public piers and boat ramps.

FEMA has obligated \$4.5 million for the removal of the fishing bridges at Back Bay and Point Cadet, where we plan on building back better facilities.

Community Development

In our Community Development Department, we've issued more than a billion dollars in permits since the storm.

Half of those were for non-casino and non-condo projects.

In the past year alone, we issued an average of 20 permits every working day.

We created the Development Review Committee a few years ago to provide a one-stop shop to streamline the process and reduce the response time.

These changes have helped increase the DRC project approval rate by 23 percent over the past two years.

Salvation Army maintains goal for Kroc Center

Salvation Army leaders, who have been helping drive day-to-day relief efforts from their Yankee Stadium site in east Biloxi, say plans for the Kroc Center of Hope remain alive.

In fact, the Army hopes to break ground June 1 and have an operational Kroc center by Summer 2010.

The Kroc Center will feature an indoor lap pool, an outdoor recreational pool, a performing arts center, a gymnasium, and a library. It will also provide an area for several community programs.

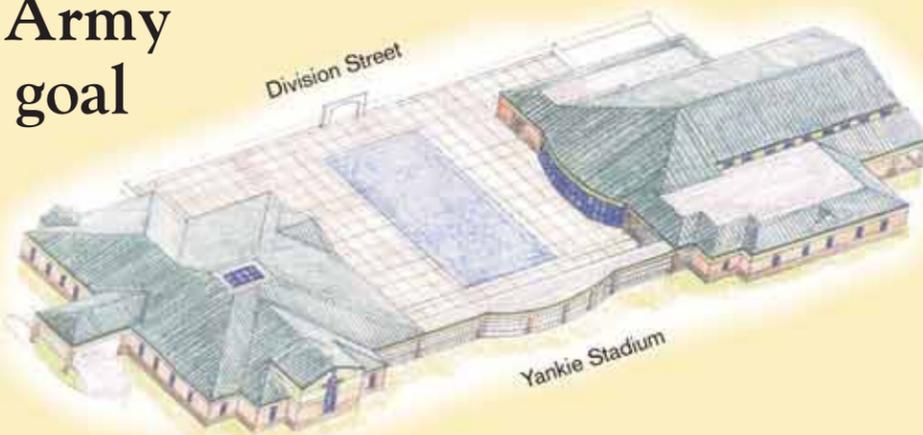
Before the storm, the Salvation Army was within months of breaking ground on the project.

The Biloxi proposal began in 2004 with a land swap between the Salvation Army and the City of Biloxi. The

city exchanged the Yankee Stadium for the former Dukate Elementary School property on Howard Avenue.

The establishment of Kroc Centers began in 2003 when Joan Kroc, the widow of McDonald's restaurant founder Ray Kroc, donated \$1.5 billion to the Salvation Army for the purpose of creating Ray and Joan Kroc Community Centers throughout the country.

The Salvation Army divided the gift into equal amounts to each of the four territories, Central, Eastern, Southern and Western. In the Southern Salvation Army territory there are 10 cities to be selected as Kroc Center sites, and Biloxi is the only city in Mississippi.

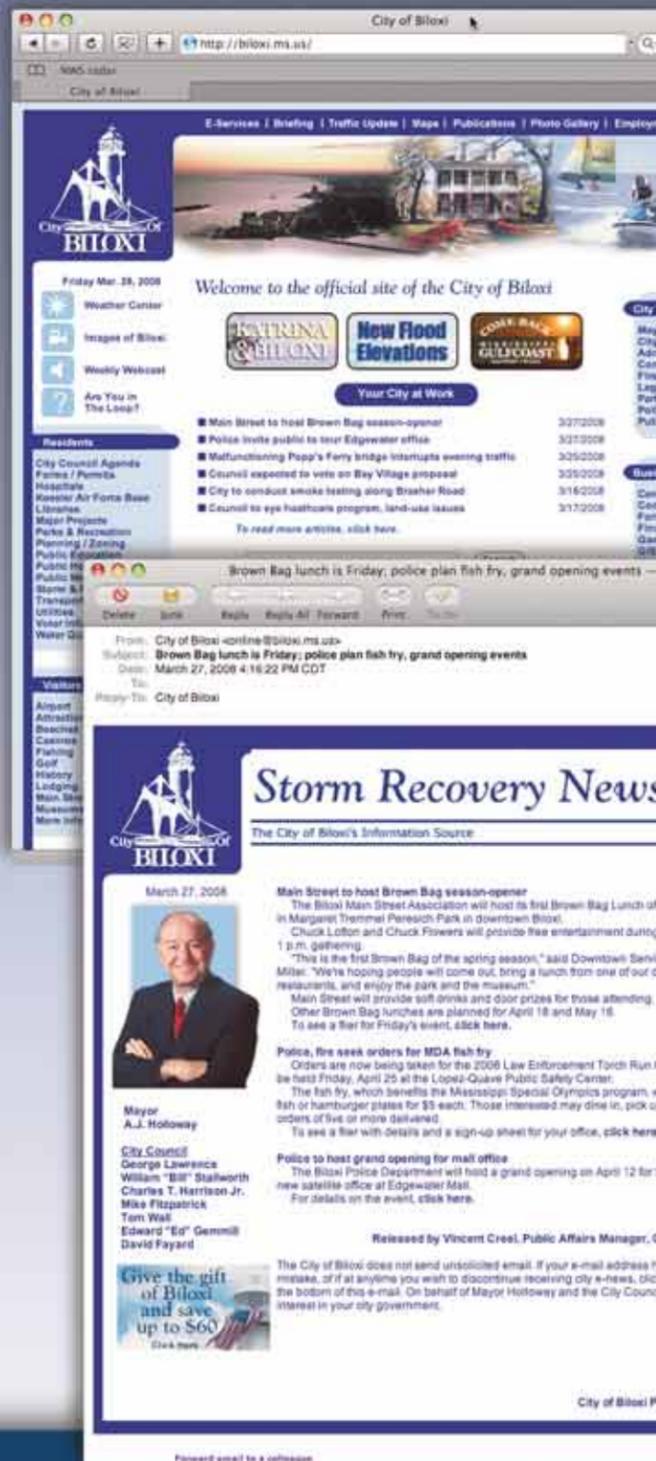


We deliver.

Anybody can have a site on the World Wide Web, but there's only one that delivers news about the City of Biloxi directly to you. It's biloxi.ms.us.

Don't wait until a storm threatens to get vital information about your community. Get it now. Delivered directly to you and for free. In the 31 months since Katrina, the city has e-mailed more than two million storm-recovery updates to Biloxians and an audience around the globe. Information on a host of local issues and projects, as well as details about special meetings and events of community interest. These e-mails and the city website are your No. 1 source of information on all things Biloxi.

Visit the city's web site at biloxi.ms.us and click on "Are you in the loop?" on the left side of the screen. It takes only a few seconds to sign up, and you'll be in the loop - and in the know.



biloxi.ms.us

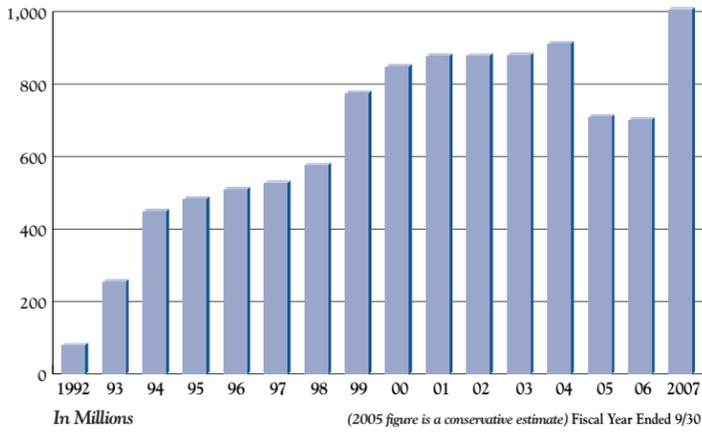
By the numbers

Yearly trends

(calendar years, unless otherwise noted)

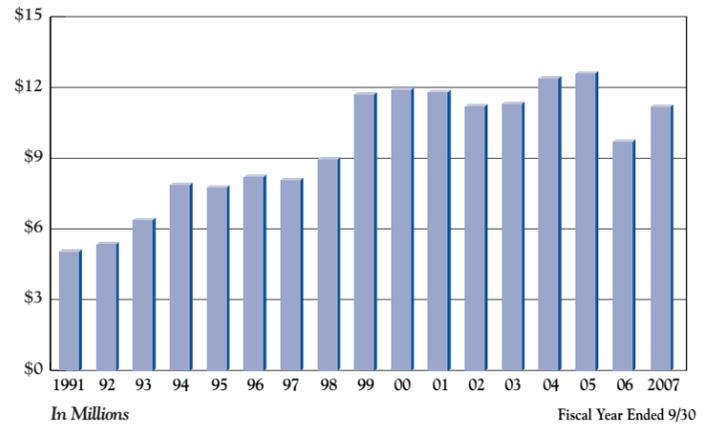
Gross gaming revenue

Annual figures show growth of Biloxi market



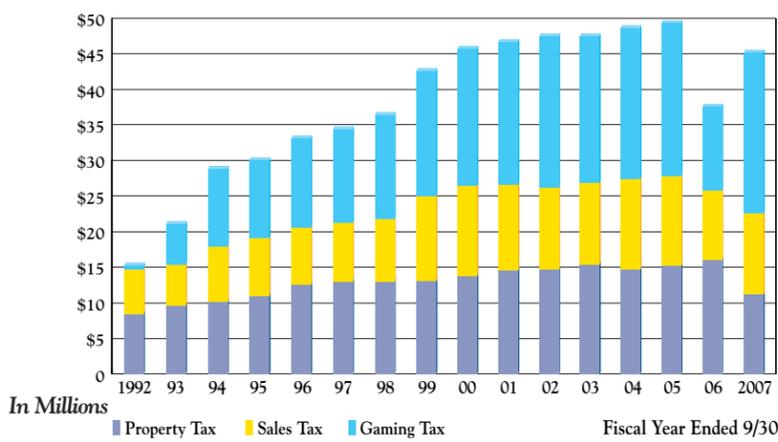
Sales tax collections

Revenue funded a quarter of city operations



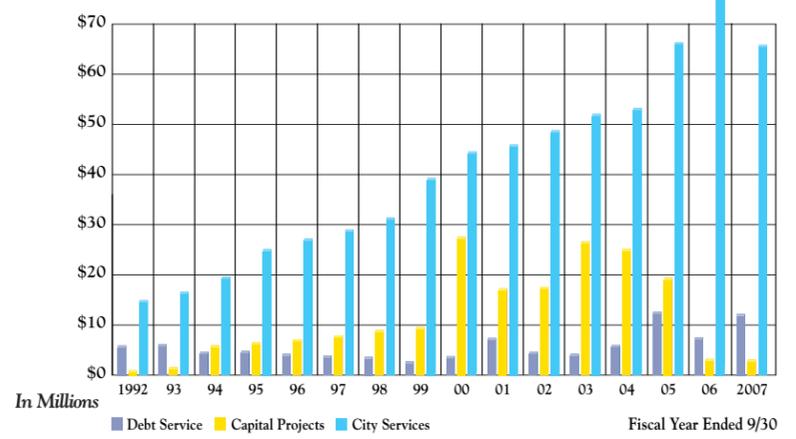
Revenues

Property, gaming and sales taxes fund city operations



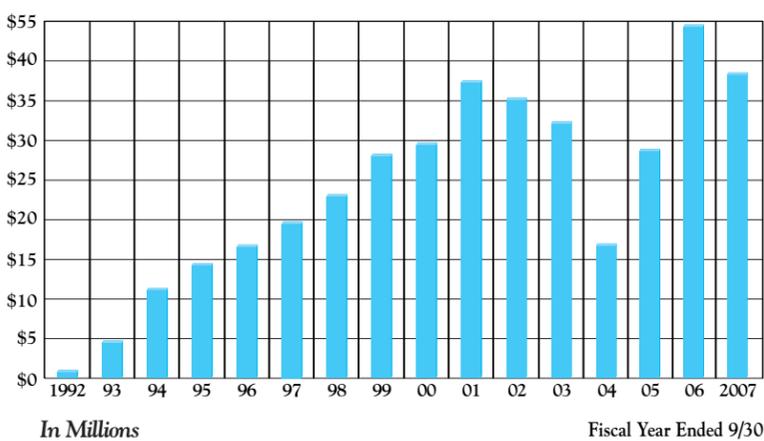
Expenditures

Capital projects, day-to-day services see growth



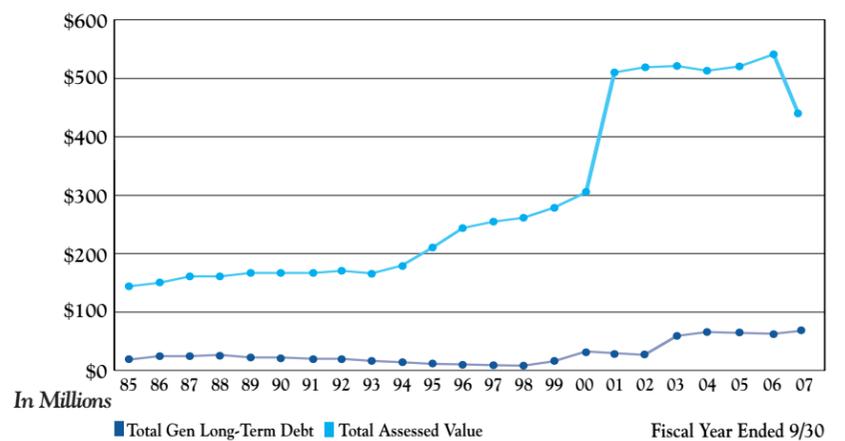
Financial health

General fund balance showing impact of major projects



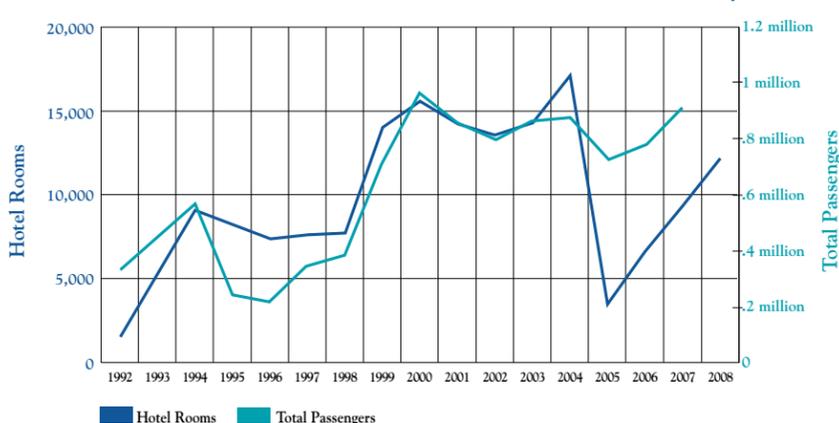
Debt and value

Assessed value of property increasing as debt kept low



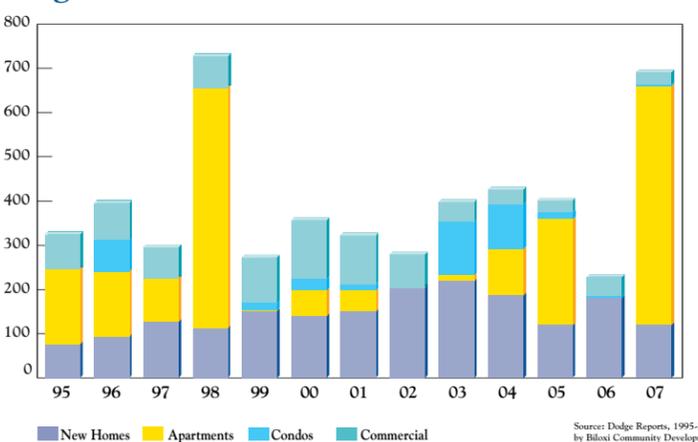
Hotel and airport traffic

Two intertwined elements of the Biloxi economy



Building permits issued

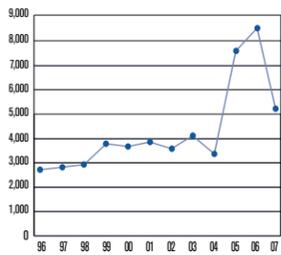
Tracking residential and commercial construction



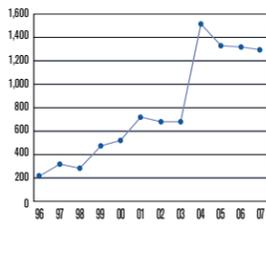
Community Development

Overseeing orderly growth and cleaning up our city

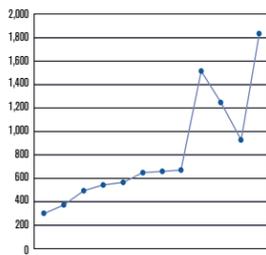
PERMITS ISSUED



CODE ENFORCEMENT NOTICES



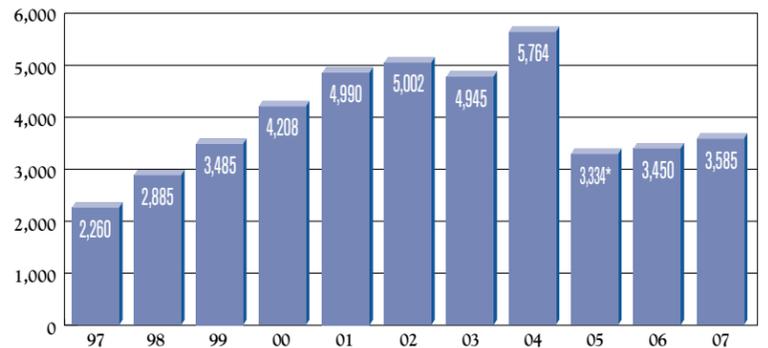
CODE ENFORCEMENT VIOLATIONS CLEARED



Youth leagues

More of our children are having a ball

Participation in Soccer, Baseball, Basketball, Football Youth Leagues and Summer Playground Program

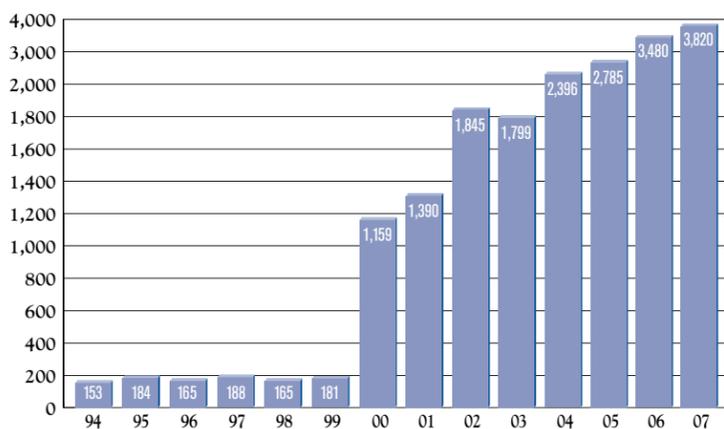


*Football season, with 650 registrants, canceled because of hurricane.

Biloxi Fire Department

We make house calls – by the thousands

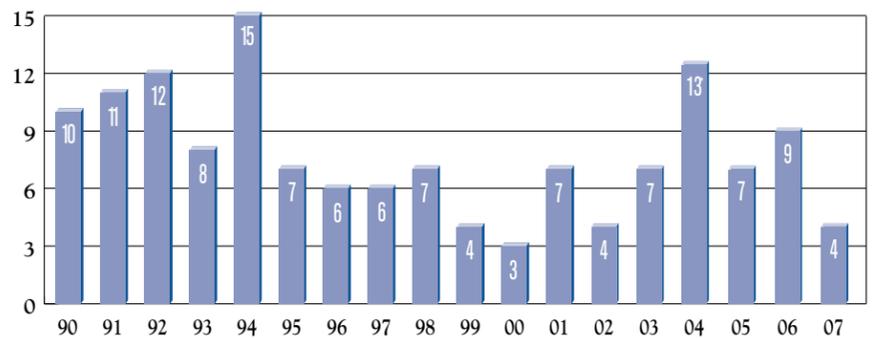
EMERGENCY MEDICAL CALLS BY YEAR



Biloxi Police Department

Making the streets safe for motorists

TRAFFIC FATALITIES BY YEAR

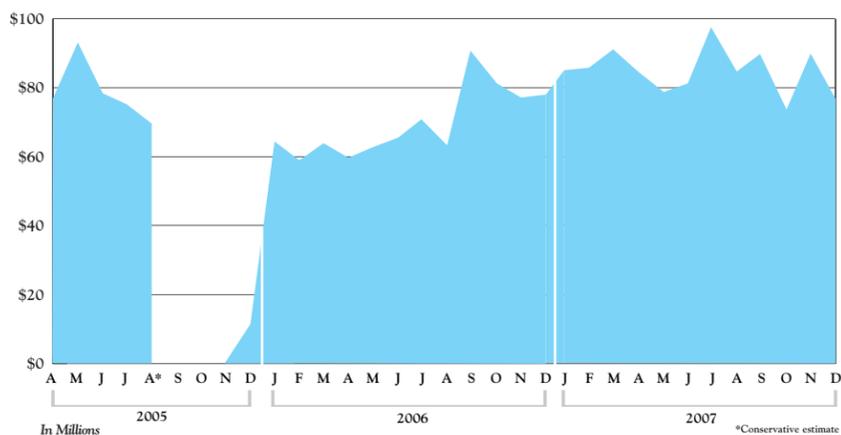


*Two traffic accidents accounted for 5 of the 2004 fatalities.

Monthly trends

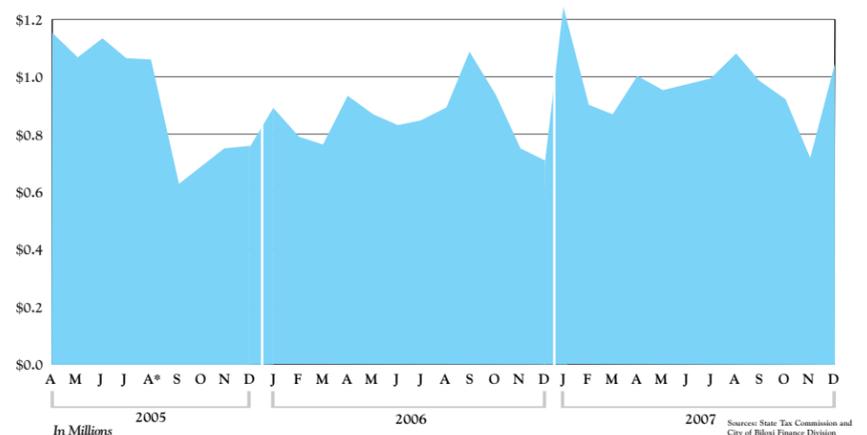
Gross gaming revenue

Monthly figures show rebound



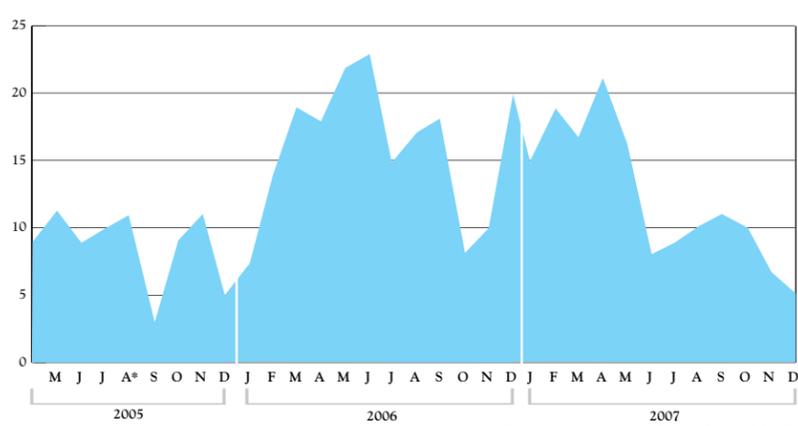
Sales tax collections

Monthly figures remain encouraging



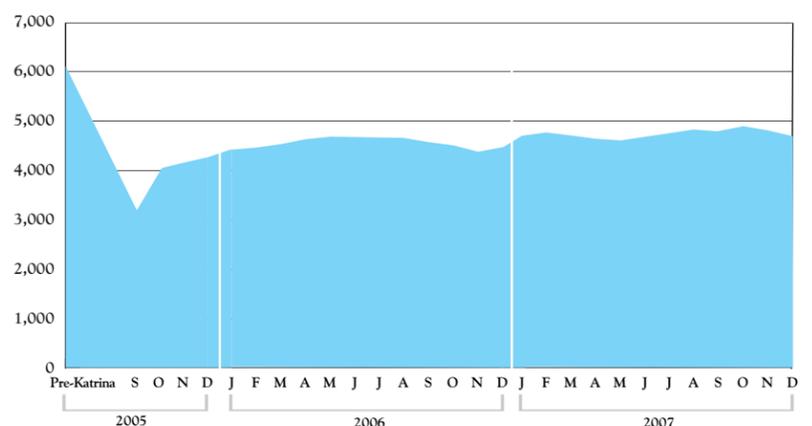
New home construction

Market showing growth trend



Public school enrollment

Overall number of students slowly bouncing back to pre-Katrina level



Are you in the loop?

Sign up at <http://biloxi.ms.us>
for the most current
news about your city.

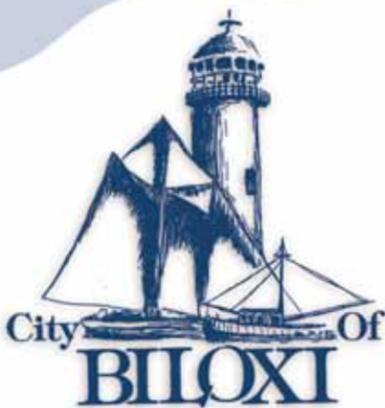


P.O. Box 429
Biloxi, MS 39533

THE State of the City 2008

PRST STD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 57
BILOXI, MS 39530

Postal Customer
ECRWSS



THE State of the City 2008

Frequently Called Numbers

Area code is 228 unless otherwise noted.

- **Animal control** 392-0641
To report stray or dead animals
- **Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division**
..... 601-359-4230
Assistance on legal questions or complaints
- **Auto tag info** 435-8242
County Courthouse at Lameuse/MLK Boulevard
- **Birth certificates** 601-576-7960
State Department of Vital Statistics in Jackson
- **Building permits** 435-6270
For permits for construction and improvements
- **Business licenses** 435-6247
To obtain a license to do business in the city
- **City Council** 435-6257
To reach council members or clerks of council
- **City Court** 435-6125
Information on traffic tickets and court docket
- **Drivers licenses** 432-7803
D'Iberville High School Football Stadium parking lot
- **Emergency police and fire** 911
Non-emergency: 435-6107 (police) or 435-6200 (fire)
- **FEMA** 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
Federal Emergency Management Agency
- **Garbage collection** 392-5108
Allied Waste is city's residential garbage contractor
- **Harrison County Coroner's Office**
..... 1-800-958-9519
For information on missing persons
- **Housing Authority** 374-7771
To get information on public housing
- **Human Resources** 435-6259
For info on city employment; third floor, City Hall
- **Mayor's office** 435-6254
Citizen services, public records requests
- **Museums information** 435-6244
Info on city museums or to rent historic properties
- **Parks & Recreation** 435-6281
Info on programs, or to rent most city facilities
- **Planning Commission** 435-6266
To apply for a change in your zoning or land use
- **Public schools** 374-1810
Administrative office for all Biloxi public schools
- **Salvation Army**
..... 1-800-SALARMY (725-2769)
- **Storm Info Line** 435-6300
Recorded information regarding weather bulletins
- **Streets and drainage** 435-6271
To report pot holes, damaged street signs
- **Voter registration** 435-6279
To register to vote or change in address

Utilities

- Cable TV
- Cable One 374-5900
- Electricity
- Mississippi Power 800-532-1502
- Coast Electric Power Assoc 388-3109
- Gas
- CenterPoint Energy Entex 896-7500
- Water/sewer
- City of Biloxi 374-7953 or 435-6236

More information is available online at
biloxi.ms.us, (to receive e-news, click on
"Are you in the loop?")