

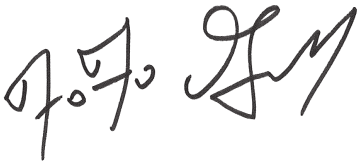
The State of the City 2017



City departments and divisions along with our state, federal and local partners work day in and day out to help make Biloxi the safe, beautiful and friendly place we all love.

This brochure gives you an idea of the myriad issues and successes we've seen, and many issues we continue to address.

Thank you for your interest in our city. We are Biloxi, proud of it.



Andrew "FoFo" Gilich
Mayor of Biloxi
Feb. 1, 2017



Biloxi City Council

George Lawrence • Felix O. Gines • Dixie Newman • Robert L. Deming III
Paul A. Tisdale • Kenny Glavan • David Fayard

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Administration Department

- Coordinated municipal workforce of 652 individuals
- Received Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting
- Taken a leadership role in establishing the Gulf Coast Broadband Initiative
- Secured grant of \$250,000 towards building a new train platform to serve Amtrak service
- Working to see resumption of Ship Island excursions from Biloxi
- Working to secure Biloxi locations for two high-tech industries in cyber security, biometric identification and nano-composite high performance materials
- Continue to work on plans for pedestrian bridges over U.S. 90
- Working to coordinate homeless servicing center, with centralized services
- Will establish STEM summer camps

Community Development

- Issued permits in 2016 for \$80 million in construction, including \$49 million in commercial construction and \$30 in residential construction
- Oversaw openings of Margaritaville Resort, Hyatt Place Hotel, second Walmart Neighborhood Market, Big Play Bowling Lanes, Petco, Patio 44, Wentzell's Seafood Restaurant Taco Sombrero and Woody's Roadhouse Grill restaurants, and expansion of Plastic Surgery Center
- Issued 93 building permits for single family homes
- Leisure and Recreation Overlay ("go cup") Districts approved
- Health Care Industry Zone Overlay District approved
- Waterfront Design Standards approved
- Biloxi Tree Committee established

Engineering Department

- Assumed program management of the city's \$355 million infrastructure program
- Oversaw push for progress in the North Contract
- Managed design for projects including the Division Street Keesler Gate, drainage improvements on East Woolmarket Road, Sand Beach Boardwalk in west and east Biloxi
- Overseeing planning for two new fire stations, Saenger repairs and the surveying for the Popp's Ferry Road extension to U.S. 90
- Completed sidewalks along CT Switzer Sr. Drive, sewer installation on Woolmarket Road between Shriners Boulevard and Lorraine Road and in the Larkin subdivision
- Completed \$34 million in Hurricane Katrina Infrastructure work
- Working on completing Holly Bluff and Cedar Lake area sewer project
- Beginning construction on Popp's Ferry Causeway and Popp's Ferry Bridge Submarine Power Cable
- Overseeing plans to repair sidewalks on Reynoir and Jackson Streets
- Continuing to oversee plans to dredge public harbors, marinas and various bays

Fire Department

- Answered 6,928 calls for service in 2016, which included a 10 percent increase in emergency medical calls
- 31 firefighters completed certifications for EMTs bringing department total to 43
- Replaced outdated Fire Station No. 7 on Popp's Ferry with a new manufactured home
- Hosted the 88th Annual Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs Conference
- Obtained more than \$600,000 in grants, aiding in the hiring of 12 firefighters
- Implemented new position of Occupational Safety and Health Battalion Chief
- Installed 574 new smoke detectors in homes
- Continuing to plan for two new fire stations to improve fire protection and response time in north Biloxi and Woolmarket

Legal Department

- Recovered over \$2 million from the State in rent funds being withheld for Point Cadet lease
- Negotiated \$1.1 million in the sale of city surplus property
- Helped obtain \$12 million in grants for all departments
- Drafted new ordinances for the “Go-Cups Districts” and the Waterfront Design Standards

Parks & Recreation Department

- Replaced playground at Hiller Park
- Installed splash pad at Margaret Sherry Library, joint effort with Harrison County
- Installed LED lighting at all city facilities
- Painted pickleball courts at Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center
- Installed windscreens at pickleball courts at Popp’s Ferry Recreational Complex
- Hosted 2016 Mississippi Recreation and Parks Association Conference
- Working on installation of a new pool heater at the Biloxi Natatorium, splash pad Hiller Park, joint effort with Harrison County, and new basketball goals at John Henry Beck Park
- Working on plans to refurbish tennis and basketball courts at John Henry Beck, Circle and Hiller parks
- Seeking to install new fitness equipment at Snyder center, new playground at St. Mary’s Park and, in a joint effort with Harrison County, to relocate East Biloxi Seniors Center from Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art to the site of the Old Biloxi Health Department, on Back Bay

Police Department

- Successfully worked to see a decrease in burglaries, robberies and sexual and aggravated assaults in 2016
- Answered 120,000 calls for service with an average response time under three minutes
- Rescued 655 animals and transported to the Human Society of South Mississippi
- Solved all three homicides committed in Biloxi in 2016
- Safely disarmed five explosive devices
- Received upgraded body cameras
- Police Explorer Program provided over 100 volunteer service hours
- Hosted 90 Explorers from across the southeast at the annual Summer Explorer Conference
- Hosted the annual Community Festival Against Crime
- Aided in the establishment and fostering of seven Neighborhood Watch Programs
- Prepared over 5,000 meals for the Mississippi Special Olympics
- Delivered over 1,400 meals for the Feed the Needy program during the holidays

Port Division

- Rebuilt boardwalk surrounding Point Cadet Marina
- Will oversee repairs to pilings at Sherman Canaan Back Bay Fishing Dock
- Will oversee installation of Wi-Fi at Point Cadet Marina and Biloxi Small Craft Harbor
- Will work with Administration for plans for waterfront boardwalks and resuming of Ship Island excursions
- Helped coordinate a number of special events at Point Cadet Marina

Public Works Department

- Maintained, cleaned, and provide janitorial supplies for all city facilities
- Removed almost 1,800 yards of sand and debris from U.S. 90
- Maintained more than 3,900 miles of rights-of-way
- Delivered and erected barricades for multiple city and community functions
- Replaced 67 traffic signals, repaired 107 traffic signs and replaced 114 street lights
- Rebuilt the fountain, park and restrooms at the old Biloxi Cemetery
- Repaired the Hiller Park Pavilion and the White Avenue Fountain
- Poured nearly 20,000 square feet of concrete

- Replaced 219 water meters, 426 smart points, and 157 meter leaks
- Maintained 24 water wells and 124 lift stations, and over 125 departmental vehicles

Biloxi Housing Authority

- Helen Werby selected as executive director after retirement of Bobby Hensley
- Serves 1,733 Biloxi families
- Own and maintain 10 developments in Biloxi from Debuys Road to Maple Street as well as 708 Section 8 and Veterans vouchers throughout the city
- Three of the developments are specifically designed for seniors

Biloxi Public Schools

- Continued construction on the new Biloxi Junior High next to the high school which will include 51 classrooms, a fine arts wing, computer lab, and STEM and science labs. New junior high set to open for seventh and eighth grade students in August 2017.
- With opening of Biloxi Junior High School in August 2017, fifth and sixth grade students will attend new Biloxi Upper Elementary on Father Ryan Avenue in August
- In 2016, completed new building adjacent to Biloxi Natatorium for swimming classroom instruction, swim team concessions and locker rooms
- Continued work on a multipurpose room at the Biloxi High campus to house a weight room, training room, a dance room and cheer room
- Improved scores on ACT tests
- Enrollment in dual credit courses increased by 60 percent

Coast Transit Authority

- Increased number of bus stops in Biloxi
- Added 10 solar power, eco-friendly bus shelters in Biloxi
- Casino Hopper running every 25 minutes, with plans to restore Casino Hopper Sunday service in Spring

Keesler Air Force – Mission Accomplishment

- Graduated more than 28,000 students from courses in 113 diverse career fields; treated thousands of patients through world-class medical care at Keesler Medical Center with 151,000 outpatient appointments and 3,000 inpatient admissions
- Stood up the sole Air Force Military Training Leader (MTL) Schoolhouse
- Deployed 241 Airmen to locations around the world, fulfilling the mission at home and abroad
- 403rd Wing stood up a new aircraft maintenance squadron as well as the 36th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, providing critical care air transport and tactical critical care evacuation capabilities at our installation and abroad

75th Anniversary Celebration

- Keesler brought Airmen and the Gulf Coast community together throughout the year with key events to celebrate Keesler's 75 years on the Coast
- A formal Retreat Ceremony in front of Wing Headquarters honoring Lt Samuel Reeves Keesler, Jr., a community celebration coupled with the unveiling of a historical display at the Biloxi Visitor's Center, and a formal gala held at the Back Bay Breeze Events Center capped off an eventful year

Joint Land-Use Study

- A joint land use study between Keesler and the City of Biloxi kicked off in May, with the shared goals to develop long range infrastructure and land use plans that emphasize community and base sustainability and compatibility for the future