

# BNews Monthly

## SEPTEMBER 2018

*A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi*



## Will it ever end? Yes and no

Between massive infrastructure projects, new parks, boardwalks and fire stations, more than a half-billion dollars in publicly-funded projects are either underway or in the works in Biloxi. This month we focus on the major road projects.



September 2018 • The Roads Issue

**Page 2: MDOT on U.S. 90,** a second pedestrian bridge, and updates on Howard Avenue, the Keesler gate and the proposed Pine Street extension

**Page 4: The North Contract:** A bird's eye view. Where we are and how we got there.

**Page 6: South of the railway:** Underway for only a few months, the Hemphill work is impacting Howard Avenue and other neighborhoods.

**Page 8: Popp's Ferry Road on land and water.** Time-consuming work is taking on two major projects: the Popp's Ferry extension to U.S. 90 and a future new bridge.

**Page 10: The Big Picture.** Thanks to Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District, local leaders now have a rating of thoroughfares throughout Biloxi.

**Page 15: Biloxi's oldest thoroughfare.** Take a step back in time.

## Park, boardwalk now open to public; another fire station on way north of Bay

Two high-profile waterfront projects – the Popp's Ferry Causeway Park and the West Biloxi Boardwalk – are officially opening to the public in time for the Labor Day weekend, and the city is also kicking off construction of another fire station north of the Bay.

The Popp's Ferry Causeway Park project, whose planning goes back to the mid-1980s, will be open to the public Labor Day weekend.

Hours for the bait shop and kayak rentals are still being finalized, but operators plan to be open daily during daylight hours initially.

Meantime, the West Biloxi Boardwalk, a project of the City of Biloxi and Harrison County, is also now open to the public.

The 10-foot boardwalk runs along the north edge of the beach, from the Coast Transit Comfort Station near Rodenberg to Veterans Avenue.

The boardwalk, elevated as much as three feet in some places, has benches along its route and is lighted for nighttime beachcombers.

"This new boardwalk gives people an idea of what we're trying to do along the waterfront," says Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich. "We're creating a synergy and giving people a new waterfront experience."

The new fire station, which will be on Old Highway 67 east of Cedar Lake Road, will actually be completed before the battalion-size station, Station 7.

The city recently broke ground for the construction of the new station near Cedar-Popp's.

Fire station No. 10, which has a price tag of more than \$2 million, will be similar in appearance to Station 9 in Eagle Point and Station 2 at East End.

Construction is scheduled to begin this month and set to be complete in nine months.



See videos  
and photos at  
[biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us)

## MDOT plans paving, repairs for U.S. 90 in Biloxi

Sharp-eyed motorists on U.S. 90 in Biloxi may have noticed markings on the asphalt near storm drains, the first signal that MDOT is nearly ready to begin a major paving and repair project on the nine miles of highway between DeBuys Road and the Biloxi Bay Bridge.

Contractors are currently inspecting and videoing existing drain pipes and will begin curb and sidewalk repairs, with paving to follow.

The \$6.5 million project, which was awarded to Warren Paving and will include drainage work and new asphalt, is expected to be completed in May 2019.

And, yes, the Mississippi Department of Transportation is aware that more than 40,000 vehicles travel some sections of U.S. 90 on an average day and thousands of additional vehicles will be in town the first

week in October for Cruisin' the Coast.

MDOT says crews hope to limit lane closures to nighttime, Sunday through Thursday, between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m.

District Engineer Kelly Castleberry told The Biloxi-D'Iberville Press that although pavement may be uneven in some areas when Cruisin' traffic arrives, "we will have the contractor get off the highway, and then be right back on the highway once Cruisin' the Coast is finished."

MDOT Public Information Officer Jas N Smith said paving will likely begin at the western end of the project, at DeBuys Road, and move eastward, but "there is the possibility that two paving crews will be mobilized from both ends of the project."



A nighttime rendering of the harbor pedestrian bridge, courtesy of Dale Partners

## New walkway in the works north of harbor

The new pedestrian bridge at U.S. 90 and Caillavet Street - linking the Beau Rivage employee parking garage and the Beau Rivage itself - will begin taking shape over the highway in a few months, and about that time, the City of Biloxi will begin work on a second U.S. 90 pedestrian overpass, west of Main Street. The project will connect the two new hotels under construction north of the busy roadway with the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor and the nearby Hard Rock Hotel and Casino.

In August, the city was expected to award a \$2.5 million contract for the new walkway, which will be built near the new Watermark and Hilton Garden Inn hotels

on the north side and just west of Guice Park on the south side of the highway. The new bridge is expected to be complete as soon as July 2019. The walkway at Caillavet, by the way, is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Each of the walkways was designed by Leigh Jaunsen of the firm Dale Parters, and each has stairs and elevators at both ends.

The Caillavet Street walkway, part of the MGM Park contract, is being funded by the state, and the harbor walkway is being overseen by the city and funded through money collected through a countywide port bond.

## Howard Avenue work, despite surprises, on schedule

Those working on the nearly \$2 million re-construction of downtown Howard Avenue report work is on schedule for an October completion, but the project has not been without its surprises.

Most of the work over the past four months has been below-ground construction, such as storm drains and water mains, says Andy Phelan of Pickering Firm engineering, but with that work complete, "it's beginning to look like a real roadway project, with the stone road base being installed, along with the curb and gutter."

The downtown work, not unlike other road projects

underway in Biloxi, has had its share of surprises. Workers were aware of an existing 12-inch water main to be removed, but they also unearthed an additional 12-inch main abandoned in place, along with an abandoned six-inch main next to it.

And then there were the underground remnants of the old Vieux March canopies.

Said Phelan: "All told there was about three times as much buried pipe as was planned for and a lot more concrete that had to come out of the ground than anticipated."

After completion of the sidewalks, Phelan continued, "the road will be ready for its surface."



See video updates at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us)

- **Howard Avenue:** Hemphill Construction reports Howard Avenue at Querens and Benachi will remain closed **at least another month**. Workers are installing sewer lines 25 feet below ground, the deepest part of the entire Hemphill work. Expect Benachi closures soon. Notifications are pending.
- **Keesler gate:** Nacaise Brothers has cleared properties on Forrest Avenue that the city acquired for the new **Division Street** Keesler entrance. Inside-the-gate construction has begun and a security fence has been erected to allow heavy construction equipment into Keesler. Engineers are finalizing design and **offers are in the works** for property to help transform Division into a boulevard between I-110 and Forrest.
- **Pine Street:** The expansion of **Pine Street** from Back Bay Boulevard to U.S. 90 remains a priority of Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich, but the project remains tied to financing for the proposed **Biloxi Pointe** casino resort. The mayor also has suggested that the city might use the announced Margaritaville expansion as a catalyst to reignite the Pine Street project. Talks continue with the Mississippi Development Authority, which has pledged \$5 million toward the \$19 million road project.
- **Traffic notices:** See updated road closures and detour information **each weekday** morning online. Visit [www.biloxi.ms.us/traffic](http://www.biloxi.ms.us/traffic).

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# Here's the latest on the work north of the CSX railway

Back in August 2014, when Oscar Renda Contracting began the \$116.5 million project to rebuild infrastructure on 55 miles of streets in east Biloxi, the city noted it was the largest public works contract in the history of the city.

But nobody envisioned – and the contract could not prevent – how the project would mushroom and disrupt east Biloxi streets and neighborhoods, especially after all 55 miles of roads were reduced to dirt as contractors installed a new water system. And nobody envisioned that the roads would remain dirt for dozens of months in some cases.

Now, 68 charge orders and an additional 511 days later, as the now-\$128.3 million project moves toward its contracted Dec. 21,

2018 deadline, residents see a diminishing amount of dirt roads, more detours, and more workers than ever on the project. Months-long delays caused by design disputes and relocations of gas and phone lines are nearly a thing of the past.

And finances are in order.

In fact, when Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich took office a year into the Oscar Renda contract, and as a deadline also loomed to open MGM Park, he had two major concerns: a snag in funding for the project and complaints about dirt roads throughout east Biloxi.

Gilich had the city bring in a contractor to temporarily pave a dozen major thoroughfares,

but finances were a more difficult issue.

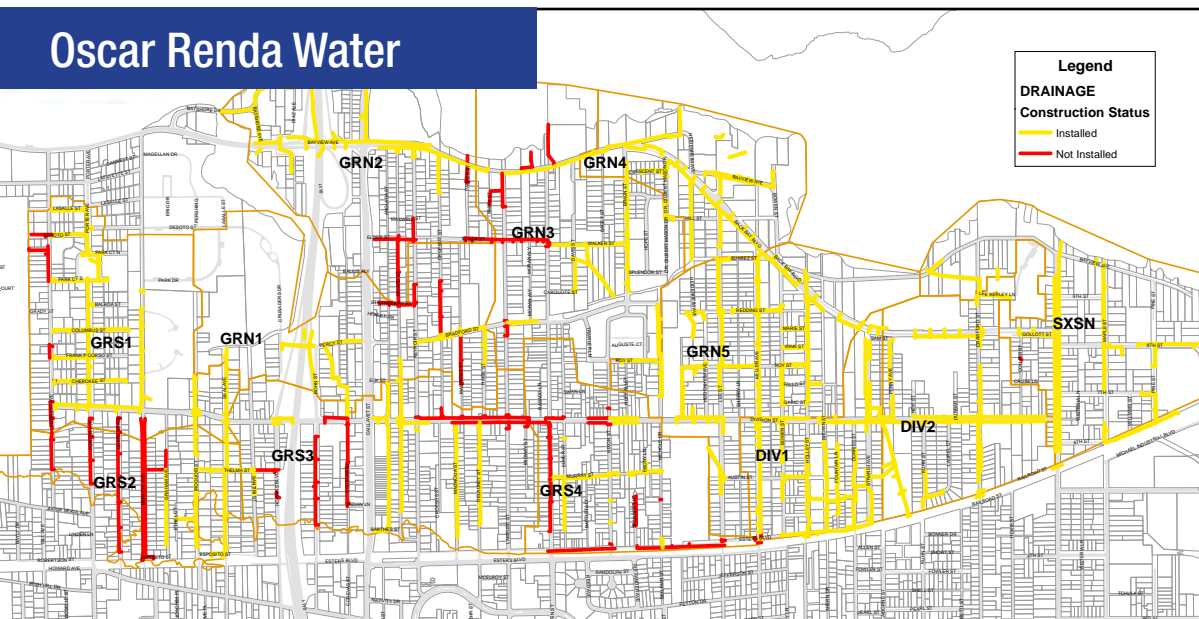
The city, which was owed some \$17 million in reimbursements from FEMA, was unable to continue to draw from its revenues to pay contractors, with some bills more than 145 days past due.

Gilich – who’s fond of saying “if you can measure it you can manage it” – has reduced the backlog to \$5 million, brought contractors current on payments, and instituted bi-weekly accountability and progress meetings with state and federal partners.

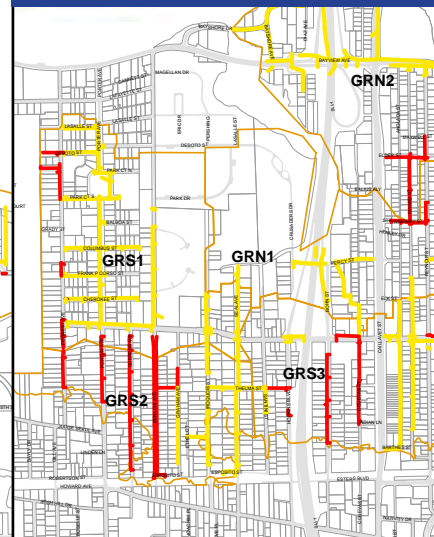
The city is now able to project funding requests a month ahead of time to reduce pressure on local resources.

Maps show progress through July 29, 2018. See larger views at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us)

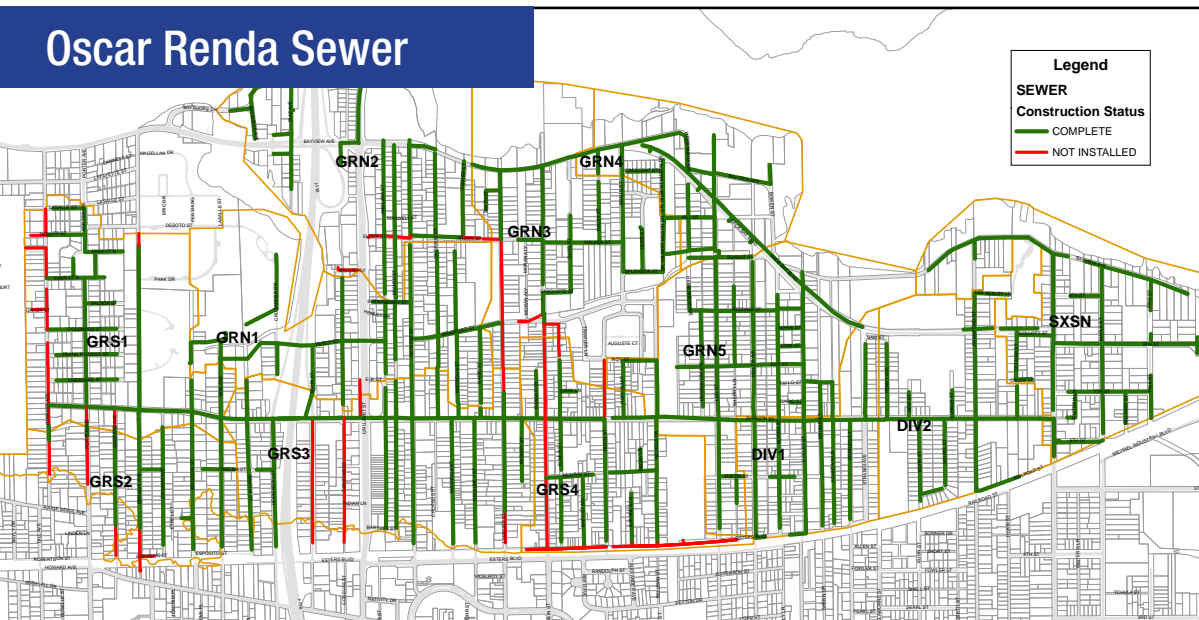
## Oscar Renda Water



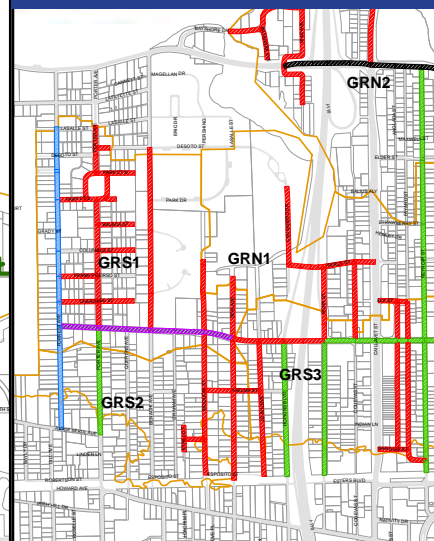
## Oscar Renda Drainage



## Oscar Renda Sewer



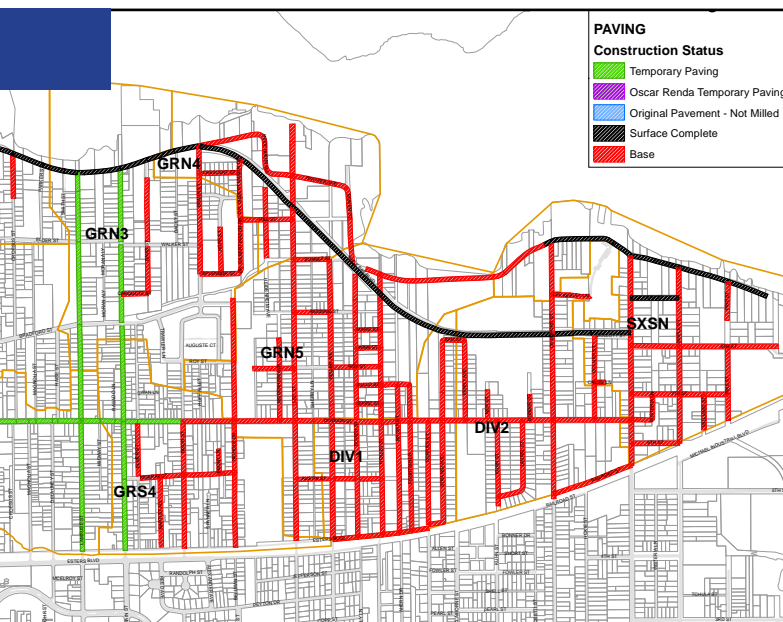
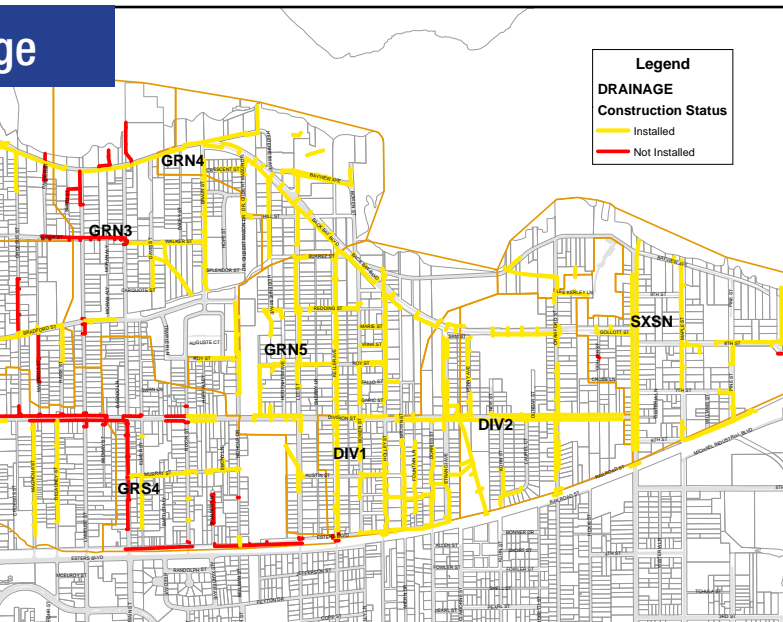
## Oscar Renda Paving



## Highlights of the current status

- Oscar Renda, as vowed months ago, will have asphalt on all of Division Street, from end to end, by the end of October. Crews are installing storm drains now, following with road base and paving.
- Lameuse Street north of Division will be paved no later than the beginning of October. Crews are installing sewer lines now, followed by drainage.
- Paving will also be done shortly on Desoto, Rosado, Bradford and Graham.
- Sidewalks and driveways are in the works for Columbus, Frank P. Corso, North Park and Balboa.
- A gas main conflict has been resolved on Benachi, and crews are now wrapping up sewer work, with storm drains to follow. Sewer work is also wrapping up on Querens, with storm drains in the offing.

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Detours and lane closures are becoming more evident south of the CSX Railway as Hemphill Construction continues to make progress on infrastructure work on six miles of roads between downtown and Seashore Methodist. Here's a look at the status on the \$22.9 million project, which has a deadline of March 2020.

## Hemphill Water



## Hemphill Sewer



## Hemphill Drainage



## Hemphill Paving



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## MDOT green lights design for Popp's Ferry extension

The Mississippi Department of Transportation has reviewed the city's plans for the extension of Popp's Ferry Road to U.S. 90, and MDOT has authorized the city to move forward with acquiring property for the four-lane roadway that will cover eight-tenths of a mile.

Make no mistake, the project is still years away, but work is progressing.

"Some people will disagree with me on this," says Biloxi Chief Administrative Officer Mike Leonard, "but the extension of Popp's Ferry Road to U.S. 90 is the most important economic development project we're working on right now.

"I realize that we have major work in east Biloxi right now and that we have almost a half a billion in public projects in the works, but the businesses in west Biloxi have heard about this Popp's Ferry extension for years now, and they need to know we are working on it."

Here's the latest from engineers at Neel-Schaffer, the firm that is performing the design and pre-construction work on the project:

**The city has talked for years about this extension. What's the status?**

Yes, the city has indeed spoken about this project for years, and, frankly, the work necessary for pre-construction - the public hearings and state and federal approvals - has been underway for years.

The plans have been through the initial review by MDOT and final design is underway.

Current work being completed includes preparation of the right-of-way and collection of soil samples for design of the proposed roadway.

The proposed roadway will be four lanes with a raised median and turning lanes. It will also include a 10-foot multi-use path on one side and a five-walk sidewalk on the opposite side.

Yes, there will be a tunnel. It's a pedestrian tunnel and a separate vehicular tunnel at the Coliseum to connect the convention center to the overflow parking lot west of the proposed roadway.

**How is this work being funded and when can people drive on the extension?**

This project - currently estimated at \$9.6 million - is being funded through a Gulf Regional Planning Commission grant that will cover 80 percent of construction and ROW costs. The remaining 20 percent will be a match from the City of Biloxi.

The right-of-way for the project still needs to be acquired, which is anticipated to be completed in 2020. In addition, CSX Railroad will need to construct a new crossing for the proposed roadway, which could take up to two years. Both of these activities will need to be completed before construction of the roadway, which will take about one year.

**What about the residents and business owners who live or work near the route?**

Public meetings were held during the environmental and route selection phases. Additional information will be provided to all interested parties before any construction begins. In addition, the city and local news will report any construction activities. This project is expected to have minimal impact on existing routes because the proposed roadway is on a new alignment.

Residents will begin to hear from the city later this year as the row-of-way process continues.

## New bridge for Popp's Ferry still years away

The Popp's Ferry bridge doesn't open a dozen or so times a day as it did years ago for coal barges, but the 20,000 motorists who travel the bridge on an average day will tell you they cross their fingers each time the span opens.

That's because the two-lane, low-level bridge, now 39 years old and also a vital hurricane evacuation route, requires increasing repairs to keep it operating dependably.

As a result of those issues, the City of Biloxi years ago began seeking funding to launch the process to replace the aging bridge with a taller, fixed span bridge able to accommodate four lanes of traffic and a walking path. In fact, the new bridge would resemble the Biloxi Bay Bridge.

Here's an update from Benjamin Smith, an engineer with Brown, Mitchell & Associates, the firm that has been working on the project.

**What's the status of this project?**  
We are working with MDOT to complete the environmental study, which looks at the potential impacts the project would have on the area: water resources and the neighborhood surrounding the bridge, among other factors. Once MDOT accepts the environmental study, the city will continue to pursue project funding.

**How is this work being funded and when can motorists expect to drive on it?**

The current work is being funded by the city and MDOT. The entire project is estimated at \$120 million, which includes capacity improvements from Pass Road north, including the bridge, to the Margaret Sherry Library. Since the project is not completely funded, it will be a number of years before the bridge is in place.

**What about the residents and business owners who live or work north or south of the bridge?**

We have identified the properties that will be impacted. We have held public meetings and workshops to inform impacted residents and property owners. As funding becomes available to buy right-of-way, the city would be contacting residents with specific details.

**What's next in the process?**

The next step is finalize the environmental review and complete coordination with resource agencies. Once that is complete and once more funding is secured, property acquisition can begin.

► See the renderings at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us)


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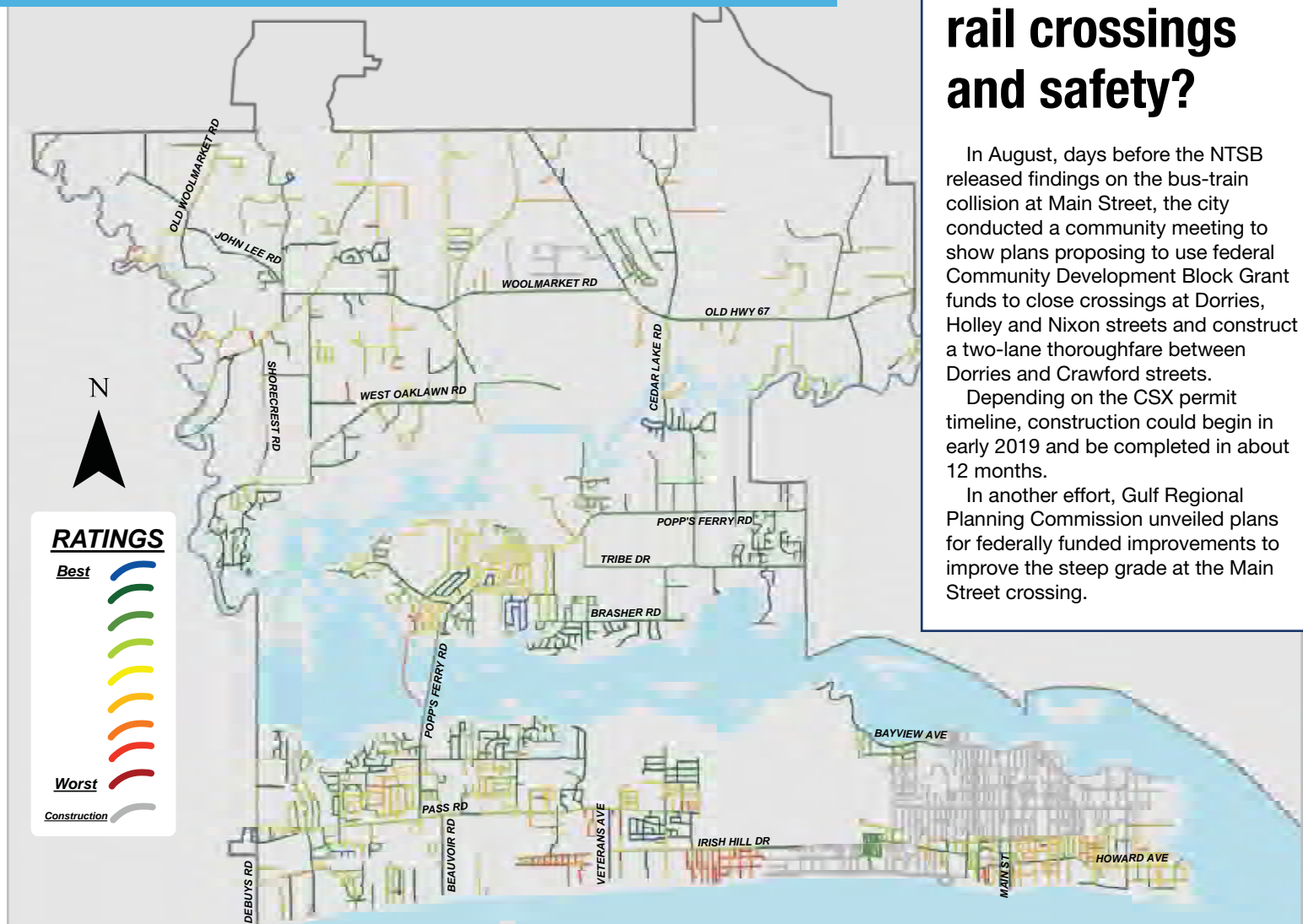


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# Road Surface Ratings



## And what of rail crossings and safety?

In August, days before the NTSB released findings on the bus-train collision at Main Street, the city conducted a community meeting to show plans proposing to use federal Community Development Block Grant funds to close crossings at Dorries, Holley and Nixon streets and construct a two-lane thoroughfare between Dorries and Crawford streets.

Depending on the CSX permit timeline, construction could begin in early 2019 and be completed in about 12 months.

In another effort, Gulf Regional Planning Commission unveiled plans for federally funded improvements to improve the steep grade at the Main Street crossing.

## City now has the big picture on road maintenance

Major roadwork in Biloxi - whether it's infrastructure work in east Biloxi, or detours on any number of streets in city - capture most of the attention these days, but the city now has a road map for repairs and maintenance of roads throughout the city.

Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District has graded 232 miles of the 304 miles of city-maintained thoroughfares - infrastructure areas and state roadways were omitted - and has compiled a guide to help plan future maintenance.

"I don't know that there has ever been a wholesale grading of streets throughout Biloxi," Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich said. "I have always been a firm believer of 'if you can measure it, you can manage it.'"

"And now, SMPDD has given us the 'Road Maintenance and Improvement Plan' to get a better understanding of our complete road network, so that we can prioritize and take a proactive approach to road maintenance.

"We're also fortunate that Harrison County Supervisors (Beverly) Martin and (Connie) Rockco have worked with us in the past on these type collaborative efforts, since a large part of Biloxi is in their districts. We appreciate their support and vision."

The plan involved inspecting and evaluating the conditions of the roads and rating their conditions. Each street or roadway section was rated from very good to very poor. They were also categorized by asphalt, concrete or gravel. Of the 232 miles

of roads surveyed, 206 miles are asphalt roads, 19 miles are concrete and seven miles are brick and gravel roads.

Recommendations were given ranging from routine maintenance, major or minor rehabilitation to complete reconstruction. Additionally, the plan identifies various pavement treatment options. Color-coded maps were also included showing roadway conditions throughout the city.

The city will use the plan and its recommendations to schedule roadway repairs. The plan also provides an estimated cost per mile that will help in raising funding and budgeting for roadway maintenance and improvements.

## Best Bets!



### Seafood galore on Town Green: Sept. 8 & 9

The annual Biloxi Seafood Festival – two days of entertainment, food, arts and crafts, and of course plenty of seafood – returns for another year to celebrate Biloxi's rich culture, heritage, and connection to the seafood industry. The Sun Herald's Gumbo Championship will again be a part of the festivities.



### Run, walk, and climb to remember the first responders of 9/11

Firefighter Stephen Siller made the ultimate sacrifice on Sept. 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center saving lives. To honor him and all first responders and military who make the ultimate sacrifice of life and limb, the Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Climb was created. Participants can run or walk across the Biloxi Bay Bridge, along the south side of U.S. 90 to Margaritaville where there will be an after party and if desired, a climb challenge for climbing 110 steps. For details and registration information visit [www.crowdrise.com/T2TBiloxi2018](http://www.crowdrise.com/T2TBiloxi2018).

**Guns & Hoses Charity Pickleball Tournament Registration**, through Sept. 20. The tournament, taking place on Saturday, Oct. 13 at the Popp's Ferry Recreational Area, is open to ages 18 and older with a maximum of 96 players. Fees: Free for active first responders (police, fire, ambulance, and military), \$15 for retired first responders, and \$30 for general public. Registration available at Biloxi Parks & Recreation office, 377 Hiller Drive and online at [biloxi.ms.us/residents/parks-recreation/](http://biloxi.ms.us/residents/parks-recreation/). Details: 228-233-8766.

**Inkin the Coast Tattoo Convention**, Sept. 1-2, Saturday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Mississippi Coast Coliseum & Convention Center, 2350 Beach Blvd. A tattoo and arts festival including TV personalities from "Inkmasters," a beard-and-mustache contest, tattoo contests, and clothing, art, and jewelry vendors. Tickets: \$20 day pass; \$45 weekend pass; Free for ages 9 and younger. Details: [inkinthecoast.com](http://inkinthecoast.com).

**First Friday Downtown Biloxi Art District (#artontherue)**, Sept. 7, 5-8 p.m., Downtown Biloxi, Rue Magnolia Art District. Live entertainment, Classic Car night south of the Mardi Gras Museum, 119 Rue Magnolia. Shops and galleries stay open late and offer specials and refreshments. Details: 228-435-6339.

**2018 Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Climb**, Sept. 8, 6 p.m., Margaritaville Resort, 195 Beach Blvd. The event, honoring the first responders whose lives were lost in 9/11, begins near the Ocean Springs Small Craft harbor off front beach and finishes at Margaritaville where participants can climb 110 floors, symbolic of the 110 floors in the World Trade Center. Details: [crowdrise.com/T2TBiloxi2018](http://crowdrise.com/T2TBiloxi2018).



**37th annual Biloxi Seafood Festival**, Sept. 8-9, Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. Saturday 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Live entertainment, arts and crafts, kid's activities, The Sun Herald Gumbo Championship, and plenty of seafood. Admission: \$20 Come & Go both days & Sunday Gumbo Championship; Saturday, \$5 general admission until 4 p.m., \$10 from 4-9 p.m. with no re-entry; and Sunday, \$5 general admission and additional \$10 for Gumbo Championship. Details: 228-604-0014.

◀ This year's poster print by Matt Stebly.

## Best Bet!

### Antique cars, sock hops, oldies music and more returns to the Gulf Coast Sept. 30 – Oct. 7

Cruisin' The Coast, the eight-day affair touted as "America's largest block party," returns to the Gulf Coast for its 22nd year. Thousands of antique and vintage cars and car enthusiasts will ascend on the Coast to be a part of cruise-ins, sock hops, swap meets, and more. To see a full schedule of events, visit [www.cruisinthecoast.com](http://www.cruisinthecoast.com).



## Stay in touch

**BNews:** Welcome to the fourth issue of BNews Monthly. It's a compendium of things you should know about your city: status reports on current and pending public works, and a calendar of community events covering the next 30 days.

**Calendar:** Biloxi Downtown Services is responsible for the Community Calendar, a compendium of events open to the public in Biloxi. Deadline for publication citywide and online is the 10th of each month. Listing must include name of event, date, time, location, one- or two-sentence description, admission fee, phone number or web address. Email to Kay Miller, downtown services manager, [kmiller@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:kmiller@biloxi.ms.us).

**Bmail:** The city provides information about projects and events via email. Sign up at [biloxi.ms.us/register](http://biloxi.ms.us/register).

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**B-Alert:** For text advisories on traffic and severe weather, text BILOXI to 888777.

**Website:** The city's website, at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us), is the comprehensive digest of city information. The website also has links to the city's Facebook and YouTube platforms.

Vincent Creel, Public Affairs Manager  
[vcreel@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:vcreel@biloxi.ms.us)

Cecilia Dobbs Walton, Public Affairs Specialist  
[cdobbswalton@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:cdobbswalton@biloxi.ms.us)

## Frequently Called Numbers

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- City Council . . . . . 435-6257
- City Court . . . . . 435-6125
- Code Enforcement . . . . . 435-6270
- Drivers Licenses . . . . . 396-7400
- Emergency Police and Fire . . . . . 911
- Garbage Collection . . . . . 701-9086
- Housing Authority . . . . . 374-7771
- Human Resources . . . . . 435-6259
- Mayor's Office . . . . . 435-6254
- Museums Information . . . . . 435-6244
- Parks & Recreation . . . . . 388-7170
- Planning Commission . . . . . 435-6266
- Public Schools . . . . . 374-1810
- Streets and Drainage . . . . . 435-6271
- Visitor Info . . . . . 374-3105 or 1-800-BILOXI-3
- Water Service . . . . . 435-6236

**Kroc Center membership drive,** Sept. 10-16, 575 Division St., The Salvation Army Kroc Center will waive its \$50 member registration for its anniversary week. Details: 228-207-1218 or [www.krocmscoast.org/memberships/](http://www.krocmscoast.org/memberships/).

**Biloxi VFW Post #2434 Outdoor Flea Market:** Sept. 15 and 29, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., 1644 Pass Road (the old McDonald's building). Vendors, \$20 per space. Details: 228-388-4356 or 228-392-2400.

**Biloxi Soccer Registration:** Sept. 15, 9 a.m.-Noon, Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Open to ages 4-7 (must be 4 by 7/31/18). Fees for Biloxi Residents: \$30 for one child, \$50 for two children, \$75 for three children, and \$50 per child for non-Biloxi residents. Registration is available online at [biloxisoccer.net](http://biloxisoccer.net). Details: 228-388-2483 or [sports@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:sports@biloxi.ms.us).



**Bike Biloxi Ride in Downtown Biloxi,** Sept. 18, 6 p.m., Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. This free ride, held on the third Tuesday of each month, follows a 6.5-mile course through downtown. Bring your own bike or rent one at the Biloxi Visitors Center or MGM Park through the Zagster app. Bike rental is \$3 per hour. After this month's ride, cyclists and guests are invited to Wayward Kraken Pub, 871 Howard Ave., for refreshments. Helmets and lights are recommended. Details: 228-435-6339 or [mainstreet@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:mainstreet@biloxi.ms.us).

**Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary 175th Anniversary Year,** Sept. 20, 6 p.m., Nativity Cathedral Church, 870 Howard Ave. Stained Glass window presentation. Details: 228-374-1717.

**Ship Island Excursions presents Biloxi Country Music Sunset Cruise,** Sept. 21, 7-9 p.m. Margaritaville Ferry Boat Dock, 195 Beach Blvd. Enjoy fun, music, and dancing and sunset cruising along the Biloxi Shoreline. Admission: \$25 per person. Details: [msshipisland.com](http://msshipisland.com) or 228-864-1014.

**City of Biloxi Multicultural Festival,** Sept 22, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. Festival highlights and celebrates the cultural diversity of the Mississippi Gulf Coast by exhibiting arts, crafts, pottery, jewelry, painting and more. International food vendors are welcome. Details 228-388-7170 or [cbell@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:cbell@biloxi.ms.us).

**Downtown Biloxi Community Market Festival,** Sept. 27, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. under the I-110 at Howard and Hopkins. Themed Fall Harvest Fun with Community Market vendors, entertainment by Colin Lockey and Chase Dalgo, hourly giveaways, scavenger hunt for the kids, and fall wreath demonstrations and giveaways by Mississippi State Extension Center's own James DelPrince. Grilled hot dogs, and hamburgers, and snowballs will be available for purchase. Details: 228-435-6339 or [mainstreet@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:mainstreet@biloxi.ms.us).



**Annual Friends of the Poor Walk/Run 2018,** sponsored by St. Vincent De Paul Society, Sept. 29, 7 a.m.-10 p.m., Biloxi Bay Bridge. Tables will be set-up at the foot Biloxi side of the bridge for registration. Walk at your own pace, no time pressure and no distance required. Details: 228-388-1837 or [fatimasvdp@bellsouth.net](mailto:fatimasvdp@bellsouth.net).



**Annual Cruisin' The Coast,** Sept 30-Oct. 7, various times and locations along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Car enthusiasts parade their antique, classic, hot rod and custom vehicles up and down U.S. 90 with entertainment provided at designated stops in Biloxi and along the Gulf Coast. Activities include sock hops, swap meets, live entertainment and more. Details: 888-808-1188 or 228-385-3847. Full schedule at [www.cruisinthecoast.com](http://www.cruisinthecoast.com).

## Biloxi Shuckers Baseball

105 Caillavet St., 800-745-3000 or 228-233-3465

www.biloxishuckers.com • Tickets start at \$7

- **Biloxi Shuckers vs. Birmingham Barons**, Sept. 1-3



## Biloxi Little Theater

220 Lee St., 228-432-8543, www.4blt.org

- **Evita**, Sept. 7-9, 13-15. Ticket prices TBA.

## Center Stage

2670 Rue Palafox, 228-388-6258, centerstagebiloxi.com

## Biloxi Lighthouse and Visitors Center

1050 Beach Blvd., 228-374-3105, www.biloxi.ms.us

Open daily, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Biloxi Mardi Gras Museum

119 Rue Magnolia, 228-435-6308, www.biloxi.ms.us

Currently closed for renovations

## Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum

115 1st St., 228-435-6320, www.maritimemuseum.org

- **33rd Annual \$10,000 Drawdown**, Sept. 15. Cocktails and buffet at 7 p.m., drawdown at 8 p.m. Silent auction and door prizes throughout the evening. Admission for two, \$100.
- **Horn Island Experience**, Sept. 28. Departs at 9 a.m. and returns at 4 p.m. Sail aboard a Biloxi Schooner and experience the beauty and serenity of Horn Island just as Walter Anderson once did. Bring your picnic baskets and refreshments. Tickets \$40.
- **"Craig Brumfield Art of Nature" Exhibition**, now through Nov. 30, during regular museum hours of operation; located on museum's third floor.

## Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art

386 Beach Blvd., 228-374-5547, www.georgeohr.org

- **Icons: The Sacred Muse by Clifton Webb**, now through Nov. 3
- **Rodrigue's Blue Dog: Discovering Late Works on Canvas and Metal**, through Oct. 6
- **George E. Ohr Art & Beer Festival**, Oct. 6, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. admission free but armband is required for access to beer tents: armbands \$25, VIP armbands, \$50.

**Check the website for more events & studio classes at OOMA!**

## West End Hose Co. No. 3 Fire Museum

1046 Howard Ave., 435-6119/435-6200, www.biloxi.ms.us

Historic 1937 fire house open Saturdays 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment.

## Biloxi Elks 606 Lodge of Biloxi

1178 Beach Blvd., 374-0606

- **Bingo Nights**: Sept. 7, 14, 21, & 28, Early Bird starts at 6:30 p.m., regular 7 p.m.
- **Going Out (Steak Nights and Dances)**: Sept. 1 & 15, 7-11 p.m. Sept. 8, 22, & 29, 6-10 p.m., Sept. 16, 3-6 p.m.; live entertainment; prices vary.

## Fleur de Lis Society of Biloxi (French Club)

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

- **Dance**, Sept. 15, 7 - 11 p.m., South Breeze Band, \$8 per person

## Lagniappe

**Charles R. Hegwood**

### Biloxi Community Market

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6 a.m.-4 p.m. under the I-110 overpass on the corner of Howard Avenue and Hopkins Boulevard. Details: Tina Cowart at 228-388-2443.

### City of Biloxi Senior Program

Activities for ages 55 and older weekdays at the Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center and the East Biloxi Senior Citizen Center. Details: Gwen Johnson, 228-388-2494, seniors@biloxi.ms.us.

### Biloxi Libraries

- Biloxi Library, 580 Howard Ave., 228-436-3095
- Margaret Sherry Library, 2141 Popp's Ferry Road, 228-388-1633
- West Biloxi Library, 2047 Pass Road, 228-388-5696
- Woolmarket Library, 13034 Kayleigh Cove, 228-354-9464

For more information call the Harrison County Library System at 228-436-3095.

### Biloxi Main Street

Promoting, preserving, revitalizing and enhancing the economic growth of the downtown Main Street district. Details and membership: 228-435-6339, mainstreetbiloxi.com



### City of Biloxi Public Meetings

- **Architectural Review Commission**: Regularly scheduled meetings: second and fourth Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m.; Community Development, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266.
- **Biloxi City Council**: Regularly scheduled meetings: first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. and the third and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.; City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Details: 228-435-6257.
- **Biloxi Civil Service Commission**: Regularly schedules meetings: second Thursday of the month at 4 p.m.; City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Details: 228-435-6259, Cortney Lamar
- **Biloxi Planning Commission**: Regularly scheduled meetings: first and third Thursday of the month at 2 p.m.; Community Development, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266.
- **Development Review Committee**: Regularly scheduled meetings: Wednesdays at 9 a.m.; Community Development, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266.
- **Tree Committee**: Regularly scheduled meetings: second Monday of each month at 4 p.m.; Gulf Coast Community Design Studio, 769 Howard Ave. Details: 228-435-6266.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b> Story Time Woolmarket Library	<b>28</b> Community Market  Story Time W. Biloxi	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Community Market  Story Time MSherry Library	<b>31</b>  Clairvoyants IP Casino Resort Spa  Better Than Ezra Beau Rivage   vs. Barons MGM Park	<b>1</b>  Inkin The Coast Tattoo Convention MS Coast Coliseum  Third Eye Blind Harrah's Gulf Coast   vs. Barons MGM Park
<b>2</b>  Inkin The Coast Tattoo Convention MS Coast Coliseum   vs. Barons MGM Park	<b>3</b> Story Time Woolmarket Library   vs. Barons MGM Park	<b>4</b> Community Market  Story Time W. Biloxi	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Community Market  Story Time MSherry Library	<b>7</b> First Friday Downtown Biloxi    The Commodores IP Casino Resort Spa	<b>8</b>  Biloxi Seafood Festival Biloxi Town Green  Tunnels 2 Towers Margaritaville Resort  Marshall Tucker Band IP Casino Resort Spa
<b>9</b>  Biloxi Seafood Festival Biloxi Town Green  WWE Live MS Coast Coliseum	<b>10</b> Story Time Woolmarket Library	<b>11</b> Community Market  Story Time W. Biloxi	<b>12</b> Godsmack/ Shinedown MS Coast Coliseum	<b>13</b> Community Market  Story Time MSherry Library	<b>14</b>  Kevin Gates MS Coast Coliseum	<b>15</b>  Biloxi Soccer Registration Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center  Biloxi VFW Post #2434 Outdoor Flea Market: 1644 Pass Road  Clint Black IP Casino Resort Spa  Grand Funk Railroad Hard Rock
<b>16</b>  Deep Purple and Judas Priest MS Coast Coliseum	<b>17</b> Story Time Woolmarket Library	<b>18</b> Community Market  Story Time W. Biloxi  Bike Biloxi Visitors Center	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Community Market  Story Time MSherry Library  Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary 175th Anniversary  Chris Young MS Coast Coliseum	<b>21</b>  Ship Island Excursions presents Biloxi Country Music Sunset Cruise Margaritaville Ferry Boat Dock  Melissa Etheridge Hard Rock  Michael Bolton with Orchestra Symphony Beau Rivage	<b>22</b>  Multicultural Festival Biloxi Town Green
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Story Time Woolmarket Library	<b>25</b> Community Market  Story Time W. Biloxi	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Community Market Festival  Story Time MSherry Library	<b>28</b>  Charlie Daniels Band IP Casino Resort Spa  Chicago The Musical Beau Rivage	<b>29</b>  Friends of the Poor Walk/Run Biloxi Bay Bridge  Biloxi VFW Post #2434 Outdoor Flea Market: 1644 Pass Road  Anjelah Johnson Hard Rock  Chicago The Musical Beau Rivage
<b>30</b> Cruisin' The Coast Coastwide  Chicago The Musical Beau Rivage						

Here is an excerpt of a map of Biloxi in 1855.



## Biloxi's first roadways

Can you guess which of Biloxi's streets is the oldest? You might be surprised. When the first settlers made landfall on the southernmost shores of this city's peninsula, they did not encounter a ready-made path to travel east and west.

### Back in the Day

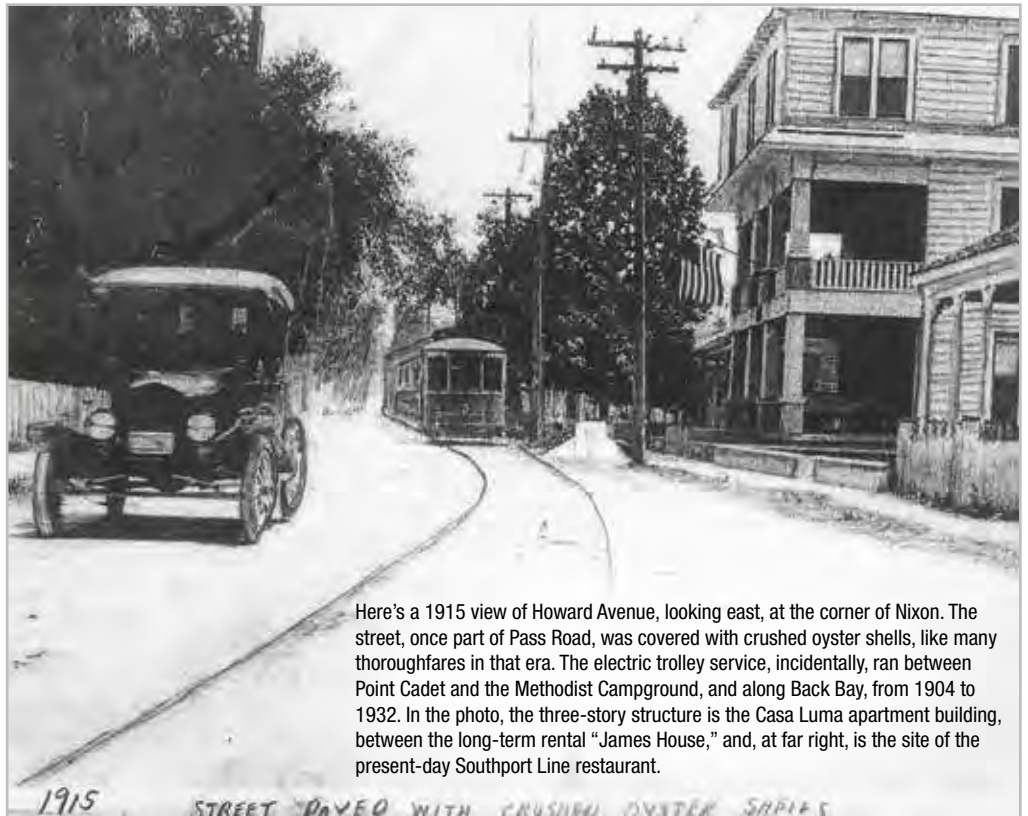


By Jane Shambra

Indeed, the first documented byway appearing on maps through Biloxi is drawn as a narrow line near the future site of the railroad. Laden with thick trees, this thin path would have been lonely and dirt-based. It was on this original passageway that

the early Native Americans traveled. Probably chosen for its highest altitude and away from ponds and streams, the early inhabitants traveled along this wiggly line, safe from the erosion and waves of recurring storms. Thus, the first official street of Biloxi was actually today's Howard Avenue and Pass Road.

We have no idea what the early Native Americans called this path, but we can research various names for this street through recent times. Originally, the road was called "Pass Christian Road" because it was the path that folks used to travel from Point Cadet ("Pointe Caddie") to Christian Ladner's property on the western end of Harrison County. As times changed, so did



Here's a 1915 view of Howard Avenue, looking east, at the corner of Nixon. The street, once part of Pass Road, was covered with crushed oyster shells, like many thoroughfares in that era. The electric trolley service, incidentally, ran between Point Cadet and the Methodist Campground, and along Back Bay, from 1904 to 1932. In the photo, the three-story structure is the Casa Luma apartment building, between the long-term rental "James House," and, at far right, is the site of the present-day Southport Line restaurant.

the roadway names. More than a century ago, in appreciation for the donations from the Howard Family, Biloxi renamed its easternmost section of Pass Road as "Howard Avenue." Interestingly, there are various names for this original road: West Howard, East Howard, the Pass road, Pass Christian Road, and, now, Pass Road.

Even the roadway itself has changed, from dirt roads, shell roads, brick pathway, and now asphalt. Traveling through time in history books and photos, one can imagine journeying by barefoot, moccasin, horseback, buggy, streetcars, and automobile. Once upon a time, Pass Christian Road

even traveled through the middle of the present-day Keesler Air Force Base. Did you know that the western segment of Biloxi's Pass Road was occupied by both a busy speedway racetrack and a popular drive-in movie theater?

Popp and his ferry: With the new Popp's Ferry Causeway Park about to open, it's a good time to reminisce about the old Popp's Ferry Road, named after John Popp, who operated a ferry service near the present bridge. Beginning as a simple dirt road, history records that, in 1914, this popular passageway was upgraded to a safer shell road to accommodate increased traffic.

The writer is manager of the Local History and Genealogy section of the Biloxi Public Library. Email her at [jane.shambra@gmail.com](mailto:jane.shambra@gmail.com)



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SEPTEMBER 2018

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