A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi



East Biloxi: In the spotlight once again, rightfully so

East Biloxi has always been a focal part of Biloxi. It's where it all began: It's where in 1699 D'Iberville walked with the Biloxi tribe.

East Biloxi, especially Point Cadet and Back Bay, were ringed with bustling seafood canneries and factories at the height of those heady times when Biloxi was the Seafood Capital of the World.

Later, the shotgun homes and cottages and dwindling numbers of factories were buoyed by the latest wave of hard-working immigrants to locate in the culturally rich east Biloxi, the Vietnamese.

There were museums and churches and generations-old cultural centers. Lest we forget, even a state-run aquarium was at the

- ► Margaritaville's new expansion plans, Page 4
- ▶ Developer eyes east Biloxi convention center, Page 4
- City to shop vacant parcels of land, Page 2
- ► Governor has idea to transform beach, Page 6
- Latest on the roadwork, Pages 8-9-10

tip of Point Cadet. And, of course, east Biloxi was the birthplace of the state's gaming industry, the state's first legal casino, the Isle of Capri, a success that spawned a period when as many as 10 casinos and thousands

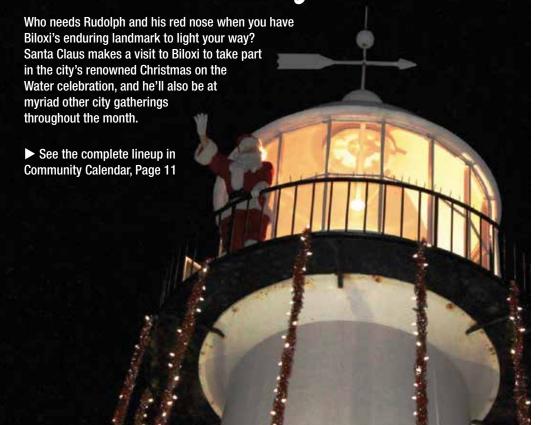
of hotel rooms were operating east of I-110.

The east Biloxi story took a decided turn with Katrina: wholesale destruction of generations of homesteads and landmark properties. In its rebuilding blueprint, the city acknowledged that a large part of east Biloxi was classified as in a flood zone, meaning use of space would favor a mix of commercial, entertainment, and varieties of green, man-made and natural.

No one predicted the road work ad infinitum.

Now comes forward a host of east Biloxi initiatives, a testament to one of Biloxi's most enduring and alluring areas.





City adds two dozen first responders

The Biloxi Police and Fire departments now have 26 additional first responders patrolling the streets and answering emergency medical calls.

"Keeping our city safe for residents and visitors is the basic thing we do," Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich said. "We continue to believe our citizens are served the best trained, equipped and paid fire and police departments."

With 20 new officers, the police department now has a total of 131 sworn officers.

"We are always looking for individuals that possess dedication, loyalty and honesty as foremost qualities," Police Chief John Miller said. "Law enforcement can be a very rewarding career."

In fact, police officers and firefighters undergo a rigorous hiring process including physical agility and written tests and once hired, hours of in-house and academy training.

The fire department now has 160 front line firefighters, including the six new hires.

"Firefighters are required to complete Mississippi minimum standards," Deputy Chief Jeff Merrill said. "Biloxi firefighters also become national-registered EMTs within the first year of hire."

The police department also hired a grant writer, William Sackett, who also serves as the administrative liaison for the chief.

Interested in a new career? Download an application at biloxi.ms.us.

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City seeks interest in vacant parcels on Caillavet, Division

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich, who has turned several pieces of unused city property into tax-producing and job-creating ventures, says the city is seeking interest in another group of municipal properties to include nearly two dozen city parcels on Caillavet Street and four in east Biloxi.

The city has published Request for Proposals for either sale or lease of the properties, and any agreements would be influenced by price, benefit to the city and community in general, and proposed use. For instance, the RFPs noted a neighborhood grocery store could be a factor in price.

Proposals, which must be accompanied by a refundable \$5,000 certified check, are due to the city by 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30, and any agreements would require City Council approval.

Among the sites: 18 narrow parcels south of Division Street on Caillavet, a corner parcel at Caillavet and Division, and further east on Division, a large parcel near Oak Street that stretches from Division Street to the CSX railway and was once the site of the "city barn." Two recreational sites, O'Reilly and Danella parks, also are included in the RFPs.

"It's a matter of the highest and best use for a piece of property, and the city owns property all over this city," Gilich said. "I want to see property generating something, such as property and sales tax revenue, or jobs, or a public use, or a combination of all of the above. It just makes sense."

The city also recently entered into an agreement with Gulf Breeze Landscaping where the firm will maintain 72 parcels of municipal-owned vacant lots throughout the city. The move frees up Public Works crews to better focus on day-to-day water, sewer and drainage issues.

Gilich, shortly after he became mayor in 2015, began pushing for use of unused or under-used city property. More than a year ago, the city sold a vacant beachfront parcel to developers who will soon open a 100-room Hilton Garden Inn, next door to the work-in-progress Watermark hotel.

In February 2018, a beignet shop and restaurant opened in the old Biloxi Library, a block north of Hard Rock Hotel. The city has also awarded a lease to local businessmen to operate a bait shop and kayak rental station at Popp's Ferry Causeway Park, and a paying tenant is now housed in the small Creole Cottage on Rue Magnolia, down the way from the Magnolia Hotel, where restaurateur Jourdan Nicaud on Dec. 1 begins paying rent on the building where he has plans.

Said Nicaud, who also owns Fill Up with Billups and Bacchus restaurants: "We are very excited to be building a mixed use concept in downtown Biloxi featuring short term rentals, landscaped venue event space and a new and exciting restaurant concept focusing on New Orleans-style cuisine."

► See property RFPs at biloxi.ms.us

Popp's Ferry bait shop moves a step closer

A Certificate of Occupancy is now in place for the Popp's Ferry Causeway Park bait shop, which means operators are a step closer to opening shop, but still no word on when.

Meantime, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality has OK'd city plans to install security cameras at the site, add floating docks, plant large trees and pave the roadway leading into the park.

The improved areas of the park, the easternmost tip, remain open to vehicles until 4 p.m. each day, but a nearby pedestrian gate remains open.

PREMIERE & CINEMAS at Edgewater Mall

Premiere Cinemas is now screening the best of Hollywood in its new *state-of-the-art* digital complex at Edgewater Mall. The *eight auditoriums*, will feature wall-to-wall digital screens! So sit back, relax, and enjoy your favorite refreshments with your favorite movie in the new Premiere Cinemas at Edgewater Mall.

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Developer eyes benefits of east Biloxi convention center

The idea of an east Biloxi convention center – to be located amidst the 5,000 or so hotel rooms east of Interstate 110 – is not a new one, but now a developer is stepping in to take a serious look at the issue.

The city has entered into an agreement in which BBR Biloxi development would invest as much as \$250,000 to consider the convention center idea, suggest sites, and, if feasible, move forward with a \$150 million, "world class, waterfront, mixed-use convention center and retail project."

The topic of a second convention center in Biloxi, closer to the large inventory of hotel rooms in east Biloxi, has been discussed for decades, and tourism leaders brought the idea

up again at a two-day waterfront conference weeks ago at Biloxi City Hall.

Those who worked on the Biloxi's post-Katrina rebuilding initiative, Reviving the Renaissance, also suggested the city consider an east Biloxi site for a convention center, and pre-Katrina some advocated the idea of a convention center at Caillavet Street and U.S. 90, which later became the site of MGM Park.

"Sure it's been talked about for decades, but this is the first time a developer is spending his money on a serious analysis," said Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich. "For years we've also heard about the need for a 'headquarters hotel' near the convention center in west Biloxi. In east Biloxi we have more than one 'headquarters hotel.' We just need the east Biloxi convention center, which would be much closer to the rooms."

Under the agreement between the city and BBR, the firm would identify potential sites in east Biloxi, which could include the vacant city-owned Tullis-Toledano property on east beach. In fact, the agreement says if Tullis is indeed deemed a favorable site, the developer would have first option to buy the land, at 20 percent above market value.

Said Gilich: "There's been a lot of focus on Tullis in media reports about this issue. However, Tullis is only one of several sites. The analysis will make the case for the best site."



Developers unveil plans for \$200 million expansion

The much-anticipated next phase of Margaritaville, the family resort in east Biloxi, is now coming into focus.

The expansion, once discussed as a \$140 million endeavor, has now been unveiled as a \$200 million

investment, with an amusement park, water park, and two hotels, accounting for 520 new rooms in east Biloxi.

The 8.3-acre project will straddle U.S. 90 between Cedar and

MARGARITAVILLE
Resort & Family Entertainment Center

BILOXI, MS
park and new hotel Katrina-ravaged C

Pine streets. The amusement park and new hotel tower will be south of the highway and the waterpark and another hotel will be north of the highway.

Under a preliminary agreement suggested by Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich and approved by the City Council, the developers and the city would use new tax money generated by the project to help fund waterfront improvements. The project also would use

a state program where a greater share of sales tax revenue is diverted to the city.

No timetable on construction has been announced.
Barrington Development Group, which also
restored the White House Hotel and is now

transforming the old Santa Maria Del Mar retirement home into the all-suites Watermark hotel, opened Margaritaville in June 2016. The family resort, at the site of the

Katrina-ravaged Casino Magic, boasts 373 guest rooms, 83 suites, restaurants, bars, and much more inspired by the works and music of Pascagoula native Jimmy Buffett.

Margaritaville's "gaming floor" is a massive family entertainment center open to the public. It includes an indoor zip-line roller coaster, hundreds of arcade games and a four-story volcano rock-climbing wall.

News & notes

- Room service: The latest word is the Hilton Garden Inn is aiming for a January opening, and The Watermark next door is working toward a March opening. Alas, neither is taking reservations at this writing.
- Development: Community
 Development Director Jerry
 Creel reports that permits
 are running \$28 million
 ahead of this time last year.
- Hiller pond: A project is in the works to remove silt from the pond at Hiller Park. A city purchase order has been approved to fund the work, but no date set yet on when work would begin.
- Thunderbirds: Keesler Air Force Base and the City of Biloxi will host the Thunder Over the Sound: The Keesler and Biloxi Air and Space Show on May 4 & 5. The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, along with other performances and aircraft static displays will be part of the two-day event. Exact times and acts being coordinated. For more information visit online at www.keesler. af.mil/airshow.



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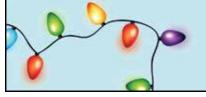






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Coast Transit expands service for Popp's Ferry corridor

Coast Transit has expanded its Route 32, serving the Popp's Ferry Road corridor and now extending into D'Iberville.

The 90-minute route, running six days a week, includes stops at Pass and Popp's, Atkinson Road, the Margaret Sherry Library, Santa Maria Retirement Center, Cedar Lake Medical Center, Walmart Neighborhood Market, two Family Dollar stores, and

throughout the Promenade. In all, Route 32 has 20 stops.

The expanded route, supplemented with funding from the cities of Biloxi and D'Iberville, began service Nov. 12.

On its southern end, Route 32 offers passengers a chance to connect with Pass Road Route 34 eastbound and westbound, with service to Edgewater Mall or downtown Biloxi. On its north end, Route 32 connects to D'Iberville

Route 4, which offers service as far south as Scarlet Pearl Casino Resort, and as far east as McCann Road in Jackson County, using LeMoyne Boulevard or Big Ridge Road.

For more information, call 228-896-8080 or visit online at www.coasttransit.com.



Governor unveils architectural designs for beach outfalls

Gov. Phil Bryant was in Biloxi to show architectural designs for the first phase of beach storm water outfalls that will be placed on the beach in east Biloxi.

The governor made the announcement at the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources headquarters on Back Bay in Biloxi. Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich, who has been an advocate of improvements along the front beach, was among the local leaders at the announcement, which involves locations on the Biloxi beach.

The phase announced Nov. 6 by the governor features the construction of three beach storm water outfalls to be built over existing outfall pipes along the sand beach, to help reduce the number of these pipes along the beach in Biloxi and in Harrison County. The beach storm water outfalls will

be constructed using funds received through the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, also referred to as "GOMESA."

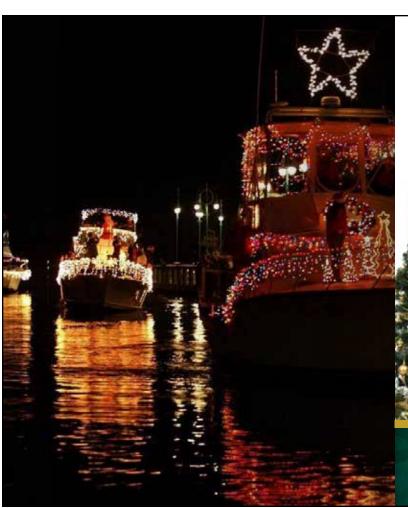
"These new water outfalls along the Mississippi Gulf Coast will dramatically improve the visual aesthetic along our beaches and reduce sand erosion that is common," Bryant said. "Phase I of this project will see three of the water outfalls built on the Biloxi beaches, and I'm excited to see the final product come to fruition."

Said Gilich: "This is a great project, and I'm delighted to see Gov. Bryant moving it forward. The city has focused a lot of attention and discussion to the waterfront, with boardwalks and waterfront parks, projects where the governor has played a key role. This announcement today ties right into waterfront engagement and public enjoyment of our waterfront. Thank you, Governor."

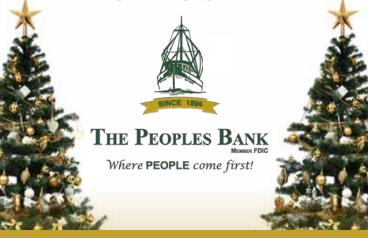
With assistance from the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Mississippi Development Authority, the project will provide a greater appeal to the beach in Harrison County and help eliminate a large number of outfall pipes, which carry rainwater.

"The Department of Marine Resources will oversee Phase I of the beach storm water outfalls project and it will soon go out for bid," MDMR Executive Director Joe Spraggins said, "The Mississippi Gulf Coast boasts 26 miles of wonderful beaches, and I know this will be a great addition to them."

Work on Phase I will begin after the bid process is completed and the project is awarded.



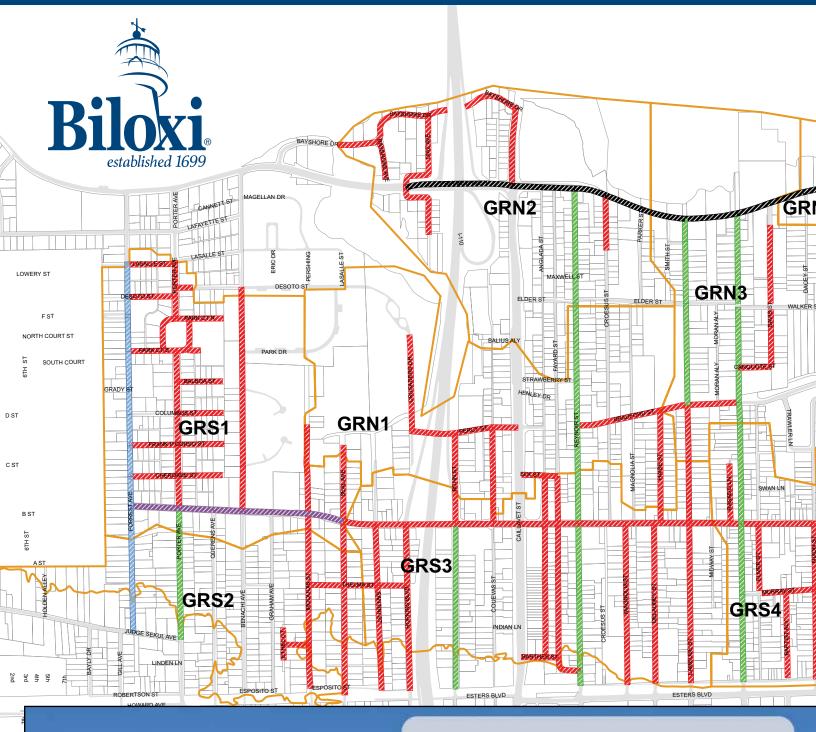
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Infrastructure Repair Program North Contract



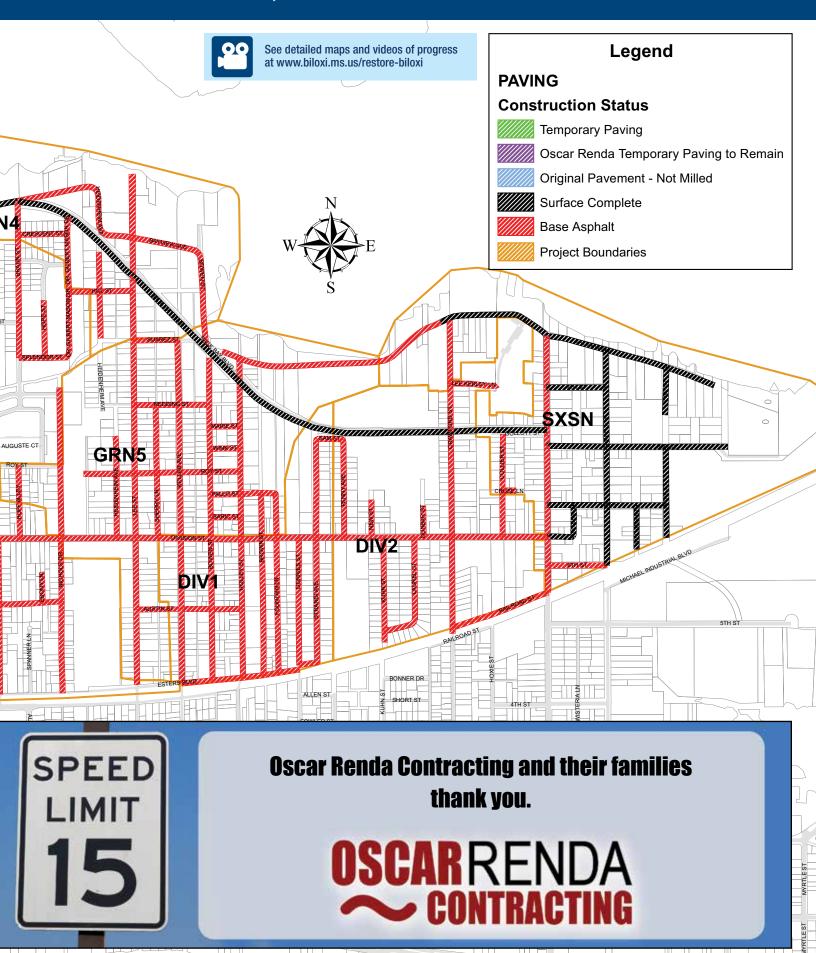
Progress is speeding up, but we're asking you to slow down

In east Biloxi, on the North Project, every week there is more asphalt paving going down.

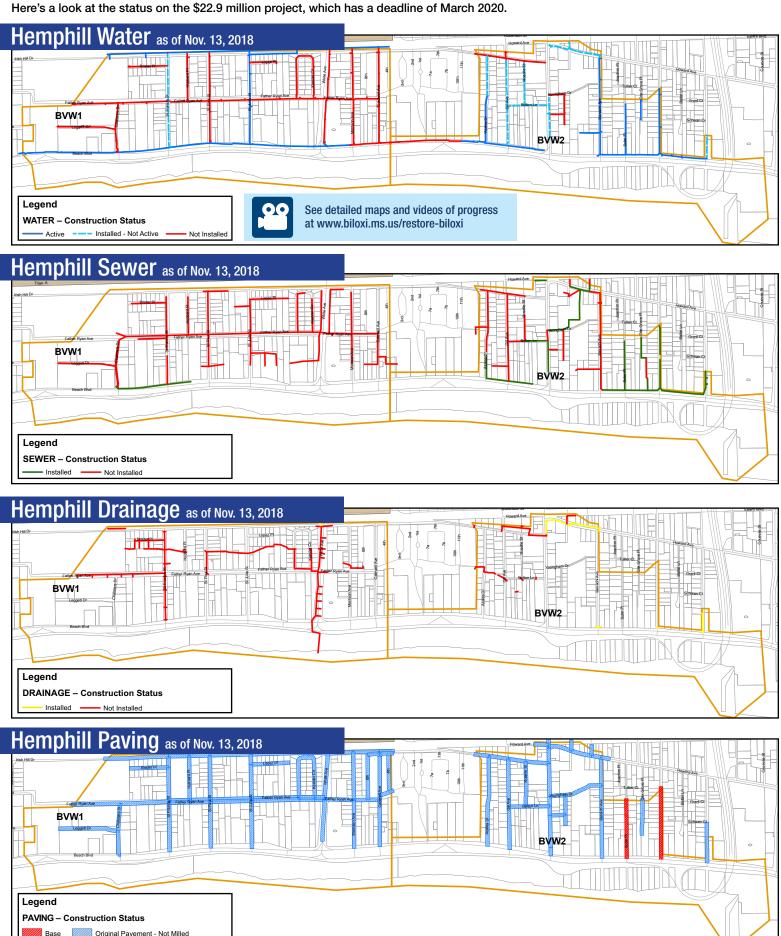
This makes people want to go faster.

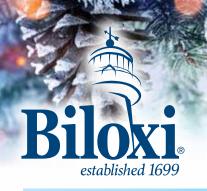
We are asking you to please help keep our crew of over 150 workers safe by adhering to the 15 mph speed limit throughout the construction project.

Roads Paved as of Nov. 13, 2018



Detours and lane closures are becoming more evident south of the CSX Railway, especially on Porter and Howard avenues, 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.





Community Calendar

ecember 2018

Best Bets!



Lighthouse Lighting

The Christmas season officially begins in Biloxi on Wednesday, Nov. 29 with the lighting of the most visible landmark in Biloxi, the Biloxi Lighthouse. The 64-foot tall structure will light up with

Christmas lights and Santa will be on site to hear the children's biggest Christmas wishes. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. and include hot chocolate. Biloxi Visitor Center Christmas shirts and ornaments will be available for purchase. Details: 228-374-3105.



Christmas on the Water

The Mississippi Sound will light up with boats decorated in Christmas lights and festive decorations parading along the water. On Saturday, Dec. 1 the water boat parade will begin at 6 p.m. followed by a spectacular fireworks display. This Biloxi tradition dates back to 1986. It has grown to an impressive holiday family weekend that attracts locals and visitors. Events include the Christmas In The City festival on Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in downtown Biloxi. Visit biloxi.ms.us, call 228-435-6339, or 228-617-3112.

Biloxi Lighthouse Christmas Lighting, Nov. 29, 5:30-7 p.m., Biloxi Lighthouse with parking at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Kick-off the holiday season in Biloxi with the annual Christmas lighting of the Biloxi Lighthouse. The free event will feature refreshments and a special visit from Santa Claus. Details: 228-374-3105.

Children's Christmas Walking Parade, Nov. 30, 6 p.m. Downtown Biloxi. Children in grades K-4 will parade downtown from Howard Avenue under the I-110 overpass to the Biloxi Town Green. Details: 228-388-7170.



Celebrate Christmas on the Town Green, Nov. 30, 6:30-8 p.m. Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. The public is invited to decorate the Christmas tree, visit with Santa, and enjoy some hot chocolate while watching the lighting of the tree and Town Green. Admission is free. Details: 228-388-7170.

Nativity Elementary School's Breakfast with Santa, Dec. 1, 8-10 a.m., Half Shell Oyster House, 125 Lameuse St. Have breakfast with Santa and feast on pancakes, sausage and a beverage. Santa will give out candy canes and be available for photos so bring your camera! Admission: \$5 per person. Details: 228-432-2269.

Breakfast with Santa, Dec. 1, 8-10 a.m., The Salvation Army Kroc Center MS Gulf Coast, 575 Division St. Breakfast with Santa includes pancakes, sausage, milk and juice. Don't forget to bring your camera. Tickets: \$5 per person. Details: 228-207-1218.

Youth League Basketball Registration, Dec. 1, 9 a.m. - Noon; Donal M. Snyder Center, 2520 Pass Road. Open to Biloxi and non-Biloxi residents, ages 6-15. Fees vary. Details: 228-388-7170.

Biloxi Main Street's 14th Annual Christmas In The City, Dec.1, 10 a.m.-

4 p.m., Biloxi Arts District, Rue Magnolia and Water Street. Downtown festival that includes Biloxi Pusharatas made by the Slavonian Ladies Auxiliary, photos with



Santa, dozens of arts and crafts vendors with unique gift items and entertainment: 10 a.m. -Nativity Elementary School Choir; 10:45 a.m. - Nativity Cheerleaders; 11 a.m. - Biloxi High School Jazz Band; 11:45 a.m. - Next Level Studio Dancers; 12:30 p.m. - St. John's AME Choir; 1:30 p.m. - Rage Dance Studio; and

2:30 p.m. - Six-String Andrew Band. Admission is free. Details: 228-435-6339.

Best Bet!

Mississippi Gulf Coast Marathon

This will be the third year for this coastal running event to take place along the scenic beaches

of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Events begin in Biloxi on Friday, Dec. 7 with a Health & Wellness Expo at the Mississippi Coast Convention Center. Then on Saturday, Dec. 8 is the 5K and Kids Marathon at Point Cadet Plaza and on Sunday, Dec. 9 is the half marathon, beginning in Gulfport, and the full marathon, beginning in Pass Christian with both races ending at MGM Park. A post-race party will also take place. For more details and to register, visit http:// mississippigulfcoastmarathon.com/.

Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the seventh 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.

Bmail: The city provides information about projects and events via email. Sign up at biloxi.ms.us/register.

Advertising: BNews and Bmail represent an advertising opportunity for civic-minded businesses and organizations. In your hands you are holding the only advertising medium that is delivered to every single home, business, apartment and PO Box in the city. For rates and info, email online@ biloxi.ms.us or call 228-435-6368.

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

Website: The city's website, at 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

Cecilia Dobbs Walton, Public Affairs Specialist cdobbswalton@biloxi.ms.us

Frequently Called Numbers

Area code is 228 unless otherwise noted.

•	Animal Control
•	Auto Tag/Property Tax Information 435-8242
•	Birth Certificates 601-576-7960
•	Building Permits 435-6270
•	Business Licenses 435-6247
•	City Council
•	City Court
•	Code Enforcement
•	Drivers Licenses
•	Emergency Police and Fire 911
•	Garbage Collection 701-9086
•	Housing Authority
•	Human Resources
•	Mayor's Office
•	Museums Information 435-6244
•	Parks & Recreation
•	Planning Commission 435-6266
•	Public Schools
•	Streets and Drainage
•	Visitor Info 374-3105 or 1-800-BILOXI-3
•	Water Service

Annual Christmas On The Water Boat Parade, Dec. 1, 6 p.m., in the Mississippi Sound with the best viewing at the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor or from the Biloxi Lighthouse to the Beau Rivage Casino. Boats parade in full holiday décor with a fireworks show after the parade. Details: 228-617-3112.



Disney On Ice: Worlds of Enchantment, Dec. 1, 10:30 a.m., 2:30 & 6:30 p.m.; Dec. 2, 2 p.m., Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd, Ticket prices start at \$15. Details: 800-745-3000.

Special Needs Kickball, beginning Dec. 4, 6-8 p.m., Barbara Ferrill Softball Fields, Hiller Park, 1940 Edgers Road. For youth and adults with physical and mental disabilities. Games played on Tuesdays. Free admission. Uniforms provided. Details: 228-388-7170.

Harlem Globetrotters, Dec. 5, 7 p.m., Mississippi Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd. Ticket prices start at \$18. Details: 228-594-3700.

First Friday, Dec. 7, Noon-8 p.m., Biloxi Arts District, Rue Magnolia Street. Live entertainment, prize giveaways, Christmas games including best "UGLY" Christmas sweater contest, Christmas wrapping, new art at Almost Circle Gallery, POP UP art at the Venue on Lameuse (second floor above Fuji Sushi House) and Gallery 782 will feature a book signing by Sarah Hewes with her latest book: "The Tempestuous Trial of Maybelline Meriweather." Details: 228-435-6339.



North Pole Calling Sign up Deadline, Dec. 7. Santa will call children in Pre-School, Kindergarten, First and Second Grades on Dec. 12 or 13 at your chosen time. Applications are available at www.biloxi.ms.us. Details: 228-388-7170.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Marathon, Dec. 8, 8 a.m. – 5K, 9:30 a.m. - Kids Marathon, Point Cadet Plaza, 120 Cadet St., Biloxi; Dec. 9, 7 a.m. - Half Marathon, Jones Park, Gulfport to MGM Park, Biloxi and Full Marathon, Henderson Point, Pass Christian to MGM Park, Biloxi. Also features a fun festival as the postrace party. Details: www.mississippigulfcoastmarathon.com.

Come Learn With Santa (Children ages 5 and younger), Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-Noon, Lopez School, 140 St. John Ave. Event includes photos with Santa, creating holiday crafts, and read/sing/snack with Santa. Admission is free. Details: 228-297-6808, 228-388-7170.

Annual International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale, Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 255 Beauvoir Road. The event includes pastries, ethnic foods, music, dancing groups, kid's activities, and more. Admission is free. Details: 228-860-3376.

Little Women - A Children's Show, Dec.11-14. Show times vary; Center Stage, 2670 Rue Palafox. Admission \$7. Details: 228-388-6258.

Biloxi Senior Christmas Party, Dec. 14, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Open to Biloxi residents ages 55 and older. The free event will include lunch. Attendees are asked to bring a dessert. Details: 228-388-2494.

Special Needs Christmas Dance, Dec. 14, 6-9 p.m., Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. All ages with physical and mental disabilities are invited to celebrate. Food and door prizes will be available. Admission is free. Details: 228-388-7170.

Annual Christmas in Woolmarket Christmas Parade, Dec. 15, 2:30 p.m. Woolmarket Road to Woolmarket Elementary School gym. The parade will feature dozens of units followed by hot chocolate and cookies at the gym. Details: 228-861-5422, 228-547-5816.

Bike Biloxi, Dec. 17, 6 p.m., begins at the MGM Stadium near Zagster Bike Rental, 105 Caillavet St. Free, fun-filled ride through downtown. Bike ride ends with refreshments at a downtown restaurant at cyclist's expense. Helmets and lights recommended. Details: 228-435-6339.

Holiday Open House, Dec. 22-23, Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Local artists and craftsmen will be showing and selling their wares. Refreshments, children's activities, free tour train rides and much more. Admission is free. Details: 228-374-3105.



New Year's Eve & Oyster Ball Drop, Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m.-midnight, Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum, 115 First St. Ring in the New Year with the Oyster Ball Drop. Live entertainment by Blackwater Brass, heavy hors d'oeuvres, full bar, party favors, beignets to go and fireworks. Admission: \$90 per couple or \$50 single. Details: 228-435-6320.

Biloxi Little Theater

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

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 • Closed for renovations, will reopen after Mardi Gras 2019 at a new location.

Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum

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

Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art

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

Check the website for more events and studio classes

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: Dec. 7, 14, 21, and 28; Early Bird starts at 6:30 p.m., regular games 7 p.m.
- Going Out (Steak Nights and Dances): Dec. 1, 8, and 15; live entertainment, prices vary. No Steak Nights on Dec. 22 and 29.

Fleur de Lis Society of Biloxi (French Club)

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

• Live music by Eddie McDaniel, Dec. 7, 6-10 p.m. Admission is free.

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 scheduled 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
25	26 Story Time Woolmarket Library	27 Community Market	28	29 Community Market	30	Breakfast with Santa Half Shell Oyster House and Salvation Army Kroc Center
	-	Story Time W. Biloxi		Story Time MSherry Library	Children's Walking Parade Downtown Biloxi	Youth Basketball Reg. Donal M. Snyder Center
				Biloxi Lighthouse Lighting Visitors Center	Celebrate Christmas	Christmas in the City Downtown Biloxi
				Violetia dell'eli	on the Town Green Biloxi Town Green	Christmas on the Water MS Sound Disney on Ice
					Johnny Mathis Beau Rivage	MS Coast Coliseum Johnny Mathis – Beau Rivage Matt Franco – IP Casino
2	3 Story Time Woolmarket	4 Community Market	5	6 Community Market	7 First Friday Downtown Biloxi	8
	Library	Story Time W. Biloxi	Harlem	Story Time MSherry Library	North Pole Calling Deadline	MS Gulf Coast Marathon 5k & Kids Marathon Point Cadet Biloxi
		Special Needs Kickball Barbara Ferrill	Globetrotters MS Coast Coliseum			Come Learn with Santa Lopez School
		Softball Fields			Jeffrey Osborne IP Casino Resort Spa	Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
					Christmas with Aaron Neville Beau Rivage	The Righteous Brothers Hard Rock
9	10 Story Time Woolmarket	11 Community Market	12	13 Community Market	14	15
MS Gulf Coast Marathon	Library	Story Time W. Biloxi		Story Time MSherry Library	Special Needs Christmas Dance Donal M. Snyder Center Biloxi Senior	Christmas in Woolmarket Christmas Parade Woolmarket Rd. to Woolmarket
Half Marathon Jones Park to MGM Park		Special Needs Kickball Barbara Ferrill	North Pole Calling	North Pole Calling	Christmas Party Donal M. Snyder Center	Elementary School Gym Brandon Bennett
Full Marathon Pass Christian		Softball Fields			Brandon Bennett IP Casino Resort Spa	IP Casino Resort Spa
to MGM Park		Little Women Center Stage	Little Women Center Stage	Little Women Center Stage	Little Women Center Stage	Christmas Dreams Beau Rivage
16	Story Time Woolmarket	Community Market	19	20 Community Market	21	22
	Library	Story Time W. Biloxi		Story Time MSherry Library		Holiday Open House Biloxi Visitors Center
	Bike Biloxi Visitors Center	Special Needs Kickball Barbara Ferrill Softball Fields			Cirque Musica Holiday Presents Wonderland IP Casino Resort Spa	Jewel's Handmade Holiday Tour IP Casino Resort Spa
Christmas Dreams Beau Rivage	Christmas Dreams Beau Rivage					
23	24 Story Time Woolmarket Library	25 Community Market	26	27 Community Market	28	29
Holiday Open House Biloxi Visitors Center	Library	Story Time W. Biloxi		Story Time MSherry Library		
30	Oyster Ball Drop Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum	Christmas Day City of Biloxi Holiday Closing				KC & The Sunshine Band Hard Rock
	Molly Ringwalds Beau Rivage					Better Than Ezra Beau Rivage

Biloxi gets ready for Santa Claus

Christmas celebrations are not new in Biloxi. Newspaper articles, family stories and pictures remind us that Biloxi was always the place to go to celebrate the holiday season. Biloxi's Christmas memories go back generations when

Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra

family, friends, tourists, and airmen remember the holiday's finest celebrations.
Parades, food, lights and shopping are a few of the memorable moments in Biloxi's

Christmas past.

Parades

Parades have always been popular in downtown Biloxi. Back in December 1934 the news reported the largest and greatest Christmas street parade in the city's history.

Hundreds lined the streets to view this magnificent event. Inflated figures and comic book heads accompanied a plethora of live animals, including turkeys, pelicans, pigeons, cats, dogs and rabbits. The Boy Scouts contributed valuable assistance in caring for small children and collecting for the annual Toy and Doll Fund. After the parade, there was a giant gathering at the Saenger Theater, where prizes were awarded to the best entries. Led by the music of the Biloxi High marching band and complete with the long-awaited waving Santa, hundreds viewed Biloxi's 1934 Christmas parade.

Today, the traditional Christmas on the Water Children's Parade still travels through the streets of downtown Biloxi. In this city-organized parade, small children are offered the golden opportunity to ride in hay wagons and throw candies to crowds along the way. At the finale of this parade, folks of all ages visit with Santa and are treated with hot chocolate and cookies on the Town Green.

And, it's not Christmas in Biloxi unless you experience the annual evening Christmas on the Water parade. On Dec. 6, 1986 Biloxi began this tradition with its first boat parade. It was and remains a unique boat spectacle, where floating vessels of all types are



Katrina leveled the city-owned Tullis-Toledano Manor in east Biloxi, but memory of the manor at Christmastime lingers, as seen in this December 2002 photo from a blog. Tullis, which the city bought in 1975 for \$370,000, was also home to annual displays of holiday trees representing ethnic groups from around the world. The manor was reported to have been built in the 1850's, and Christobal Toledano and Matilde Pradat Toledano were its first occupants. The city rented the restored waterfront property for special occasions, including many a bride photo and wedding reception.

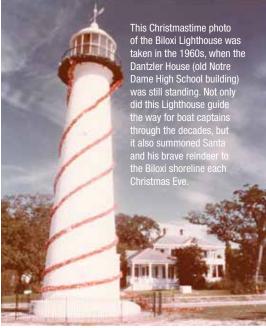
decorated with holiday themes, accompanied by music and festive lights. Its parade route is the Biloxi channel along the beach between the Biloxi Lighthouse and the Biloxi Bay Bridge. Prizes are awarded to the bestdecorated boats, adding to the excitement of the holiday season.

Food

Christmas wasn't complete without a visit to Grandma's house. We remember the aroma of foods when entering through the threshold of her creaking screened door. Once inside we were introduced to the familiar scents of her seafood or chicken gumbo (prepared with the renowned "Holy Trinity" mixture of onions, bell peppers, and celery), potato salad, oyster dressing, freshbaked apple pies, and that strong coffee with chicory brewing atop the kitchen stove.

Of course, there was also a whiff of Uncle Edmond's cherry bounce wine, which he so proudly saved for his special adult guests.

And the Biloxi pusharates. Only the finest could be found in Biloxi, the dessert of all desserts! After lunch, Grandma would give us all our special Christmas gift. Each grandkid received an envelope with our names carefully inscribed in her age-old cursive penmanship. Inside the envelope, she would place either a large coin or two, or a two-dollar bill, which we could put in our empty piggy banks or trade for long-awaited toys. Ah, those were the days!



Shopping

Speaking of downtown Biloxi, where did Mom and Dad shop for the holiday gifts? In 1952, downtown Biloxi offered a one-stop Christmas shopping trip: bicycles from the Auto-Lec, dolls and trucks from Sears, F.W. Woolworth's, Kress or J. C. Penney, and Christmas cards and candy from Kimbrough & Quint. Even fresh produce for Christmas dinner could be bought on Howard Avenue, from the Hill's grocery store.

How about a fancy box of chocolates? When Eddie's Drug Store opened on Howard Avenue in December 1930, Elmer's Chocolates was the featured chocolate candy treat.

Wondering more about the stores, prices, and ads in Biloxi in years gone by? Visit the Biloxi Local History and Genealogy Department and scroll through its microfilm for a trip through the past in the local newspapers.

The writer is manager of the Local History and Genealogy section of the Biloxi Public Library. Email her at jane.shambra@gmail.com.





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Blews Month DECEMBER 2018

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich and the Biloxi City Council

George Lawrence • Felix O. Gines Dixie Newman • Robert L. Deming III

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Nathan Barrett

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