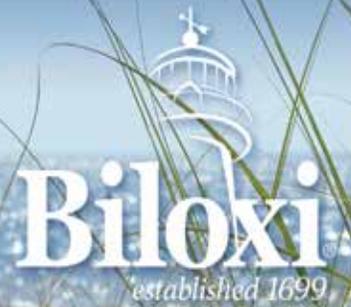


BNews Monthly

JANUARY 2019

A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi



City sees significant growth in new home construction

"We've always known that Biloxi is a great place to live, work and play," says Community Development Director Jerry Creel, "and now, more and more builders are seeing that, and they're capitalizing on what we have to offer."

Creel's Community Development Department, which oversees zoning and construction in Biloxi, is seeing big numbers this year, not only in commercial construction, but in new, market-rate homes.

Check out the trend on new-home

construction:

- **2015: 102 permits, construction value \$23.6 million**
- **2016: 87 permits, \$16.3 million**
- **2017: 133 permits, \$27.4 million**
- **2018: 170 permits, \$36.5 million**

The majority of the new homes are being constructed north of Interstate 10, far from heightened rates of elevation and insurance.

"At the same time," Creel adds, "we're seeing homes being built in the Cedar Lake

area and along Beach Boulevard.

"Some want to live close to the action, such as in Woolmarket, while others want to live in the middle of the action, such as on Beach Boulevard."

An advantage of the increased residential construction is that it helps recruit commercial growth.

Says Creel: "Commercial development follows rooftops. If the rooftops are there, the commercial development will follow."



The Ole Biloxi Marching Club

Progress continues on north contract as clock ticks

Residents, motorists and businesspeople north of the CSX railway in East Biloxi can see real progress every day, in terms of more asphalt going down and dirt roads becoming a thing of the past in most neighborhoods. However, there are still roads to be paved, sidewalks to be poured and landscaping to be installed.

And the current date on the current contract for completion of the work on the 55 miles of roadways north of the railway is Jan. 2, 2019. The contract, of course, has been amended 70 times since it was originally approved on Aug. 4, 2014, and more requests for change orders are in the works.

Says Jennifer Matranga of Oscar Renda Contracting: "Through the many difficult circumstances that have been encountered in such a complex project, ORC has continued to be steadfast in a continued partnership with the City of Biloxi to making it great again for the community and all those who come to visit this great city."

Carnival and MLK march forward

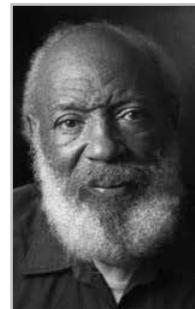
January is upon us, and that means a couple of time-honored Biloxi traditions to kick off the New Year: The Twelfth Night observance, which signals the shift from Christmastime to Carnival; and the city's huge MLK parade and Battle of the Bands celebration.

Twelfth Night takes place Jan. 5 at 5 p.m., beginning at the Biloxi Visitors Center, where the Lighthouse Christmas lights will be extinguished. Then, a three-float parade travels down U.S. 90 to Lameuse, where it heads northward to City Hall. At City Hall, you'll find a huge outdoor party on the lawn across from City Hall, with gumbo, king cakes and more.

Also highlighting January are the huge, multi-event celebrations honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The MLK parade rolls through Biloxi on Jan. 21 at 10 a.m. The process begins at the Dr. Frank Gruich Sr. Community Center on Howard Avenue, travels west onto MLK, west at Howard and south on Caillavet to MGM Park.

The parade culminates with the Battle of the Bands, about 11 a.m. at MGM Park. In the battle, you'll see top-notch high school marching bands from New Orleans, Mobile and Jackson. Big change this year: There's a \$5 admission to enter the MGM Park.



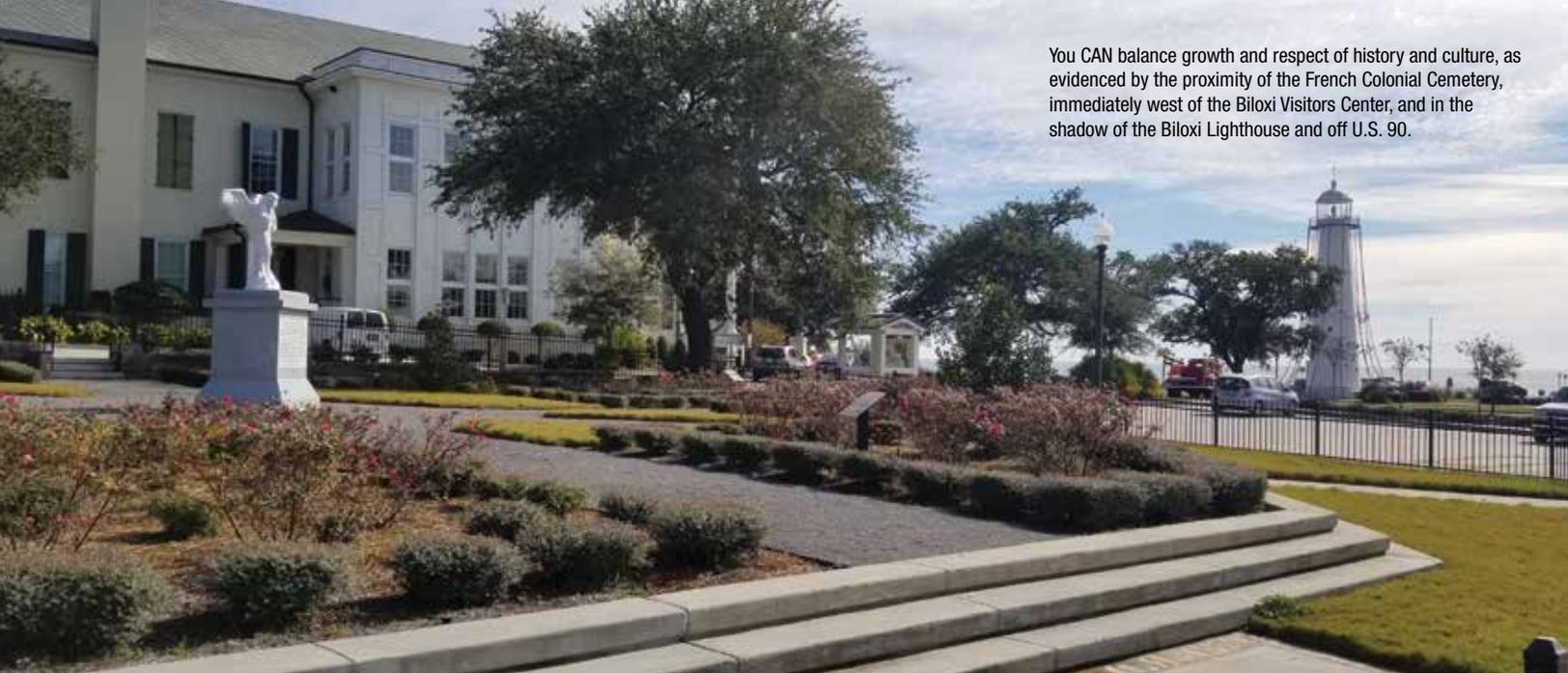
James Meredith, the first African-American student admitted to Ole Miss, is part of Biloxi's MLK observance.

▶ See the January Community Calendar, Pages 11-14

▶ See more MLK info at www.mlkcoastwide.com

▶ Maps of progress, Pages 8-10

▶ See video update and detailed maps at biloxi.ms.us/restore



You CAN balance growth and respect of history and culture, as evidenced by the proximity of the French Colonial Cemetery, immediately west of the Biloxi Visitors Center, and in the shadow of the Biloxi Lighthouse and off U.S. 90.

In Biloxi, there's gold, or debris, underground

If there's one thing that we've seen in Biloxi over the years, it's this: You put a shovel in the ground, you have a chance of striking history.

Think about it.

Workers on the infrastructure project unearthed human remains the other day – more than six months ago, actually – in the right-of-way between the **Biloxi City Cemetery** and U.S. 90. Some have suggested the cemetery generations ago went to the water's edge.

The same thing was a concern in at least a couple instances after **Hurricane Katrina**.

Authorities on history warned the city that the site of the **Biloxi Visitors Center** would be near burial grounds, and, in fact, **FEMA** and **MEMA** wanted an archaeologist on site throughout construction in the event anything was unearthed.

Lest we forget, it was **Hurricane Camille**, 50 years ago this year, that uncovered Indian burial grounds at the **Joe Moran** art studio, which had stood for years near the present-day Visitors Center. Moran, the celebrated Biloxi artist, glass-encased the skeletons for gallery visitors to appreciate – until Katrina swept the remains (and gallery) away in 2005.

Today, the Visitors Center is one of the city's most-cherished post-Katrina successes, and, in its western shadow is a fenced area dedicated to the oldest French Colonial cemetery in the south. In fact, it was just in 2017 when the city and **Mississippi Department of Marine Resources** dedicated the **French Colonial Cemetery Park**, also known as the **Moran Site**. It is centered around a weeping angel statue, along with four informational markers, detailing the area and the finding of the remains of 32 French servants.

Same thing happened at the city-owned



Tullis-Toledano site, which, at one time had been considered for the post-Katrina **Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum**.

FEMA and MEMA warned that ancient burial grounds could be nearby, and, if discovered, construction – and federal funding – could be halted.

It was not a question of where the Tullis-Toledano manor or nearby **Crawford House** were located. It's a matter of what might have been underground when they were built, as columnist **Jane Shambra** says, "back in the day."

In some cases, the underground discoveries are less valued.

During the pre-Katrina construction of **Back Bay Boulevard**, in the area between Lee and Oak, workers unearthed bodies, but of the automobile version. The area, some may recall, had been a junkyard. For that matter, **Hiller Park** was also used as an emergency storing area for **Hurricane Camille** debris to be removed from the city – or burned.

In the downtown restoration efforts on the new **Howard Avenue**, city contractors have had their own share of discoveries. Workers were aware of an existing 12-inch water main they needed to remove, but they also unearthed

an additional 12-inch water main that was abandoned in place, along with an abandoned six-inch water main next to it.

Then there were the underground remnants of the canopies that had been installed when the area was known as the **Vieux Marché**. Steel support beams were cut at ground level, but tons of concrete footing that anchored the beams was left underground and had to go.

In the area of Howard between Lameuse and Main, workers unearthed huge sections of underground rails that had been used by the **city streetcar system**, which sadly, and not unlike the fleet of white-winged schooners, gave way to the age of diesel- and gas-powered horsepower. Street car tracks? Who woulda thought, given the dozens of old photos showing street cars motoring through downtown and as far east as **Oak Street**.

On the west end of Howard and on parts of **Division**, workers have wrestled with gas lines that were not on existing plans, and at the same location on Howard, banks of phone lines were found, providing service to **Keesler** and a large section of West Biloxi.

The good news is that the plans for all road work will provide the city as-built infrastructure plans, digitally, with pipes and utilities accurately located.

But make no mistake, it's Biloxi, and it's been around since 1699. There's tons of history underfoot.

*The nom de plume "Nick L. Shrimp" is a homage to the late Walter F. Fountain, the original "old crab," longtime editor of the Biloxi-D'iberville Press and longtime Biloxi Chamber of Commerce manager.

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Set to Open Summer 2019

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West Beach Boardwalk: It's not just about the view

The West Beach Boardwalk is officially open and those walking the half-mile of Phase 1 of the project will discover it's much more than a pathway connecting rows of restaurants and visitor-related attractions between Veterans and Rodenberg avenues.

It's sort of an outdoor classroom of sorts. The boardwalk is the first phase of Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich's vision to see boardwalks constructed to connect existing boardwalks from West Biloxi to Point Cadet and around the tip of Point Cadet to Back Bay.

Harrison County Supervisor Beverly Martin helped steer \$300,000 in county Tidelands funds to the million-dollar-plus project in West Biloxi. The city's share of the project was more than \$700,000, primarily through Tidelands funds, which are lease payments the state collects on bottomlands (also known as "tidelands"), about \$10 million a year, with about \$8 million coming from casino resorts in Biloxi.

"We appreciate the cooperation from our state legislators, from the Secretary of State and Department of Marine Resources and from the Harrison County Board of Supervisors on getting this first phase of the boardwalk out of the ground and ready for use," said Mayor Gilich during a recent ribbon cutting ceremony.

The boardwalks are designed to help the public and visitors engage with the beach and the waterfront, and to create a synergy among the dozen or so restaurants and businesses south of U.S. 90 in that area. Work is underway on a Point Cadet boardwalk and plans are to extend the West Beach Boardwalk to Camellia Street.

The West Beach Boardwalk, not unlike the others in the works, also uses eye-appealing, informative kiosks along its route to tell the history of the community.

Two of the most interesting items from the 10 West Biloxi kiosks: a handwritten letter from then future President Harry S. Truman to his wife, Bess, and daughter,



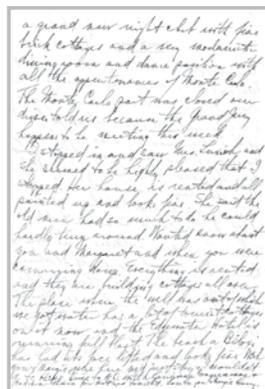
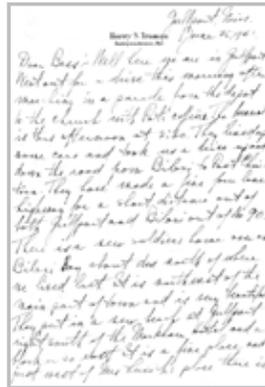
Margaret, about his observations of the Mississippi Gulf Coast beachfront after a drive along U.S. 90 in 1941.

The West Biloxi kiosks also commemorate the Native Guard, the African-American troops that were garrisoned on Ship Island during the Civil War. In fact, also referenced on the kiosks is Natasha Tretlaway, the U.S. Poet Laureate from Mississippi, who is African American and won the Pulitzer Prize for her poetry volume "Native Guard."

Information for the kiosks was researched by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources; Ed Ott of the city's Engineering Department;

C. Paige Gutierrez, Ph.D., longtime Biloxi cultural anthropologist; and city economic counsel and former Mayor Gerald Blessey. The graphics on the kiosks were designed by Robin Stephens Lund of The Ad Group in Biloxi. On the kiosks you'll also find:

- Background on the marine life living off the beachfront - speckled and white trout, redfish, blue crabs, oysters, shrimp, menhaden, sea turtles, and, of course, catfish and croaker.
- Descriptions of the shore birds - namely least terns, brown pelicans and black skimmers - that frequent the beachfront.
- There also are kiosks that tell the story of the barrier islands and tout the pristine beaches and Civil War-era fort on Ship Island.



News & notes

- **Basketball:** The Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department will begin practice for its **youth basketball league** on Monday, Jan. 7 and it will run through Friday, March 1, 2019. For more about the Biloxi Parks & Recreation sports, call 228-388-7170.
- **Saenger gift:** A retired Air Force colonel who now lives near St. Louis, Mo. and was involved in the 1978 restoration of the Saenger Theater, was in Biloxi recently and gave the city a **generous monetary gift** for the theater. Hear his story on the city's YouTube channel.
- **Podcast:** The City of Biloxi Public Affairs Division records a weekly podcast, the **City Desk podcast**. The podcast provides a behind-the-scenes look at city issues and is recorded unedited. Go online to listen at www.biloxi.ms.us.
- **Mardi Gras:** The Neptune Mardi Gras parade is set for **Saturday, March 2** at 5:30 p.m. and the Gulf Coast Carnival Association Mardi Gras parade is set for **Tuesday, March 5** at 1 p.m. Both parades will take place in downtown Biloxi.
- **Lifetime achievement:** The **Mahoney and Cvitanovich families**, owners of **Mary Mahoney's Old French House Restaurant**, have been awarded the Mississippi Gulf Coast Attractions Association 2018 **Don Jacobs Lifetime Achievement Award** for dedication and contributions to tourism on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. For more than 50 years, the families have fed and entertained tens of thousands with great food, great service and, yes, a full-fledged raconteur, **Bobby Mahoney**.

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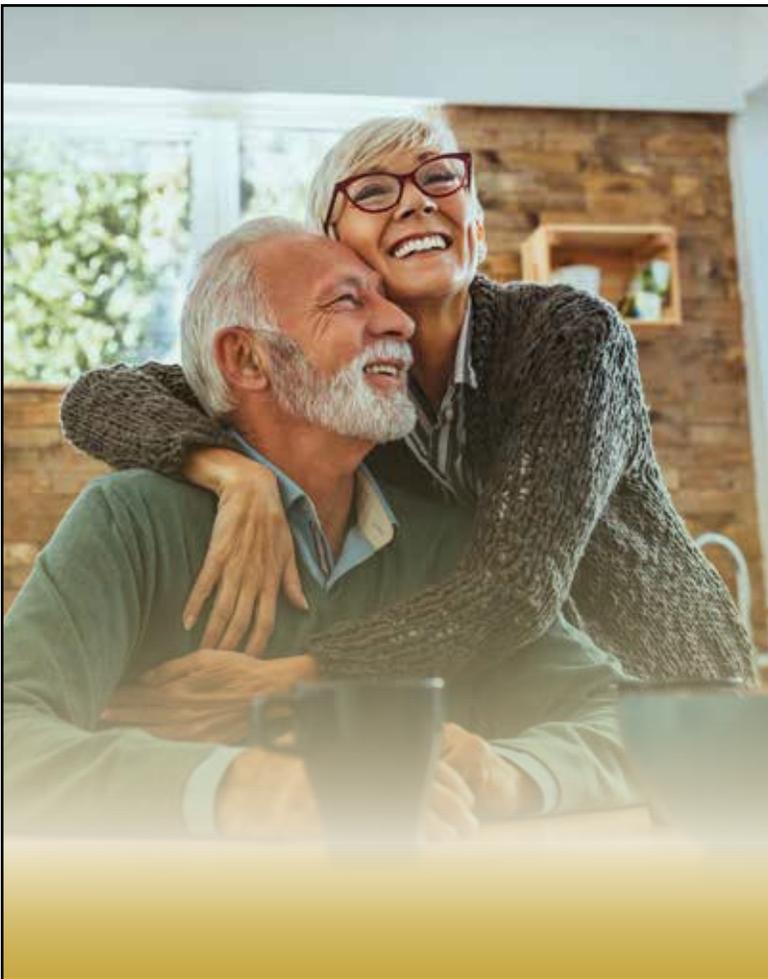
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Darren Endris receives Phil McCabe 5 Bugle Award

When the Biloxi Fire Department recognized nearly two dozen acts of bravery and gallantry during its annual awards ceremony recently, Firefighter III Darren Endris was honored with the chief's award.

"He is the ideal of what a public servant should be, and he possesses a natural ability to inspire others through his gentle, encouraging actions," Biloxi Fire Chief Joe Boney said during his presentation of the Phil McCabe 5 Bugle Award, also known as the chief's award.

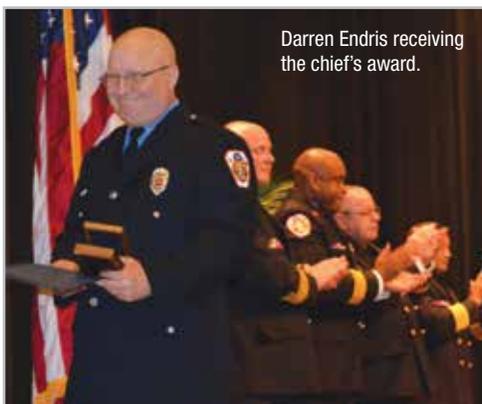
The award, given to a firefighter or firefighters, "based on observed behavior and attitude," is named for the first chief of the Biloxi Fire Department, who served from 1883 to 1894 and is credited with helping establish the city's first fire company, Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1, on Sept. 19, 1883, a date generally considered the birthdate of the Biloxi Fire Department.

"The criteria used to consider one for the Phil McCabe 5 Bugle Award states that the recipient should be a member of the department who models the mission and vision of the department, and one who exemplifies the departmental values of strength, honor, excellence, dedication, and service," Chief Boney said. "I can think of no one who has endured what this man has, yet maintains his values and ethics."

Darren Endris has been serving the department since November 1994.

Other awards presented were:

- **EMT Recognition:** Firefighters Nick Allen, Morgan Howe, Adam Rudolph, and Michael Woods
- **Certificate of Commendation:** Deputy Chief John Jennings, and Firefighters John LeGrand, Kenny Matlock, Jeff Hinton, Mike Lurix, and Travis Sexton
- **Certificate of Appreciation:** Sherry Bell, Chief Mike Beyerstedt on behalf of the Gulfport Fire Department, Ann Marie Borries,



Darren Endris receiving the chief's award.



Cono Caranna III and Greg Stewart on behalf of Margaritaville, James Carver and Charles Wise on behalf of American Medical Response, Les Clark, Jennifer Claverie, Keith Crosby, Jason Dalton on behalf of Firehouse Subs, Chief Keith Davis on behalf of Department of Marine Resources, Chief James Donnett on behalf of Keesler Air Force Base Fire Department, Chief Chase Edwards on behalf of Combat Readiness Training Center, Jimmy Freeman, Phil Frisby, Al Green, Carson Harris, Mark Holland on behalf of Desporte's Paper Company, Jeff Jenkins and Charles O'Hala on behalf of Harrah's Casino, Ron Lessner, Bobby Mahoney on behalf of Mahoney's, Mark McCrindle, Christy Milbourne, Chief John Miller on behalf of Biloxi Police Department,

Kevin Murray, Patty Nash, Chief Jeff Ponson on behalf of Ocean Springs Fire Department, Tina Rexrode on behalf of Papa John's Pizza, Charmaine Schmermund, Sean Shoemake, Vernon Smith, Katy Stallings, Chief Pat Sullivan on behalf of Harrison County Fire Service, Ira Fey Tremmel, Susan Varnes on behalf of Treasure Bay Casino, Kristi Vermillion on behalf of The Shrimpossibles, Trudy Vilarrubia, Susan Walker and Arika Zandee on behalf of Smoothie King

- **Longevity Ribbon:** William Wiley, 40 years; Clay Courtney, 25 years; Michelle Crowley, 25 years; Jeremy Foreman, 25 years; and Scott Kelley, 25 years
- **Unit Citation:** Captain Jeff Walden and Firefighters Joe Bates, Brian Capehart, Nick Dubuissou, and Mark Seymour; Battalion Chief David Williams, Captain Matt Powell, and Firefighters Daryle Bradley, Matthew Bozeman, Kevin Dill, Justin Lopez, John Massey, Ken Morton, and Jesse Richard
- **Firefighter of the Year:** Captain Matt Powell, Captain Robert Weikal, and Firefighters Daryle Bradley, Derrick Gates, Morgan Howe, Justin Lopez, and Mickey Worzella
- **Keesler Federal Credit Union 1st Responder of the Year:** Firefighter Kenny Matlock
- **Life Saving Award Medal/Ribbon:** Captain Brian Rouse, Firefighters Sammy Jenner, Robert Romero, Gerry Thibodeaux, Brian Williamson, Battalion Chief David Williams, and Firefighters Shawn Battise, Cameron Whiteside, and Mike Sigman
- **Medal of Merit:** Inspectors Will Fairley, Caleb Hudson, Brian McLeod and Bobby Powell and Firefighters Aaron Dorcik, Al Hampton, and Scott Kelley.

The awards ceremony was held on Nov. 29 at the Biloxi Civic Center.

Biloxi Police Department announce promotions

More than two dozen police officers were promoted during a ceremony recently at Biloxi City Hall.

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich, Biloxi Police Chief John Miller and other officers and officials recognized 27 officers for earning an increase in rank. Three captains, eight lieutenants and sixteen sergeants were pinned with their new badges in front of family and friends. The officers will serve in supervisory roles throughout the four department divisions: Patrol, Investigations, Administrative Support, and Administrative Services.

Those promoted to captain were Michael



Lt. Michael Brennan being pinned with his new badge by wife Terretta Brennan.

Brumley, Milton Houseman, and Louis Soldo; those promoted to lieutenant were David

Abbott, O'Neil Adams, Michael Brennan, Brian Dykes, Thomas Goldsworthy, Jason Guich, Willard Hipple, and Louis Moran; and those promoted to sergeant were Matthew Boone, Matthew Dedual, David Elliott, Grandver Everett, Clint Fore, Keith Garner, Kristopher Hines, Robert Jolly, Christopher Keckler, Marlin Ladner, J. Thomas Lamb, Jay Morgan, William Payne, Thomas Snyder, Steve Stafford, and Shane Steele.

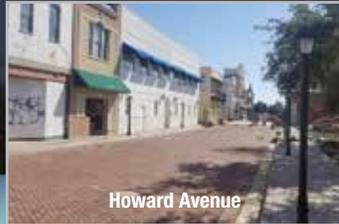
The ceremony took place on Nov. 30 in front of a standing room only crowd. Many family members and friends who were in attendance and assisted officers with the pinning of their new badge.



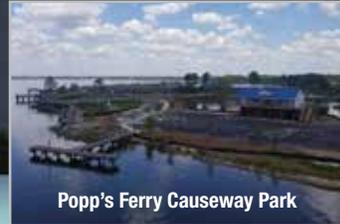
Rendering of Barq Building



The West Biloxi Boardwalk



Howard Avenue



Popp's Ferry Causeway Park



The paving continues

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BILOXI

We thank our many partners, on federal, state and local levels, for the tremendous progress we have achieved together in the past year, and we look forward to 2019 with great optimism.

7/70

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich
and the Biloxi City Council
George Lawrence • Felix O. Gines
Dixie Newman • Robert L. Deming III
Paul A. Tisdale • Kenny Glavan
Nathan Barrett

Visit us online at biloxi.ms.us

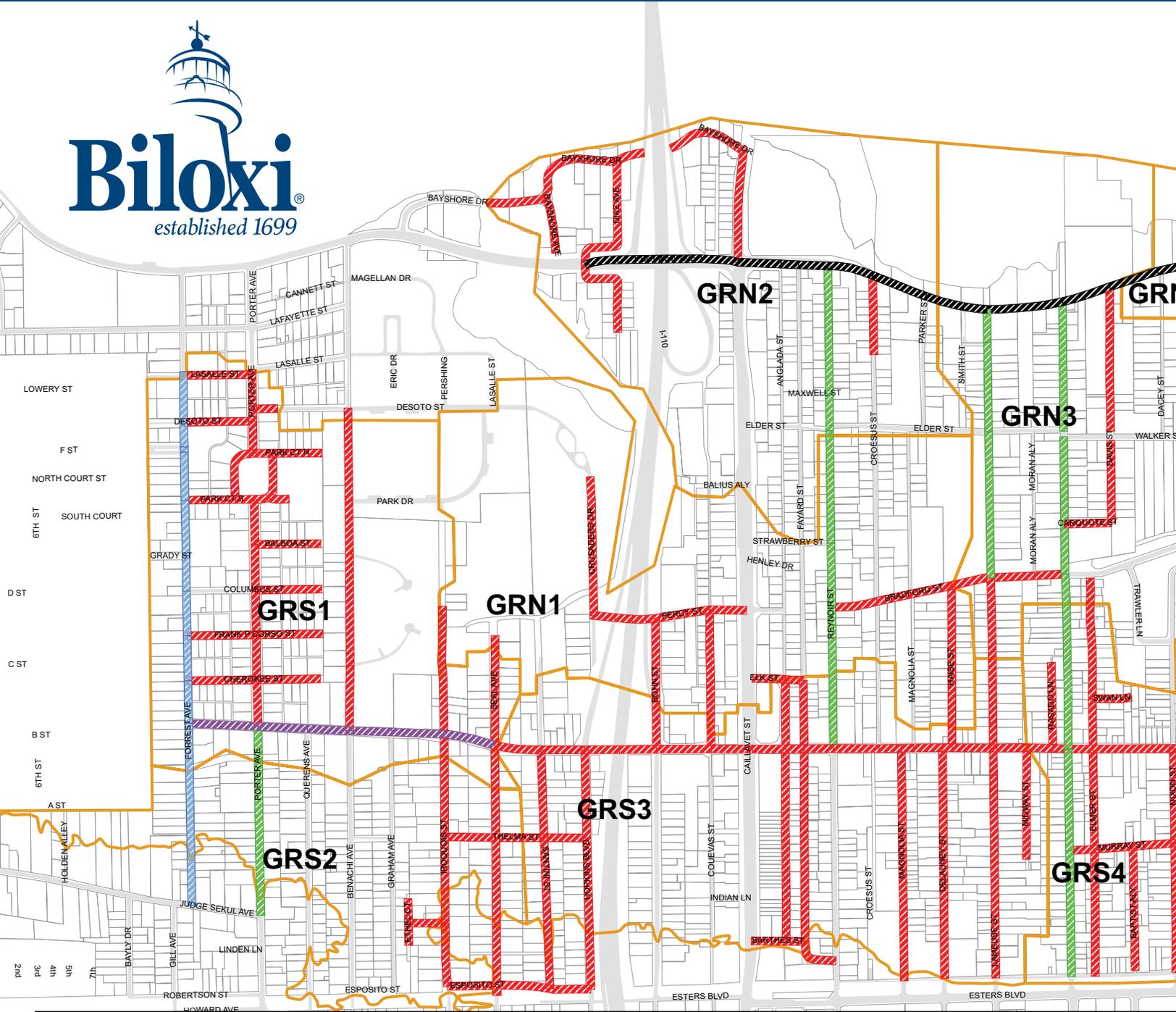


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Infrastructure Repair Program North Contract



Progress is speeding up, but we need a couple of things

1. You'll see orange bags at storm drains in the construction zone. Please do not move these bags. They filter the rainwater so sediment does not enter the new storm drains.
2. Please keep our road crews in mind as you travel east Biloxi. The speed limit is 15 mph throughout the construction zone.

Roads Paved as of Dec. 13, 2018



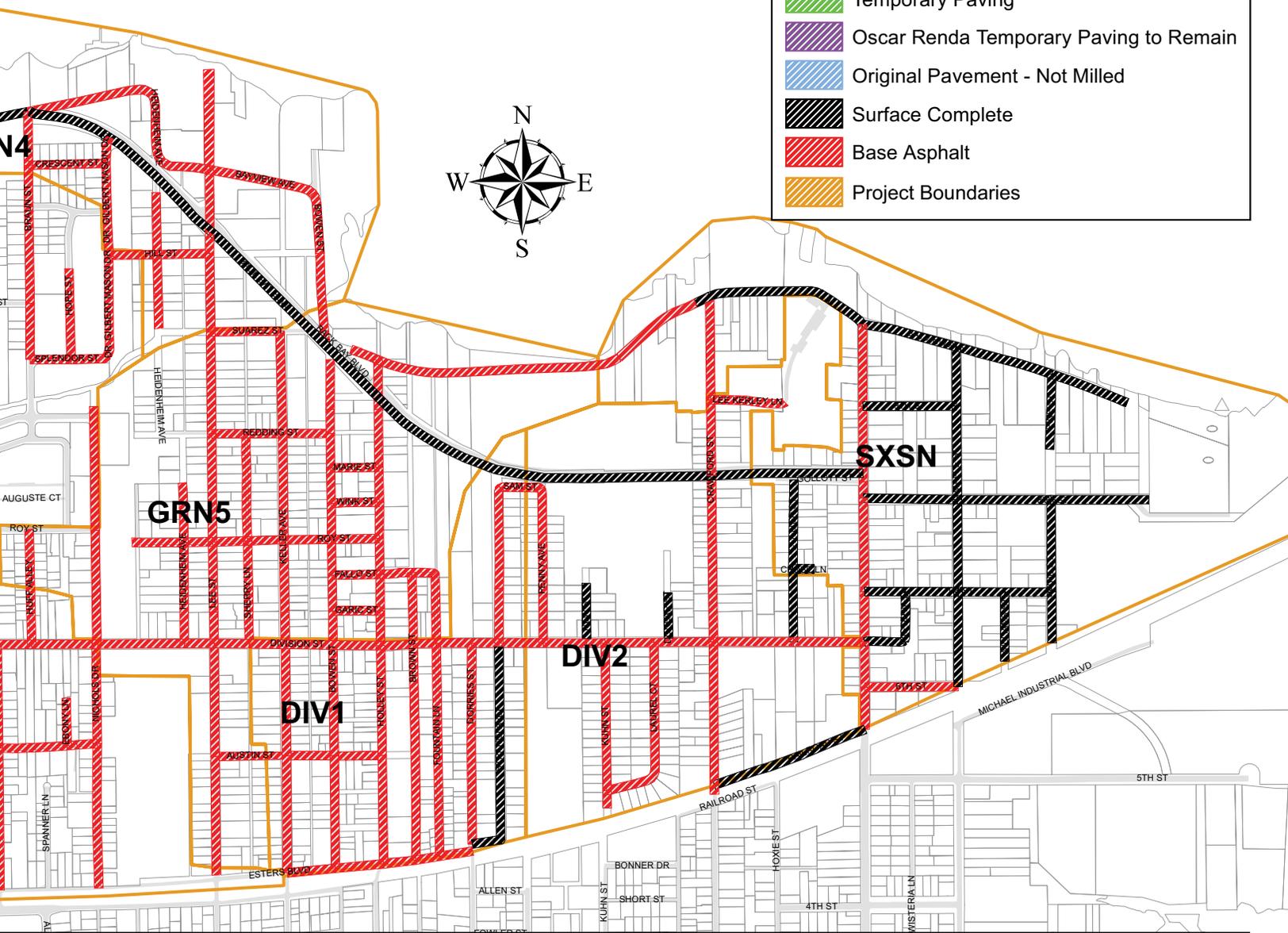
See detailed maps and videos of progress at www.biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi

Legend

PAVING

Construction Status

- Temporary Paving
- Oscar Renda Temporary Paving to Remain
- Original Pavement - Not Milled
- Surface Complete
- Base Asphalt
- Project Boundaries

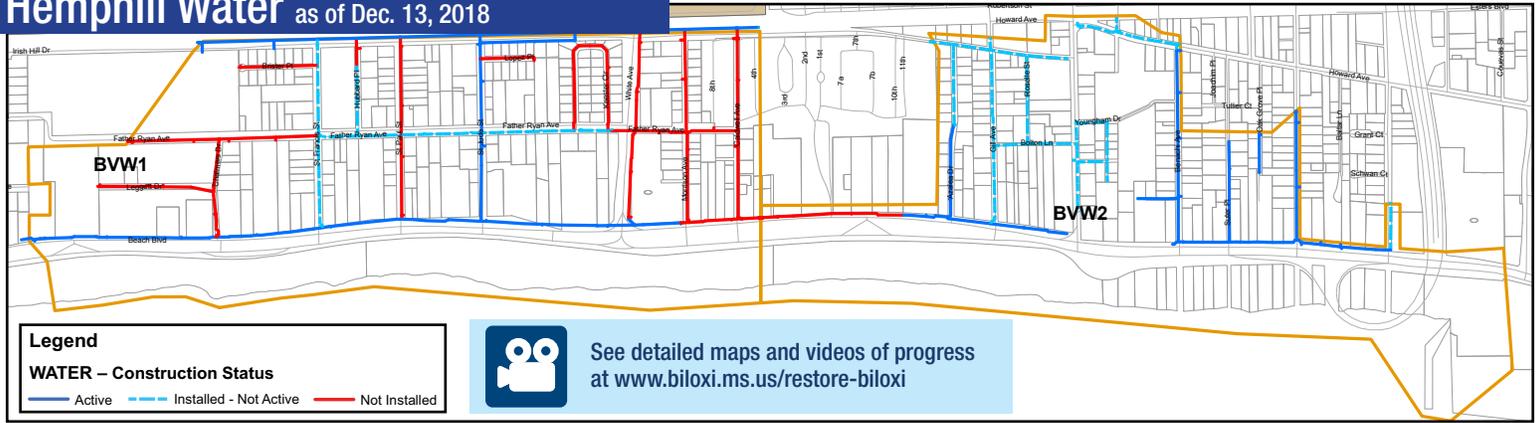


**Oscar Renda Contracting and their families
thank you.**

**OSCAR RENDA
CONTRACTING**

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.

Hemphill Water as of Dec. 13, 2018



Hemphill Sewer as of Dec. 13, 2018



Hemphill Drainage as of Dec. 13, 2018



Hemphill Paving as of Dec. 13, 2018



Best Bets!



And so the Mardi Gras season begins

On Jan. 5, Biloxi will officially usher in the Mardi Gras season with the Twelfth Night celebration. The Gulf Coast Carnival Association's Royal Court will turn the Christmas lights off at Biloxi Lighthouse and parade to the Biloxi City Hall. The occasion also serves as a reminder of the religious significance of Carnival, often lost on the tens of thousands of revelers at Mardi Gras parades. Twelfth Night, the twelfth day from Christmas, is the night before the Epiphany, the day when the three wise men visited the infant Jesus, foretelling the revelation of God the Son being born as a human. 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 Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum for their Oyster Ball Drop. Live entertainment by Blackwater Brass, heavy hors d'oeuvres, full bar, party favors, beignets to go and fireworks! Admission is \$50. Details and to reserve tickets: 228-435-6320.

Registration for CASA volunteer winter training class, Jan, 2 – Feb. 2; Online at casaharrisoncounty.org. CASA, or Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, will be hosting a training class on Feb. 5-23. Preregistration is required to attend. \$30 registration fee applies. Details: 228-865-7078.

Annual Biloxi Twelfth Night, Jan. 5, 5 p.m. Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd., Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. The Gulf Coast will officially change from the holiday season to carnival season with the celebration of Twelfth Night when the reigning Royal Court of Gulf Coast Carnival Association will be presented to extinguish the Christmas lights at the Biloxi Lighthouse. The entourage will then board a float and parade to Biloxi City Hall at 6:30 p.m. Details: 228-374-3105

Frosty Kroc Run, Jan 12, 8:30 a.m. along the Biloxi Bay Bridge with start and finish at the Golden Nugget, 151 Beach Blvd. Races include a 1 mile fun run, 5K, and 10K. Packet pick up begins Friday Jan. 11, 5-8 p.m. at The Salvation Kroc Center, 575 Division St.. Details: 228-207-1218; Registration: <https://www.raceentry.com/race-reviews/frosty-kroc-run>.

Mississippi Senior Olympics Registration, Jan. 15-March 15. Open to ages 50 and older. Various state games will be played at various venues along the coast in March, April and May.



Games include 5K and 10K Run/Walk, 1500M/5K racewalk, 1500M/5K power walk, archery, badminton, basketball, bocce ball, bowling, cycling, darts, disc golf, golf, horseshoes, pickleball, racquetball, shuttleboard, swimming, table tennis, tennis, track & field, triathlon and volleyball. Details: www.msseniorolymp.org/.

Best Bet!

Coastwide MLK Celebration

The annual Coastwide MLK Celebration has gained a reputation over the years for having a top-notch lineup of events including the annual MLK parade. The 2019 theme is "Be the Difference" and activities include a MLK Gospel concert in Pascagoula and a MLK Fundraiser Old School Party in Gulfport, both on Jan. 18; The Village Social Justice Symposium in Long Beach on Jan. 19; a Sunday Inspirational in Biloxi on Jan. 20; and the MLK parade in downtown Biloxi followed by the MLK Battle of the Bands at MGM Park. Details: www.mlkcoastwide.com.



Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the eighth 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 392-0641
- Auto Tag/Property Tax Information 435-8242
- Birth Certificates 601-576-7960
- Building Permits 435-6270
- Business Licenses 435-6247
- 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



Biloxi Excel By 5 January Orientation, Jan. 15, 9:30 a.m. and Jan. 31, 9:15 a.m. in cafeteria at Biloxi Family Resource Center, 140 St. John Ave. Orientation is monthly through April for parents/caregivers. Orientation is required before children may play in the interactive rooms. Details: 228-297-6808 or email susan.hunt@biloxischools.net.

Life Line Screening, Jan. 17, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Preventative health screening event with screenings related to blocked arteries, enlargement of the aortic, hardening of the arteries in the legs, atrial fibrillation or irregular heartbeat, and bone density screening. Fees apply. Details: 1-888-653-6441 or visit online at www.lifelinescreening.com/community-circle/.

Sunday Inspirational with James Meredith, Jan. 20, 4 p.m., Biloxi Civic Center, 578 Howard Ave. This event is part of the 2019 Coast Wide Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. activities. Free event. Details: www.mlkcoastwide.com

MLK Parade, Jan. 21, 10 a.m., Downtown Biloxi. Dozens of marching bands, floats, walking units and more will parade downtown Biloxi for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. parade. For parade route and other coast wide Dr. Martin Luther King activities, visit www.mlkcoastwide.com.

MLK Battle of the Bands, Jan. 21, MGM Park, 105 Caillavet St. Admission: \$5. Details: www.mlkcoastwide.com.



Bike Biloxi, Jan. 21, 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.



Annual State of the City Address, Jan. 22, 11 a.m., Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, Magnolia Ballroom, 875 Beach Blvd. Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich will deliver his annual State of the City presentation during a Biloxi Bay Chamber of Commerce luncheon. Doors open at 11 a.m. Program begins at 11:30 a.m. Tickets: \$40 per person for open seating; \$400 for reserved table for 10 people. Details: 228-435-6149.

Best Bet!

Mississippi Senior Olympics

Calling all active seniors, age 50 and older. Do you want to be part of a healthier lifestyle? Well, the Mississippi Senior Olympics may be for you. Registration opens on Jan. 15 for the annual state games, which takes place along the Mississippi Gulf Coast in March, April, and May. Activities include more than 20 games and opening and closing ceremonies. Register online at www.mseniolymp.org.



Biloxi Little Theater

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

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Jan. 25, 26, 27, & 31

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.

Lighthouse Tours daily, 8-9:30 a.m.

Biloxi Mardi Gras Museum

119 Rue Magnolia, 228-435-6308, www.biloxi.ms.us • Closed for renovations.

The museum will re-open 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

- **Jazz Jam Session** last Sunday of each month 4-7 p.m.
- **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:** Jan. 4, 11, 18, and 25, Early Bird starts at 6:30 p.m., regular games 7 p.m.; Cash prizes, drawing and gifts.
- **Going Out (Steak Nights and Dances):** Jan. 5, 12, 19, and 26; Prices vary. Live entertainment: Kenny Holloman and South Breeze, Jan. 5; Southwind, Jan. 12; Marsha Gaines and Razzoo, Jan. 19; & Nick Mattina and The Checkmates, Jan. 26.

Fleur de Lis Society of Biloxi (French Club)

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

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
30	31 Story Time Woolmarket Library New Year's Eve Oyster Ball Drop Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum	1 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi Southern State Indie Film Fest Palace Casino Resort	2 Ice Skating MS Coast Coliseum Southern State Indie Film Fest Palace Casino Resort	3 Community Market Story Time MSherry Library Ice Skating MS Coast Coliseum Southern State Indie Film Fest Palace Casino Resort	4 Ice Skating MS Coast Coliseum Southern State Indie Film Fest Palace Casino Resort	5 12th Night Celebration Biloxi Visitors Center Ice Skating MS Coast Coliseum
6	7 Story Time Woolmarket Library	8 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	9	10 Community Market Story Time MSherry Library	11 First Friday Downtown Biloxi PCA Rodeo Finals MS Coast Coliseum Smokey Robinson Beau Rivage	12 Frosty Kroc Run Golden Nugget Biloxi Bay Bridge PCA Rodeo Finals MS Coast Coliseum The Great Escape Tribute to Journey Hard Rock
13 PCA Rodeo Finals MS Coast Coliseum	14 Story Time Woolmarket Library	15 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi MS Senior Olympics Registration Begins Today Excel by 5 Orientation Biloxi Family Resources Center	16	17 Community Market Story Time MSherry Library Life Line Screening Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center	18 Engelbert Humperdinck Beau Rivage	19 Biloxi Gun & Knife Show MS Coast Coliseum Great White Hard Rock
20 Biloxi Gun & Knife Show MS Coast Coliseum Sunday Inspirational with James Meredith Biloxi Civic Center	21 Story Time Woolmarket Library MLK Parade Downtown Biloxi MLK Battle of the Bands MGM Stadium Bike Biloxi Visitors Center	22 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi State of the City Address Beau Rivage Magnolia Ballroom	23	24 Community Market Story Time MSherry Library	25 Peter Cetera Beau Rivage	26 TLC Hard Rock
27	28 Story Time Woolmarket Library	29 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	30	31 Community Market Story Time MSherry Library Biloxi Excel by 5 January Orientation Biloxi Family Resource Center	1	2

The golden era of Biloxi's silver screens

The recent opening of Biloxi Premiere LUX Cine & Pizza Pub, Edgewater Mall's comfortable, all-digital movie theater, calls to mind Biloxi's theaters from back in the day.

Did you know that Biloxi's first theaters were all on Howard Avenue? Yes, along with shopping, banking, touring and dining, you also found movie theaters downtown, before commerce began moving west.

Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra

Here's a tour of a few memorable movie theaters:

Dukate's Theater

In 1899, one of Biloxi's earliest theaters was contrived by local businessman Mr. W. K. M. Dukate. It was on the north side of Howard Avenue, just west of Lameuse Street and seated about 700 patrons and included a balcony, pit, and box seats.

The Air Dome

On April 19, 1909, Biloxi celebrated its new outdoor theater on Howard Avenue: the "Air Dome." It was immediately east of Nativity and was on a 122-foot-by-140-foot lot and had 1,250 seats. The carpentry of this bench-seating arrangement and its covered stage was provided by Harry Haise. The audience could experience the Gulf breezes while star gazing with an unlimited ceiling.

Traditional theaters

Biloxi telephone directories reveal that movie theaters (aka "Motion Picture Theatres") were centered in the heart of the city. The Avenue Theater, in fact, was situated right on the south side of Howard Avenue between Magnolia and Delaney streets. What's there now? A parking lot servicing downtown and Merit Health Biloxi.

In July 1941 the Harlem Theatre opened on Main Street, near Division Street, to serve the African-American community. The steel-framed building, constructed for \$15,000, could seat 525 in an air-cooled theater with modern projection equipment.

Traditional theaters were not limited to downtown. Other theaters were once located inside the Edgewater Mall, in Edgewater Village (Cinema Tavern and later known as Silver Screen), on Beach Boulevard (the Surf Side), and even inside the IP Casino, pre-Katrina.



Saenger Theater, opening day, Jan. 15, 1929.



Saenger Theater

January 15, 1929 was opening day for this magnificent downtown theater. Complete with talking and singing pictures, this "Gem of the Gulf Coast" was lauded as a "temple of pleasure." It boasted the newest movie technology with sound by Vitaphone, which meant music and talkies could now be experienced. No more silent pictures in Biloxi with this newest theater! An 84-minute film, produced in 10 reels, "Interference," was the Saenger's first movie. A 110-piece orchestra and a three-act vaudeville show followed that film later in the day.

The flat-roofed, bricked-front Saenger was designed by architects Roy Benjamin and A.H. Perry Co., in the classical revival architectural style. On the evening of Nov. 16, 1974 a transformer fire occurred, injuring a brave Biloxi firefighter. The City of Biloxi purchased the theater, which over the years became home to the Gulf Coast Symphony, children's dance groups and an occasional community theater production.

Today, the Saenger is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, but is in need of repairs and restoration. The city in 2019 plans to announce formal fund-raising plans for the project, which will lead to the re-use of the theater.

Drive In Theaters

Biloxi had three drive-ins over the years: The Do (on Pass Road, at the present-day site of the Walmart Neighborhood Market), The Don (opened in 1956 on the footprint of the old United Artist Theater, where Biloxi Super Wal-Mart is now), and the Beach, which is the current site of an RV park.

Admission

Admission to the early downtown theaters was about 15 cents. In the 1980s and 1990s, a youngster could to watch a movie during the summer at the Saenger for six Pepsi bottle caps. It was called a "bottle cap movie."

Food

Today's modern theater offers quite an assortment of both adult and traditional beverages. Biloxians of old will fondly recall the amazing smell and taste of theater popcorn and the "pickle for a nickel" concessions in years gone by, now replaced with the upscale offering of all-you-can-eat, self-serve popcorn and tasty pizza.

Et cetera

Trying to remember what movie you saw on that first date decades ago? Visit the Local History and Genealogy Department/Biloxi Public Library where you can see local movie ads in years gone back through their amazing newspaper microfilm collection, which dates back to 1888!

There's also a great online archive of Biloxi movie theater info online at <https://biloxihistoricalsociety.org/movie-theatres>.

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



Ami Pizza?

Ami Pizza? offers handmade, specialty pizzas fired up to 900°F in the Mississippi Gulf Coast's largest duo capacity wood and gas oven and cooked to a crispy perfection. Ami Pizza? is sure to provide the warm, authentic Italian flavors you know and love.

Lounge Nocherie

Get cozy this winter as we open our new coffee venue, Lounge Nocherie. With a dual-sided fireplace and luxury lounge seating, you will be able to sip on freshly brewed coffees and indulge in decadent, homemade pastries and cakes. Lounge Nocherie is sure to be your new, undeniable favorite.



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BNews Monthly

JANUARY 2019

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich
and the Biloxi City Council
George Lawrence • Felix O. Gines
Dixie Newman • Robert L. Deming III
Paul A. Tisdale • Kenny Glavan
Nathan Barrett

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