Blevs Monthly FEBRUARY 2019

A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi

Biloxi
established 1699

City OKs The District, \$54-million downtown development

For months, the city has touted a developer's rendering of a fully restored Barq Building in downtown Biloxi, with upstairs living and downstairs retail. But, the fact is, the resurrection of that long-dormant building, once a centerpiece downtown, is only part of the downtown plan.

The Biloxi City Council has approved a plan that will see \$54 million in development in downtown Biloxi, with construction to begin in October 2019 – "soon," says the developer – and the first of five mixed-use properties open by July 1, 2021.

► See background at biloxi.ms.us/thedistrict

Developer Lee Young outlined a plan that will involve five Howard Avenue sites he has purchased - the Barq, Woolworth, Kress and Gryder buildings, along with the site where the Upstairs-Downstairs nightclub and Spanish Trail books once stood.

Young plans to offer 230,000 square feet of boutique shops, local breweries, restaurants, and music venues, 330 residential units consisting of one-, two- and three-bedroom

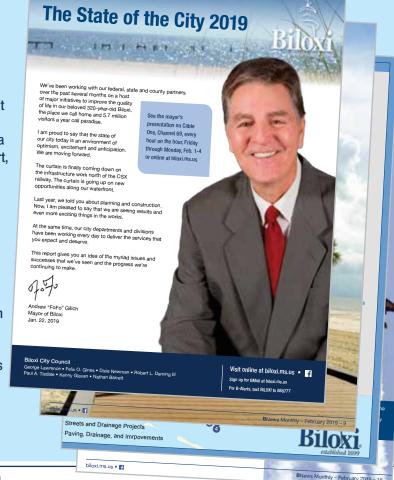
units and 20,000-square feet of office space.

For his investment, Young sought and received sales and property tax abatements that could trim millions from his investment.

"What we're seeing here is a developer who has skin in the game and is looking to make a major investment in revitalizing our downtown," Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich said. "We will continue to collect the property and sales taxes we're receiving now, but he'll get a break on any new development he creates. It's all performance-based, with a timeline for construction and opening."

On the move

- ► See the citywide program of work, along with a department-by-department highlights of progress. It's a 10-page report, Pages 8-18
- ➤ See the mayor's presentation on Cable One, Channel 69, every hour on the hour, Friday through Monday, Feb. 1-4 or online at biloxi.ms.us



Deadline for north contract comes and goes; work continues

The contracted deadline of Jan. 6, 2019 has come and gone on the north contract, which means the city is now assessing infrastructure contractor Oscar Renda \$6,000 a day.

Says Jennifer Matranga of Oscar Renda: "There are change orders we have in the works, namely the holdup on Reynoir Street and the expansion of drainage pipes on a half-dozen other streets. The fact is, we're down to less than seven miles of streets that need paving, and we're working hard to get them done."

No doubt about it, she says: The curtain is coming down on the \$128 million contract, which once saw most of the 55 miles of roadway north of the CSX turned to dirt.

Adds Matranga of pending progress: "We have put down asphalt on Querens and Graham. We are completing the deepest of the storm drain on Benachi, and should be installing road base on Porter next week. We are also installing the final course of asphalt on Oak Street, Kuhn, Laurel and additional streets on the east end of the project."

- ► See the map, Pages 12-13
- ► Video: See the monthly video update, biloxi.ms.us/restorebiloxi
- ➤ Video: See the mayor's comments in State of the City, biloxi.ms.us/sotc2019

In Biloxi, nicknames are super glue. They stick.

So it was a discussion early on: Would it be Mayor Andrew M. Gilich Jr.? Or Mayor "FoFo" Gilich, or, as he preferred, "FoFo."

Issues of familiarity and pomp and circumstance aside, it's also a legal issue, given the state and federal documents needing signatures and the millions of dollars attached, especially on infrastructure work.

Alas a compromise: It's "A.M. Gilich Jr." on state and federal documents and locally, it's "FoFo" Gilich, or as he prefers, just "FoFo."

It's sort of a Biloxi thing on steroids, this Biloxi affinity and affection for nicknames. Here, they're just a matter-of-fact kinda thing.

Lest we forget, this is a mayor who for years has navigated the swirling currents of opinion known as the Slavonian Lodge, that East Biloxi cultural center, Ground Zero of what outsiders affectionately (sometimes) refer to as "the land of the 'itches."

You'd think the "itch" part is colorful enough, but it's the nicknames. Consider a few, past and present: Anthony "Crash" Pitalo, Nicholas "K-9" Filipich, Vincent "Visko" Kuluz, Marion "Stag" Pitalo, or, even further back, "Hardware Matre" Pitalo or "Cafe Matre" Pitalo. And who could forget Ramon "Ziggy" Gutierrez? Or "Pancho" Kovacevich, who has a son named Michael "Oobie" Kovacevich.

Elsewhere in Biloxi, you'll find at least two people named Jerry Creel, but only one Jerry "Sunshine" Creel, whose real name is actually Gerald James Creel, a brother of a longtime county leader, George Nicholas "Nicky" Creel.

Nicknames – and memories – endure, especially in cases where the colorful monikers have been immortalized.

There was F. "Yankie" Barhanovich, the benevolent civic leader and impresario who, sadly, didn't live long enough to see the sign at Biloxi Municipal Stadium changed to "Yankie" Stadium.

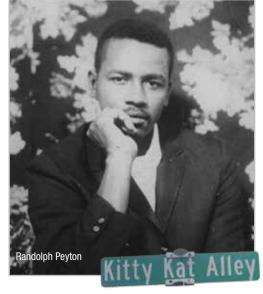
The post-Katrina volunteers from New York City were surprised to hear that many of Biloxi's relief operations were being run out of Yankie Stadium.

"Biloxi has a 'Yankee Stadium'?" they declared, incredulously.

"Yes, we have a 'Yankie Stadium,'" and they learned the story of F. Yankie Barhanovich. The "F" stands for Frank, a pronunciation found difficult by his Croatian-born mother and younger brother, Steven "Gramp" Barhanovich. Frankie came out Yankie. It stuck.









People may not recognize the name

Randolph Peyton, but mention "Kitty Kat,"
and Biloxi originals will know you're referring
to the former Biloxi Dodger who's a member
of the National Negro League Hall of Fame
and the Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame. He was
also renowned for his culinary talents, either
as part-owner of the Kitty Kat restaurant or at
his outdoor grill and smoker. So endearing, he
was, that the city posthumously honored him

the other day: The patch of street in West Biloxi where he and his wife, Willene, raised their family is now known as "Kitty Kat Alley."

Of course nicknames may also expose the subject to ridicule from those who crack wise.

Back in 2001, the stand-up comedian Sinbad was in town during the heated (aren't they all?) mayoral race between Andrew Joseph "A.J." Holloway Jr. and challenger "FoFo" Gilich.

"Coming into town I saw these signs all over saying FoFo," Sinbad (real name David Adkins) said during his show. "Who is Foo-Foo?" he asked to a chuckling crowd.

Flash forward more than a decade later. The new mayor, "FoFo" Gilich, and First Lady Serena Sablich Gilich were at a Biloxi First roast at the IP as Sinbad was performing at the IP theater.

"You remember years ago when you were in Biloxi and you asked, 'Who is Foo-Foo?'" a smiling Gilich asked the comedian. "Well, I'm 'FoFo' Gilich and I'm mayor."





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AA-rated city sees nine million-dollar months

A state report issued shows Biloxi had nine milliondollar sales tax months in 2018, the first time since the heady days pre-Katrina.

Biloxi's share of sales taxes posted in 2018 amounted to \$12.7 million, slightly above the \$12.4 million in 2017, but nonetheless a milestone considering million-dollar months were posted in January, April, May, June, July, August, September, October and November.

The last time the city saw nine million-dollar months was in 2004, when total sales taxes for the year were \$12.34 million.

"All of our economic indicators are moving in the right direction," says Community Development Director Jerry Creel. "2018 was the highest year for sales tax revenues that we have experienced in my 16 years at Community Development."

Sales taxes, along with gaming and property taxes, are the three main revenue streams in the city's \$55

million annual operating budget.

The tax collections news arrives in at the same time that analysts at Standard & Poor's have affirmed the city's AA-/Stable credit rating. The financial report card was published as part of the city's pending \$14 million bond issue for a host of improvement projects

Said the S&P Global Ratings report, issued Jan. 9:

"Over the past several years, the city has seen significant swings in revenue and expenditures stemming from a roughly \$340 million capital campaign under which Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds are being used to repair damage caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Despite the protracted capital campaign, the city has been able to maintain stable operations and strong

See financial info at biloxi.ms.us/resources/financial-report/



Sidewalks project headed for Woolmarket

The City of Biloxi and the Mississippi Department of Transportation have signed an agreement that could see a million dollars worth of sidewalks installed in the Woolmarket community.

The new ADA-compliant sidewalks, which could be under construction this time next year, would run from the intersection of Woolmarket Road and Lorraine Road, north on Lorraine Road to the Nature's Trail subdivision, and from the intersection of Woolmarket Road and Lorraine Road east along Woolmarket Road to Airport Road.

The 10-foot-wide sidewalks would be constructed in existing rights-of-way and would cover 6,500 linear feet, or more than a mile.

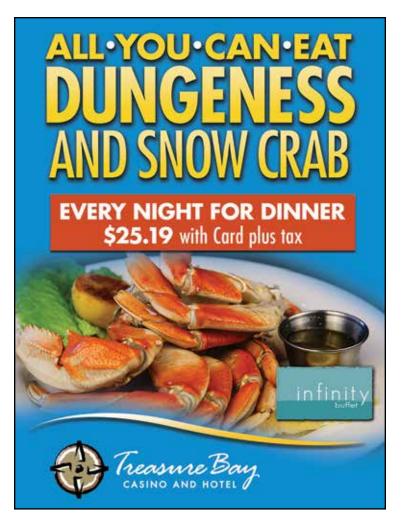
"It's all about public safety and having a walkable community in a growing part of our city," said Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich. "We certainly appreciate MDOT and the Federal Highway Administration for helping make this project happen, and we look forward to getting this project started."

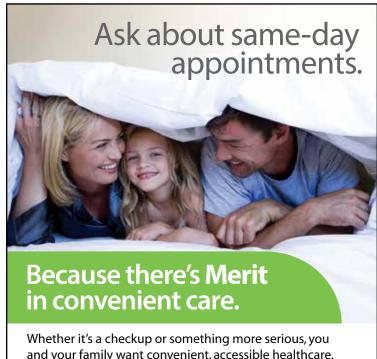
The Memorandum of Understanding between MDOT and the city will set in motion funding of up to \$880,000 in MDOT and Federal Highway Administration money, with the city contributing a 20 percent match, or about \$176,000. Biloxi's share of the funding will come from a pending \$14 million infrastructure improvements bond that will fund a host of projects citywide.

Once MDOT approves Biloxi's design documents the project can be advertised and bids accepted. Work could begin by late fall 2019 and be completed in early 2020.

News

- Mardi Gras routes: The question has come up about road work and Mardi Gras parades. Word is Porter Avenue south of CSX railway and Howard Avenue will be repaved in time for the Tuesday, March 5 Gulf Coast Carnival **Association** parade. The Krewe of Neptune parade on Saturday, March 2 does not travel west of Caillavet, avoiding roadwork.
- Cyclist warning: Motorists and cyclists, remember the rules of the road. Cyclists should travel with traffic, using a bike lane if available. Motorists, state law requires you have three-feet clearance when passing a cyclist.
- Map it: If you're looking for an online map, check out biloxi.ms.us/maps. You'll also find the usual street maps, but you'll find a grave-locator map for Biloxi City Cemetery, MDOT traffic-camera maps, flood maps, Mardi Gras parade maps, and even a map showing where you can legally operate a short-term rental, a hot topic these days. That's biloxi.ms.us/maps.
- Just the facts: When accidents or emergency repairs block major thoroughfares, the city is able to immediately notify more than 7,000 people through text alerts. Sign up now for the free B-Alert service. From your cell phone, text BILOXI to 888777.
- Air show: This summer's air show - officially Thunder Over the Sound: The Keesler and Biloxi Air and Space Show - now has a Facebook presence, www. facebook.com/KBAirshow.



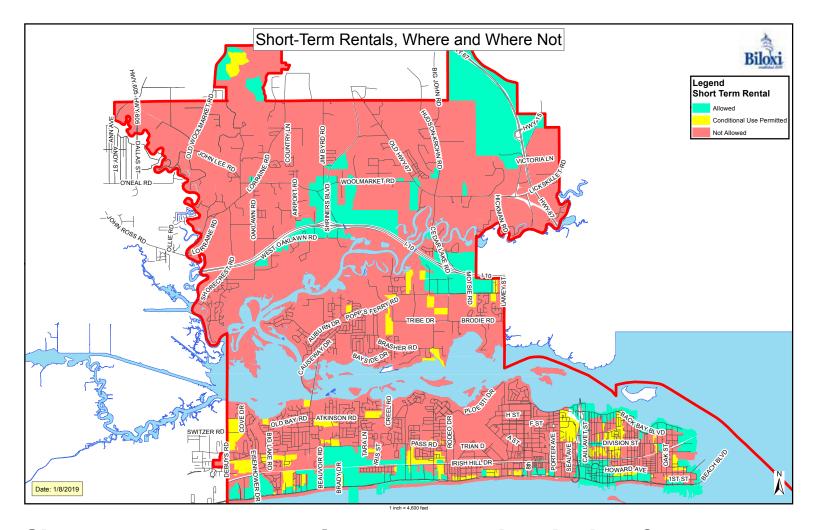


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Short-term rentals causing long-term headaches for some

The Biloxi City Council has stopped short of issuing a moratorium on short-term rentals in land zoned for apartments and condominiums. but councilmembers say they want the permitting process reviewed.

At issue: Residents complaining about disruption to their homes or nearby residential condo units vs. the rights of developers and investors in what some see as a burgeoning market, those seeking short-term rentals.

The short-term rental issue, buoyed by online sales and marketing, has become an option for those travelers whom operators say favor a bed-and-breakfast setting over a hotel. Tracking and regulating the short-term rentals - making sure zoning allows the operation and that appropriate taxes are paid - can be a challenge for city, county and state officials, who all share a level of oversight.

For instance, online services could boast a hundred or more short-term rentals operating in Biloxi, but the city has issued only 16 permits for short-term rentals.

Those advertising online have also become savvy in hiding the true locations of their shortterm rental. And hoteliers, who face a gamut of taxes and regulations, question whether operators are paying Coliseum, tourism and sales taxes, and if their property receives a homestead exemption, a tax break that is supposed to be reserved for owner-occupied

Here's the list of short-term rentals

Online services will display dozens of short-term rentals in and around Biloxi, but here are the 16 operating legally in the city, as of Jan. 10, 2019:

1096 Beach Blvd. 136A Comfort Pl. 2244 Beach Blvd. 121 Kuhn St. 128 A Lee St. 276 Bohn St. 129 Lee St. 280 Bohn St. 386 Meaut St. 156 Briarfield Ave. 157 A & B Briarfield Ave. 133 Reynoir St. 131 Comfort Pl. 137 Reynoir St. 140 Travia Ave. 133 Comfort Pl.

Have an issue with a short-term rental, email Code Enforcement at

dking@biloxi.ms.us or call 228-435-0841.

dwellings.

"Short-term rental has become a very controversial issue, especially in the multifamily zones," said Biloxi Community Development Director Jerry Creel. "The interest we're seeing today can be traced back to 2010, when the Land Development Ordinance was changed to allow short-term rentals in condos and apartment complexes - as a conditional use. This means that the applicant must comply with certain conditions; Planning Commission and City Council approval are also required."

Added Creel: "In commercial zones, shortterm rentals are allowed without a conditional use. No short-term rentals are allowed in single-family residential zones. The whole purpose is to protect the property rights of all."

There are now about 18 cases involving short-term rental requests working their way through the zoning process, all in apartment or condominium complexes.

The issue last month involved a host of residents who live in or near the 48-unit Cypress Cove, a front beach apartment complex that was converted to condominiums vs. owners of Cypress Cove and those who have bought units with the idea of marketing them as short-term rentals.

After hearing complaints from neighbors, council members voted 5-2 to deny the permit for the short-term rental at Cypress Cove. Councilmembers Dixie Newman and Robert Deming III sought more information and abstained from the vote.

Said Creel: "Anyone buying property, whether it's for a short-term rental, or for a home or any business, for that matter, should do their due-diligence. Check with the city before entering into any contract or contract negotiations. Check on zoning and be sure what's allowed and not allowed."



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March-May, 2019

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CELEBRATION OF ATHLETES*

May 3, Point Cadet Plaza, 5-8 p.m.

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- 1500M/5K Racewalk 1500M/5K Power Walk
- Archery Badminton
- Bocce Ball
- Disc Golf
- Horseshoes Pickleball
- Racquetball

Track & Field Volleyball

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Swimming Table Tennis

MSO 2019 is not a qualifying year for the National Senior Games

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The State of the City 2019

over the past several months on a host of major initiatives to improve the quality of life in our beloved 320-year-old Biloxi, the place we call home and 5.7 million visitors a year call paradise.

I am proud to say that the state of our city today is an environment of optimism, excitement and anticipation. We are moving forward.

The curtain is finally coming down on the infrastructure work north of the CSX railway. The curtain is going up on new opportunities along our waterfront.

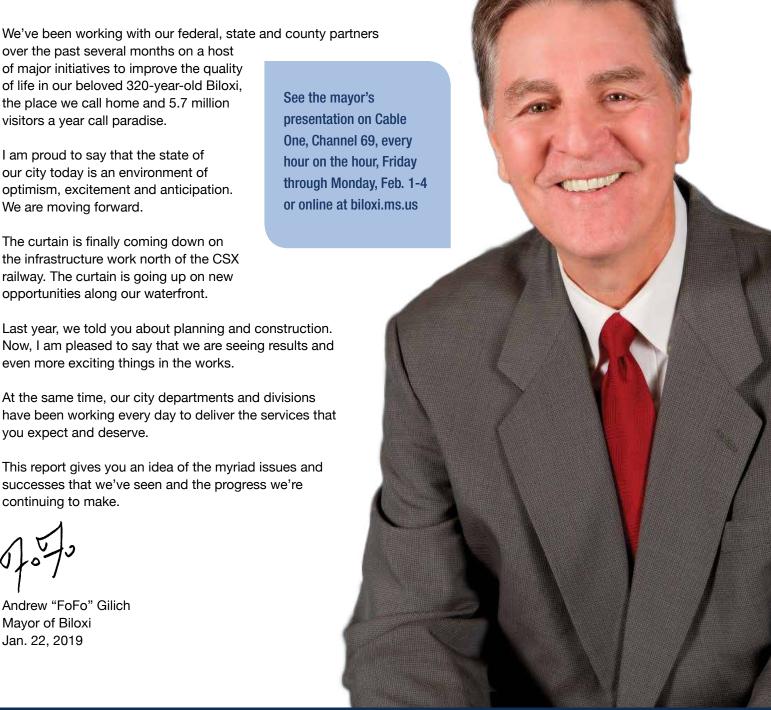
Last year, we told you about planning and construction. Now, I am pleased to say that we are seeing results and even more exciting things in the works.

At the same time, our city departments and divisions have been working every day to deliver the services that you expect and deserve.

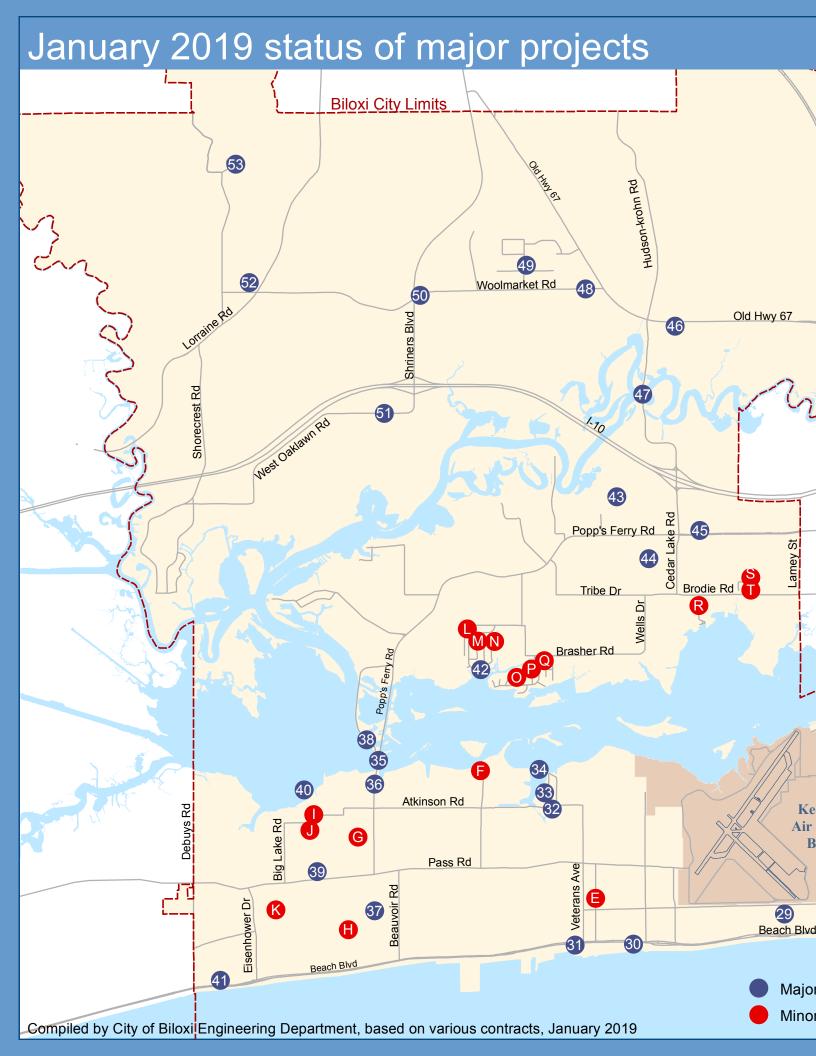
This report gives you an idea of the myriad issues and successes that we've seen and the progress we're continuing to make.

Andrew "FoFo" Gilich Mayor of Biloxi Jan. 22, 2019

See the mayor's presentation on Cable One, Channel 69, every hour on the hour, Friday through Monday, Feb. 1-4 or online at biloxi.ms.us



2019 Departmental Annual Reports Administration Department Bond rating remained at AA-, one of best in the state Projected \$58.2 million in revenue, received \$58 million in revenue, and projected \$61.2 million in expenses, had \$57.1 million in expenses Employees 633; saw 11 retirements. Hired 68 permanent and 61 seasonal employees Installed and/or updated wireless access at the Popp's Ferry Causeway Park, Dr. Frank G. Gruich Sr. Community Center, Biloxi Visitors Center, Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center, Community Development, City Hall, Fire Station 1, Biloxi Small Craft Harbor and Point Cadet Marina Installed security cameras at Popp's Ferry Causeway Park West Beach Boardwalk MARRISON COU The West Beach Boardwalk, a \$1.1 million project where the city and county pooled Tidelands funds, gives residents and visitors a glimpse of what can be done along the waterfront, and it's an example of the success we can achieve through a great city-county-state partnership. BNews Monthly - February 2019 - 9 ms.us • 📑



HWY 15 Bayview Ave 17 1209 esler I-110 Caillavet St Force Oak St ase Division St 6 8 Howard Ave

Major streets and drainage projects, cost and status Includes under design, under construction, pending or completed

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East Biloxi Public Access	\$1.9 million	Under Construction
Point Cadet Boardwalk	\$700,000	Conceptual
3. Point Cadet Marina Electrical Upgrades	\$250,000	Construction Pending
Point Cadet Marina Dredging	\$230,000	Complete
5. Point Cadet Excursion Pier	\$364,000	Complete
Sixth Street South Infrastructure (SXSS)		Construction Pending
7. Hurricane Nate Repairs to Oak Street North Pier	\$5,000	Complete
CSX Railroad Closure & Esters Blvd Extension	\$1.1 million	Design
9. Canaan Fishing Dock Dredging	\$36,000	Complete
10. Canaan Fishing Dock Reconstruction	\$5 million	Design
11. East Biloxi Police Substation	\$100,000	Design
12. Old Brick House Sidewalk & Living Shoreline	\$75,000	Design
13. Small Craft Pedestrian Overpass	\$2.4 million	Under Construction
14. North Contract (Katrina Infrastructure)	\$129 million	Under Construction
15. Main Street Railroad Crossing Upgrades	\$210,000	Design
16. Howard Avenue Project	\$2.2 million	Under Construction
17. Hurricane Nate Repairs to Ice Wharf Pier	\$15,000	Complete
18. Saenger Theater Interior Renovations	, ,,,,,,	Conceptual
19. Saenger Theater Exterior Repairs	\$2 million	Design
20. South Contract Phase 2 (BVE 1 & 2)	\$24 million	Design
21. South Contract Phase 1 (BVW 1 & 2)	\$23.4 million	Under Construction
22. Visitors Center Renovations	\$100,000	Conceptual
23. Lighthouse Pier Repairs	\$160,000	Under Construction
24. Keesler Gate Outside Project	\$18.3 million	Design
25. Keesler Gate Inside Project	\$6.2 million	Under Construction
26. Bayview Waterfront Restoration Project	\$2.0 million	Design
27. Cemetery Digital Mapping	\$10,000	Complete
28. Cemetery Digital Mapping Phase 2	\$20,000	Under Construction
29. Natatorium HVAC Installation	\$50,000	Complete
30. West Beach Boardwalk Phase 1A	\$1.3 million	Complete
31. West Beach Boardwalk Phase 1B	\$2.5 million	Design
32. Hiller Park Playground Covers	\$20,000	Under Construction
33. Hiller Park Recreational Trails	\$45,000	Design
34. Hiller Park Dredging	\$320,000	Complete
35. Popp's Ferry Bridge Submarine Cable	\$1.4 million	Under Construction
36. Popp's Ferry Bridge From Riverview to Pass Roa	ad\$75.0 million	Design
37. Popp's Ferry Extension	\$18.3 million	Design
38. Popp's Ferry Causeway Park	\$3.6 million	Complete
39. Snyder Center Roof Repairs	\$151,000	Under Construction
40. Mercedes Dr. Dredging	\$130,000	Complete
41. West Contract (Katrina Infrastructure)	\$33.5 million	Design
42. Holley Hills Dredging	\$205,000	Under Construction
43. Ellzey Street Extension to Medical Park Dr	\$1.0 million	Design
44. Sports Complex Tennis Court Resurfacing	\$30,000	Complete
45. Fire Station 7	\$4.2 million	Under Construction
46. Fire Station 10	\$2.4 million	Under Construction
47. Cedar Lake Bridge Repairs	\$900,000	Design
48. Woolmarket Road East Drainage	\$3.5 million	Design
49. Woolmarket Plantation Water	\$1.4 million	Under Construction
50. Woolmarket Road Sidewalks	\$1.0 million	Design
51. Eagle Point Infrastructure Phase 2 (EPT2)	\$1.5 million	Under Construction
52. Woolmarket City Center Renovations	\$250,000	Conceptual
53. Belle La Vie Parkway	\$1.5 million	Design

${\bf Minor\ Paving,\ Drainage,\ and\ Improvements,\ cost\ and\ status} \\ {\bf Includes\ under\ design,\ under\ construction,\ pending\ or\ completed}$

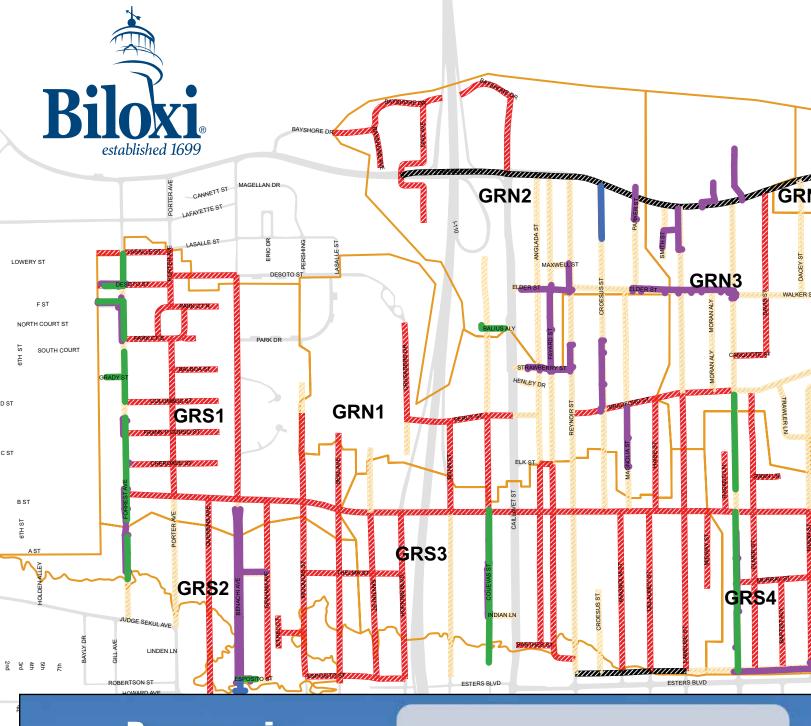
A. Dukate Street Paving	\$14,000	Construction Pendir
B. Main Street Paving	\$8,500	Complete
C. Luke Drive Paving	\$3,400	Complete
D. Tremont Drive Paving	\$32,700	Complete
E. McDonnell Ave Paving	\$126,500	Complete
F. Ward Lane Striping & Paving	\$18,500	Complete
G. Bay Vista Drive Paving	\$6,000	Complete
H. Mercury Ln Speed table	\$8,800	Complete
I. Walda Dr Paving	\$6,600	Complete
J. Pennzoil Park Paving	\$20,000	Complete
K. Audubon PI, Perdido Cv & Biscayne Cv Paving	\$53,000	Complete
L. Pine Hills Dr Paving	\$6,800	Complete
M. Canterbury Dr Paving	\$24,000	Complete
N. Sharon Hills Paving	\$38,000	Complete
O. Hillside Drive Paving	\$5,000	Complete
P. El Camino Drainage	\$1,900	Complete
Q. Clearview Dr Drainage Repair	\$19,000	Complete
R. Bay Breeze Drive Drainage	\$1,800	Complete
S. Darius Dr Speed tables	\$8,800	Complete
T. Darius Ct Concrete Repairs	\$3,500	Complete

established 1699

Paving, Drainage, and Imrpovements

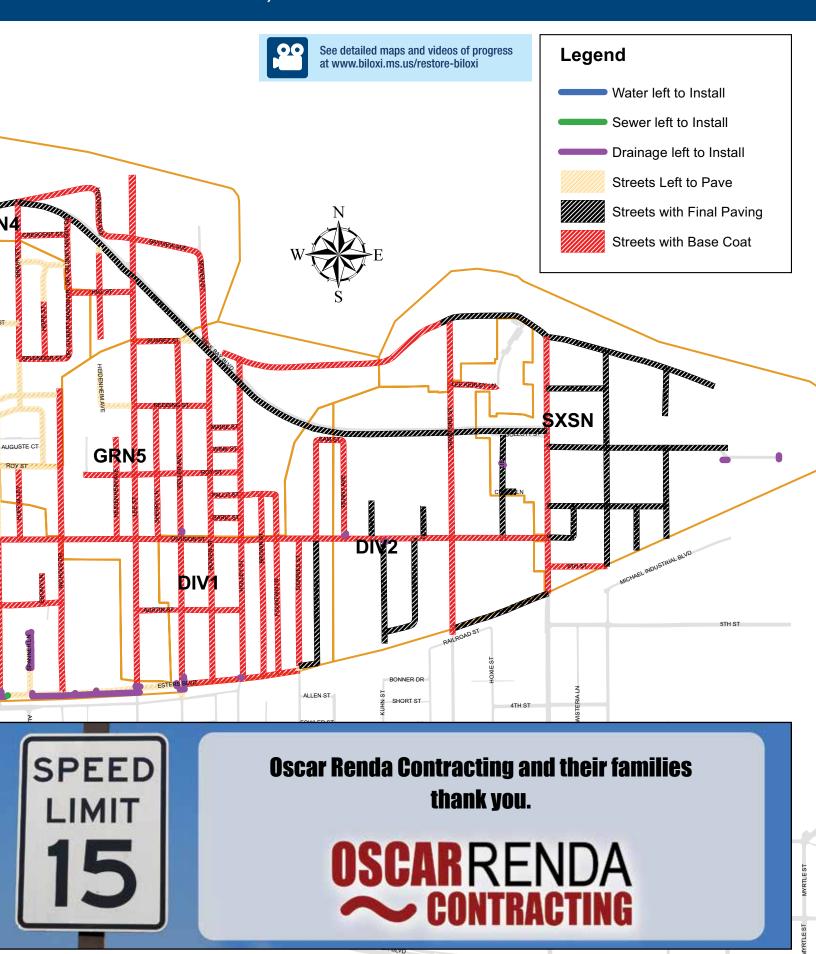
Streets and Drainage Projects

Infrastructure Repair Program North Contract

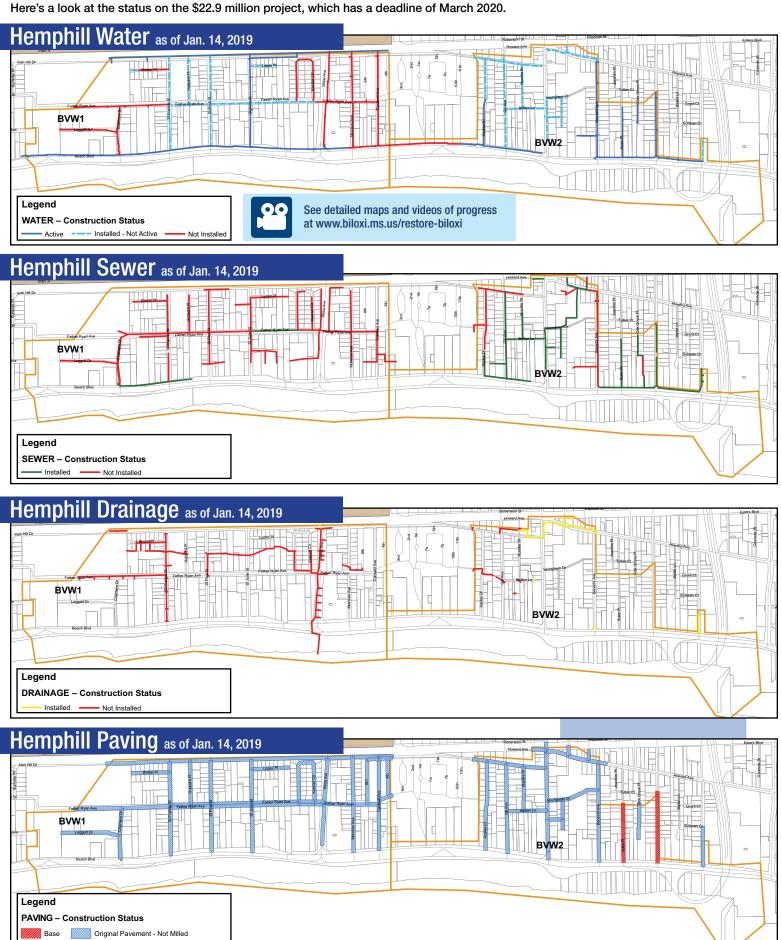


Progress is speeding up, but we need a couple of things

- 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.



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 Development

- \$28 million increase in overall construction, including 35 homes and \$3.1 million increase of residential permits issued
- Issued more than 3,000 permits, including 474 for commercial and 630 for residential
- Saw the completion of Camping World RV Sales and Service Center, Saltgrass Steakhouse, Premier Cinema at Edgewater Mall, Sunbelt Lighting store, Circle K Convenience Store, a new multi-purpose building for the First United Methodist Church and Southern Supply Warehouse
- Permits were issued for major commercial projects: MDOT Pedestrian

In 2018, Biloxi had 9 million-dollar sales tax months. That had not happened in a calendar year since 2004, yes, pre-Katrina. Crosswalk, restaurant renovations at IP Casino, SkyZone at Edgewater Mall, West Beach and Point Cadet boardwalks, Fire Stations 7 and 10, Beach Vista Apartments, Small Craft Harbor Pedestrian Overpass, Fritz multi-use building in downtown, three-tenant outparcel at Edgewater Mall to include Brick and Spoon Restaurant, Sugar Factory remodel at Hard Rock, build-out for Solid Rock Baptist Church, and a new laser tag structure at Big Play Entertainment

- Construction and renovations continued on the Watermark Hotel, Hilton Garden Inn and Suites, and Waffle House, all on Beach Boulevard
- Issued 247 new business licenses; 11 peddler licenses and 76
 Certificates of Appropriateness for construction in historical districts or of historic landmarks
- Planning Commission oversaw 71 cases, and conducted public hearing for each
- · Reviewed 64 projects and approved 48 site plans
- Issued 74 residential and 13 commercial tree permits and distributed 700 trees
- Maintained "State Best" rating of 5 in the Community Rating System (CRS)
- · Biloxi Lighthouse was visited by 2,414 guests
- · Biloxi Visitors Center welcomed 138,815 and 305 events
- Biloxi Civic Center hosted 79 public events

Engineering Department

- Completed projects include Dredging at Canaan Fishing Dock, Hiller Park, Holly Hills, Mercedes Drive, and Point Cadet Marina; installation of speed tables on Darius Drive; building and opening of the Point Cadet Excursion Pier, Popp's Ferry Causeway Park, West Biloxi Boardwalk Phase 1A, resurfacing of the tennis courts at A.J. Holloway Sports Complex and Hurricane Nate repairs to Ice Wharf and Oak Street North piers
- About 125 more homes and businesses in the Woolmarket area in the process of receiving access to city sewer
- Management of the Hurricane Katrina Infrastructure Replacement Projects continues, with the largest being the North Contract
- · Management of South Contract began
- · Completed 530 service requests
- Completed more than 250 work orders, including videoing sewer and storm drain lines, inspecting ditches, and drainage issues
- · Construction underway on Keesler Inside the Gate project
- Completed first stretch of Howard Avenue project with a new brick roadway
- Completed Phase 1 of the Cemetery Digital Mapping Project



The city-produced "Blues over Biloxi" airshow in July 2018, a partnership with Harrah's and The Blind Tiger, attracted 150,000 visitors and drove weekend hotel occupancy to reach an astounding 97 percent. Get ready for the Thunderbirds, May 4-5, being produced in cooperation with Keesler Air Force Base.

BNews Monthly - February 2019 - 15



Fire Department

- Responded to 7,444 calls for service, an increase of 261 calls from last year
- · Medical emergencies account for 67 percent of calls
- 11 firefighters completed certifications for EMTs
- Installed 423 smoke detectors in 103 residences
- Conducted 4,390 fire inspections and 237 certificates of occupancy inspections
- Issued 55 burn permits
- Approved 18 outdoor fireworks displays and four indoor pyrotechnic shows
- Completed ninth year for the Fire Academy for Kids summer camp
- · Completed second annual R U Ready community outreach event
- · Secured more than \$1.8 million in grants
- · Put into service a 27-foot Fire Prevention and Safety Trailer
- Put into service a Breathing Air Truck to increase capability for an endless supply of breathing air in the field, first of its kind in Mississippi
- Put into service the Serena G, a 33-foot all-aluminum vessel with fully enclosed cabin capable of treating and transporting patients to land
- Began construction of two new fire stations: Station 7 at 1672 Popp's Ferry Road and Station 10 off Old Highway 67 east of Cedar Lake Road
- Conducted controlled burns on four structures
- · Hired 12 new recruits
- Raised \$3,000 for the purchase and donation of 58 bicycles for the annual Asgard Christmas Toy Run
- Assisted in 10-day relief effort to stricken first responders and community members in Michael-devastated Port St. Joe, Fla.

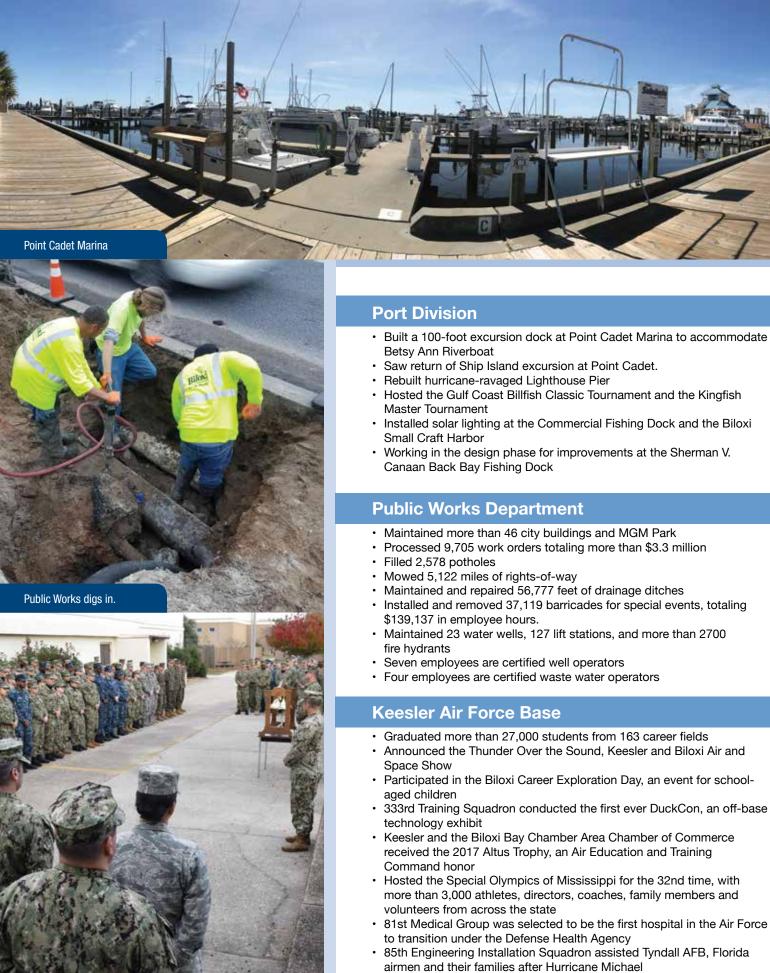
Legal Department

- Partnered with county to re-capture \$1.5 million in countywide tax collections to support public harbors and marinas
- Updating and enforcing leases and implementing new leases generated another \$500,000

Police Department

- Responded to 117,112 calls for service, a decrease of 5,554 calls from 2017
- · Officer-initiated calls represent 66 percent of call volume
- · Calls for service generated 6,192 arrests
- · Rescued 456 animals
- Investigations Division resolved 31 percent of all felony crimes, a rate above the national average
- Investigated 10 citizen complaints, a decrease of 33 percent from last year
- The three K9s and handlers conducted 65 narcotic searches and 365 explosive searches
- Four sworn officers retired and 20 sworn officers were hired
- Three dispatchers resigned and three were hired
- · Five non-sworn employees were hired
- Department employed 130 sworn officers and 52 civilians
- Assisted with several events, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade, Mardi Gras parades, Spring Break, Blues Over Biloxi air show, Scrapin' the Coast, Cruisin' the Coast, Mississippi Gulf Coast Marathon, Christmas parades, and a presidential visit
- · Investigated and resolved the four homicides of 2018
- Resolved more than 34 percent of felony cases, above the national average





· Reserve warriors, 403rd Wing, flew 655 hours and 83 missions in 12

named Atlantic and Pacific storms

Our Keesler cousins



Community Calendar

February 2019

Best Bets!

Hey, Bud: It's Clydesdales – up close and personal

Mark Feb. 6 at 5:30 p.m. on your calendar. Sandwiched amongst the calendar of Mardi Gras parades along the Coast in February, Biloxi will have a special parade: The world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales will be in town for a late-afternoon, mid-week, miniparade downtown. The stately team of Clydesdales will parade from MGM Park, turning south on Caillavet Street, east on U.S. 90, turning north on Lameuse Street and stopping at Biloxi City Hall at 6 p.m. for photos with the public, then turning east on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and south on Main Street. The significance of Feb. 6? "The significance of Feb. 6 is that anytime you can get the Clydesdales, you get them," says Don Marie of Mitchell Distributing Co. "They called us, and we said YES. I think it's been a few years, back when Keesler did its last air show that they were in town. "This Feb. 6 event is a great time for people to come out and see them up close - all eight of them, along with the famous Dalmatian." Details: 228-435-6339.



First Friday, on hiatus for February; Returns March 1, 2019. Details: 228-435-6339.

Mississippi Senior Olympics Registration, through March 1; msseniorolym.org. State games open to ages 50 and older and includes various sporting events taking place along the Mississippi Gulf Coast March – May. Details: msseniorolym.org

Mercy Housing HUD Home Buyer Education Class, 3rd Friday of the Month. Details: 228-896-1945.

Gallery 782, Feb. 1-23, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 773 Jackson St., "Pop Up Photography Special Show." The Artwork of all photographers of Gallery 782. Details: 228-436-7782.

7th Annual "Run for the Beads" 1-mile Fun Run/5k, Feb. 2, 7:45 a.m. registration;

8:45 a.m. 1 mile; 9 a.m. 5K. Registration and race start across from Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Post-Race Party with drinks and food will also be across from City Hall. Register on-line at: www. gulfcoastcarnivalassociation.com. Details: 228-432-8806.

Baseball and Softball Registration,

Feb. 2, & 9, 9 a.m.-Noon, Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Rd. Baseball is open to ages 4-16 (must be 4 by April 30, 2019) and softball is open to ages 5-16 (must be 5 by Jan.1, 2019). Fees apply. Details: 228-388-2483.

Clydesdale Parade, Feb. 6, 5:30 p.m. The famous Budweiser Clydesdales will be in Biloxi to parade downtown! The parade will begin at MGM Park, turning south on Caillavet Street, east on U.S. 90, turning north on Lameuse Street and stopping at Biloxi City Hall at 6 p.m. for photos with the public, then turning east on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and south on Main Street. Details: 228-435-6339.

Friday Morning Serial, Feb. 8 & 15, 8-9 a.m., Gulf Coast Community Design Studio, 769 Howard Ave. Free, public event. Group discussions. Feb. 8 event to feature Garrett Greene, Biloxi Shuckers team ambassador and announcer. Feb. 15 event to feature Dr. James Del Prince, horticulture specialist at the Mississippi

State University Coastal Research and Extension Center. Details: 228-436-4661.

Best Bet!

Mystical Magic of Mardi Gras

The annual Biloxi
Second Liners parade
will take place in downtown

Will take place in downtown
Biloxi on Saturday, Feb. 16 at 1 p.m.
Themed "Mystical Magic of Mardi Gras,"
the parade will travel from Nichols
Drive, west on Division Street, north
on Caillavet Street, east
on Esters Boulevard
and end at Doris C.
Busch Park, 675
Esters Blvd. The
parade is
organized by The
Second Liners

Mardi Gras Club,

founded in East Biloxi and began in 1993 when a group of residents decided to have a neighborhood parade, which primarily consisted of children and wagons. Over the years the annual procession has grown and several times boasts as many as 80 units of all shapes and sizes. Details: 228-435-6346 or 228-365-9070.

Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the ninth 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 435-6259
•	Mayor's Office
•	Museums Information 435-6244
•	Parks & Recreation
•	Planning Commission 435-6266
•	Public Schools
•	Streets and Drainage 435-6271
•	Visitor Info 374-3105 or 1-800-BILOXI-3
•	Water Service 435-6236

Annual Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Soldier. Feb. 15, 6:30 p.m. and Feb. 16, 11 a.m., Beauvoir The Jefferson Davis Home & Presidential Library, 2244 Beach Blvd. International Order of Odd Fellows will be celebrating their Eighty-fourth Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington, Virginia, and



their second pilgrimage ceremony at Beauvoir to honor the Unknown Confederate soldier. Admission charged. Details: 228-388-4400 x217.

Second Liners Mardi Gras Club Parade, Feb. 16, 1 p.m. Parade route begins on Nichols Drive, travels west on Division Street, north on Caillavet Street, east on Esters Boulevard and ends at Doris C. Busch Park, 675 Esters Blvd. Details: 228-435-6346 or 228-365-9070.



Bike Biloxi, Feb.19, 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.

Gumbo with Julian, Feb. 20, 10 a.m., Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum, 115 1st St. Sharpen your gumbo skills, from roux to holy trinity, and learn the finer points of buying and cooking fresh seafood. The museum will be partnering with local food writer Julian Brunt for a monthly lunch and learn class. The class will be held at 10 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the museum. For just \$30 guests will be able to attend the entire class and stay for lunch, which will include a bowl of gumbo and rice, drink and receive a copy of Julian's gumbo cookbook. If you do not have time to attend entire class, lunch will be available at 11 a.m. for \$20. Details: 228-435-6320 or outreach@maritimemuseum.org.

Seniors Mardi Gras Mambo Luncheon and Dance, Feb.22, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Mardi Gras themed luncheon and dance open free to ages 55 and older. A King, Queen, Grand Duke, and Duchess will be crowned by random drawing. Door prizes will be given out and entertainment will be provided. Details: 228-388-1340.

Special Needs Mardi Gras Ball & Dance, Feb. 22, 6-9 p.m. Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Mardi Gras themed event open free to all with physical and mental disabilities. A King, Queen, Grand Duke, and Duchess will be crowned by random drawing. Hors d'oeuvers will be available, door prizes will be given out and entertainment will be provided. Details: 228-388-7170

Annual Biloxi Children's Mardi Gras Walking Parade, Feb. 23, 10 a.m., downtown



Biloxi. Children ages 12 and younger will parade downtown Biloxi. This year's theme is "It's all on the Line" and celebrates everyday heros. Registration forms available at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. and online at www.biloxi.ms.us. Late registration begins one hour before parade start. Details, 228-374-3105 or visitor@biloxi.ms.us.

3rd Annual Krewe of Barkloxi Bow Wow Pawrade, Feb. 24, Noon-1 p.m. registration/check-in followed by parade. Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. Details and to register, visit: hssm.org/events/krewe-of-barkloxi-3rd-annual-bow-wow-pawrade/ or call 228-822-3802 or 228-435-6149.

Best Bet!

Annual Biloxi Children's Mardi Gras Walking Parade

The annual Biloxi Children's Mardi Gras Walking Parade, set for Saturday, Feb. 23 at 10 a.m., is open to youngsters age 12 and younger who want to be creative, dress in



costumes, and decorate their bicycle, wagons or the like. This year's theme is "It's all on the Line" in tribute to everyday heroes, entertainers and business leaders who put their lives and money on the line in the hopes of making a difference and finding success. The family event includes a parade, which begins at I-110 and Howard Avenue, travels east on Howard across the newly bricked road, south on Lameuse and ends at Biloxi City Hall. Festivities will continue at City Hall with a costume and float contest, refreshments and Mardi Gras themed art activities. The event is sponsored by the City of Biloxi, Mardi Gras Museum and Gulf Coast Carnival Association. Details: 228-374-3105.

Biloxi Little Theater

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

• One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Feb. 1-2

Center Stage

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

• Ain't Misbehavin', Feb. 14-24

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

- Bubbles & Bonbons: A Galentine's Affair, Feb. 8, \$25, 6-8 p.m.
- Jazz Jam Session, Feb. 24, \$10, 4-7 p.m.
- Check the website for more events and 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

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
27	Story Time Woolmarket Library	Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	30	Community Market Story Time MSherry Library	Rodney Carrington Beau Rivage 38 Special Hard Rock	7th Annual Run for the Beads 1-mile/5k Gulf Coast Community Design Studio Baseball/Softball Registration Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center Rodney Carrington Beau Rivage Cher MS Coast Coliseum
Pop Up Photography Special Show Gallery 782	4 Story Time Woolmarket Library	5 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	Clydesdale Parade Downtown Biloxi	7 Community Market Story Time MSherry Library	Friday Morning Serial Gulf Coast Community Design Studio	Baseball/Softball Registration Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center
10	Story Time Woolmarket Library	Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	13	14 Community Market Story Time MSherry Library	HUD Home Buyer Education Class Friday Morning Serial Gulf Coast Community Design Studio Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Beauvoir The Guess Who Golden Nugget Penn & Teller Beau Rivage My Friday Valentine Hard Rock	Second Liners Mardi Gras Parade Downtown Biloxi Rodney Carrington Beau Rivage Lifehouse Hard Rock
17	Story Time Woolmarket Library	Market Story Time W. Biloxi Bike Biloxi Visitors Center	Gumbo with Julian Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum	Community Market Story Time MSherry Library	Biloxi Boat Show MS Coast Coliseum Seniors Mardi Gras Mambo Luncheon & Dance Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center Special Needs Mardi Gras Ball & Dance Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center Parliament featuring George Clinton Beau Rivage	Biloxi Boat Show MS Coast Coliseum Children's Mardi Gras Walking Parade Downtown Biloxi
3rd Annual Krewe of Barkloxi Bow Wow Pawrade Biloxi Town Green Biloxi Boat Show MS Coast Coliseum	Story Time Woolmarket Library	26 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	27	28 Community Market Story Time MSherry Library	1	2

Mardi Gras: The fifth season of our year

Celebrations in Biloxi do not stop with Christmas and New Year's. Once these holidays are over, the excitement begins for Mardi Gras, also known as Carnival season. The literal translation of Mardi Gras from the French language is actually "Fat Tuesday."

Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra

Mardi Gras is on a different date each year, depending on the solar skies. Always occurring on a Tuesday, the earliest Mardi Gras can be Feb. 3 and the latest March 9. This year Mardi Gras Day, or Fat Tuesday, will be March 5.

The roots

We have proof that the first Mardi Gras was celebrated

by none other than Sieur d'Iberville himself as he explored our sandy shores. In his journals, he writes that in March 1699 he paused from his travels, looked at his calendar, and realizing that it was Mardi Gras Day, his crew has its own party. Of course there were no floats, king cakes, or jazz music. Instead they paused for a brief recess in their journey, and dubbed their landing spot along the Mississippi River as "Pointe du Mardi Gras."

How 'Fat Tuesday' came to be

Mardi Gras was actually based on a religious theme with celebrations beginning on or after the Twelfth Night and culminating the day before Lent, Ash Wednesday. Since Lent is a time of fasting, grand feasts were planned for that Tuesday, and French celebrations were accompanied with the bouef gras (fatted bull).

In earlier Biloxi parades, the Boeuf Gras float led the parade. Floats were pulled by horses and mules and were lit by flambeauxs. These European-based lighting devices were hand-held poled torches fed by petroleum with an attached reflector. Today's floats are powered by trucks, which are accompanied by powerful generators that power high-volume, music-blaring speakers or lights for nighttime parades.

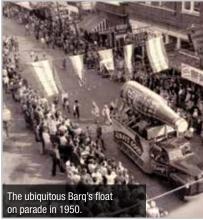
'Throw me something, Mister'

Today, Biloxi parades include Kings,









Queens, floats, marching bands, and throws. But, what are "throws"? Unlike parades in other parts of the world, Biloxi's float riders shower enthusiastic crowds with tons of free trinkets and beads. Colorful and pearl-like beads, especially those thrown by royalty, are the most popular. Most of today's beads are plastic, but in previous decades the beads were made of glass. Throws also include doubloons resembling pirates treasure, toys and food. If you're lucky, you might catch the traditional Moon Pie treat, a round chocolate and marshmallow cake pie whose origin is traced back to Mobile, which, after Biloxi, was the second capital of the Louisiana Territory.

Ohhh, baby!

King Cakes (gateaux des rois) is certainly the food of the season. This delicacy is baked and consumed in abundance. Resembling a cinnamon roll or French brioche, this circular or oval-shaped pastry, topped with glistening purple, green, and yellow icing, has a magnificent European history. Buried like treasure inside each cake was either a large bean, a porcelain doll (a frozen Charlotte), or a plastic baby doll. Tradition has it that

whomever gets the piece of cake containing the "treasure" is crowned as the king/queen, chooses his accompanying king/queen, and hosts the next King Cake party.

The colors of Mardi Gras

Just as green and red carry on the Christmas theme, purple, green, and gold are always representative of the Mardi Gras season. Green is for faith, purple is for justice, and gold is for power.

In keeping with the Cajun French vocabulary, "laissez les bon temps rouler" (pronounced "Lay-say le bon tom roo-lay"), which means "let the good times roll."

We can help you get cookin'

Planning a get-together this Mardi Gras season or maybe even a traditional meatless Friday supper following Fat Tuesday? Stop by the Biloxi Local History and Genealogy Department on Howard Avenue and browse through its marvelous collection of cookbooks where you can find delectable recipes reminding us of Grandma's kitchen: red beans and rice; jambalaya, crab cakes, gumbo and potato salad, shrimp and grits, and the list goes on and on. Yum!

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



WIN A 2019 LINCOLN MKZ OR FREE SLOT PLAY

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Must be 21 or older. To be eligible to win the 2019 Lincoln MKZ Giveaway, get 1 entry for every 50 Tier Points earned from January 13 - March 2, 2019. Free Slot Play valid for 30 days for 2019 Lincoln MKZ Giveaway. Activate entries by swiping at the Rewards Kiosk, carding-out at slot machine or closing table rating between 8PM-9:55PM on day of drawing. Color, make and model may vary. Must be actively playing to be eligible to win preliminary Free Slot Play; valid for 7 days. Scarlet Pearl Casino Resort reserves all rights to cancel or modify any program at any time. See Pearl Reward Club for promotional rules and details. Gambling problem? Call 1-800-522-4700.

Blews Month

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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