

Margaritaville leads new wave of development

The city's Community Development Department issued one of its biggest building permits of the year in August – \$6.5 million for an amusement park and parking garage at Margaritaville – and it's the first of several major projects coming out of the ground over the next several weeks.

Construction has already begun on the new foundation at the Point Cadet entertainment center, and Community Development Director Jerry Creel said developers expect to open the expanded attraction, with its Ferris wheel, sky bar and more, in late 2020.

Also on the horizon: Building permits for Community Bank's new downtown Biloxi presence, the much-discussed District on Howard Avenue, and a new casino resort at the former site of Margaritaville, off Fifth Street.

"Since Katrina, people have consistently asked about bringing family entertainment to Biloxi," Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich said. "We've always wanted to have the total package: The casino resorts, of course, the beauty of the community, the great restaurants, the museums, and, yes, non-casino family attractions.

"You can see those things happening, with the first phase of the new boardwalk along restaurant row on West Beach, the Finishline Performance Karting, Big Play Bowling Alley and Laser Tag, the Premier Movie Theater and other attractions in the works at Edgewater Mall, and another go cart track and batting cages currently under review.

"Margaritaville certainly will be a major drawing card."



Winding down

They're far from proclaiming "mission accomplished," but the construction teams working on the North Contract, those 55 miles of roadway north of the CSX railway, say they're getting closer and closer each day to the goal of a Thanksgiving gift to the residents, businesses and motorists in East Biloxi. Paved roads!

In fact, at this writing, there are only six streets awaiting their initial coat of asphalt: Parker, which was scheduled to be paved by Sept. 1, Lameuse north of Elder, Reynoir, Couevas south of Division, Forrest and Benachi.

Says Jennifer Matranga of contractor Oscar Renda: "We're certainly in the home stretch. Despite all the challenges our team continues to face, including working in record heat, they're giving 100 percent every week to get this project completed. I couldn't be more proud of them."

- ▶ See five maps of North Contract progress, Page 12-13
- ▶ See the Hemphill work south of the railway, Page 14
- ▶ Watch the video update on BTV every day at 6:25 a.m., 2:25 p.m. and 6:25 p.m.

ALSO INSIDE This month

The Hunt for history

Your city and Susan Hunt need your help. Find out about an interactive history lesson and challenge airing this month on BTV, Pages 2 and 3



New Keesler gate

See the future of Division Street and Forrest Avenue, in a roundabout way, Page 4

Btv

September on BTV

There's a host of new (and old) programming this month on BTV, Page 6



Seafood City

The annual Biloxi Seafood Festival tops this month's lineup of events. See Community Calendar, Pages 15-18

Back in the Day

Columnist Jane Shambra travels the roads of yesteryear, Page 19



The “OXI” on the front of this Community Center gives a clue to where the 1951 U.S. Army documentary was shot.

Rare video offers peek into Biloxi’s past

We do seem to love our history in Biloxi.

Historical markers dot our major thoroughfares, typically pointing out long-gone structures. A handful of smartcodes offer a multi-media history lesson along the downtown walking tour, and Carla Beaugez Taconi tells the Biloxi story regularly on the Old Biloxi Tour Train.

Then comes Facebook, with its daily or sometimes hourly barrage of old Biloxi people, places and things. You can find them on any number of Facebook pages, where correspondents share black-and-white or sometimes color images of yesteryear.

“I find that there are some younger people who get fascinated by these old pictures,” said Pat Byrd, a retired banker who frequently shares old pictures on Facebook. “For a while I thought it was just we old people. For me, I guess it was so much of a part of me growing up here, and the wonderful life that I had.

“I look back and my home was big oyster shell piles, drive-in restaurants on beach, drive-in theaters, all the nostalgia. I told ‘FoFo’ the other day, thank you for letting me drive down Howard Avenue again. I just don’t have the parking meters to lean on to look at the pretty girls.”

The flashbacks to yesteryear – the stream of old photos and memories – is what makes the upcoming BTV presentation “Social Change in a Democracy” so appealing. The catchy title aside, it offers a half hour of rare video of Biloxi of the 1950s.

The half-hour documentary, created by the U.S. Army in 1951, discusses the values of the



See it throughout September

- ▶ “Social Change in a Democracy” daily at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on BTV (Sparklight Channel 56, Uverse Channel 99 or streaming at biloxi.ms.us/tv
- ▶ See it on Sparklight Channel 70, Coastwide, daily at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

democratic way of life and how citizens can work to have laws enacted to protect their way of life.

Producers of the documentary chose Biloxi to serve as a backdrop for a typical community.

A number of locals – students, fishermen, and city leaders of the time – make cameo appearances in the documentary, which tells the story of the community rallying to enact laws to protect local water quality and the livelihoods of local fishermen. How timely is that?

The documentary offers glimpses of downtown Biloxi at the time, along with several

other since-demolished landmarks, including the old Biloxi City Hall. You can go inside one of the halls and a classroom at a Biloxi public school that had been on Howard Avenue.

And now the city, which has acquired the documentary from the National Archives, is asking for help in identifying people and locations in the documentary.

BTV, the city’s new TV channel, will air “Social Change in a Democracy” every day in September. Well-known Biloxian Susan Hunt will host the 90-minute special, which includes two airings of the vintage video. And thanks to Sparklight, the program will air Coastwide on its Cable Channel 70.

It will be interactive, too: Midway through, viewers will be asked to post their insight on the city’s Facebook page as a time-stamped version of the documentary as it airs. What do you recognize? See any familiar faces or places?

“It’s fascinating to see video of old Biloxi and the people of old Biloxi,” Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich said. “What we want to do now is identify as much as we can and in a few months unveil a ‘pop-up’ version of the documentary, with informative subtitles to identify people and places from our past. It should be a fun and educational little project.”

And Pat Byrd hopes it might fascinate a younger generation. Said the former Peoples Bank officer: “In another month I’ll be 81 years old, which at one time was old. Not too long ago, I was emptying out an attic and my grandson said, ‘Hey, Poppy, what’s that in your hands?’ And I said, that’s a typewriter. He said, ‘What’s that used for?’”

The nom de plume Nick L. Shrimp is a homage to the late Walter Fountain, original olde crab, longtime editor of the Biloxi-D’Iberville Press, and longtime Biloxi Chamber of Commerce manager.

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Coastwide on Sparklight Local Channel 70



Follow along and give your answers on the city Facebook page, facebook.com/cobiloxi

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Btv

U.S. 90 paving is moving like clockwork – so far

"It's going real well so far," Joel Moody of Warren Paving said the other day of paving work on U.S. 90 in Biloxi. "We're exceeding our baseline production, almost doubling it in fact."

Moody, however, knows more labor-intensive work is in the offing, especially from I-110 to the Biloxi Bay Bridge, which will begin in a few weeks.

"We essentially have the project in two parts, from DeBuys Road to the White House, and from the Beau Rivage to Point Cadet. Right

now, we're installing a leveling course of asphalt from DeBuys Road to the White House, and we're making that loop.

"The next section, which needs to be milled, will be from I-110 to the Biloxi Bay Bridge." The milling, which involves removing a layer of existing asphalt, will begin in a few weeks and will require more time than the areas between DeBuys Road and White Avenue, which were milled sparingly.

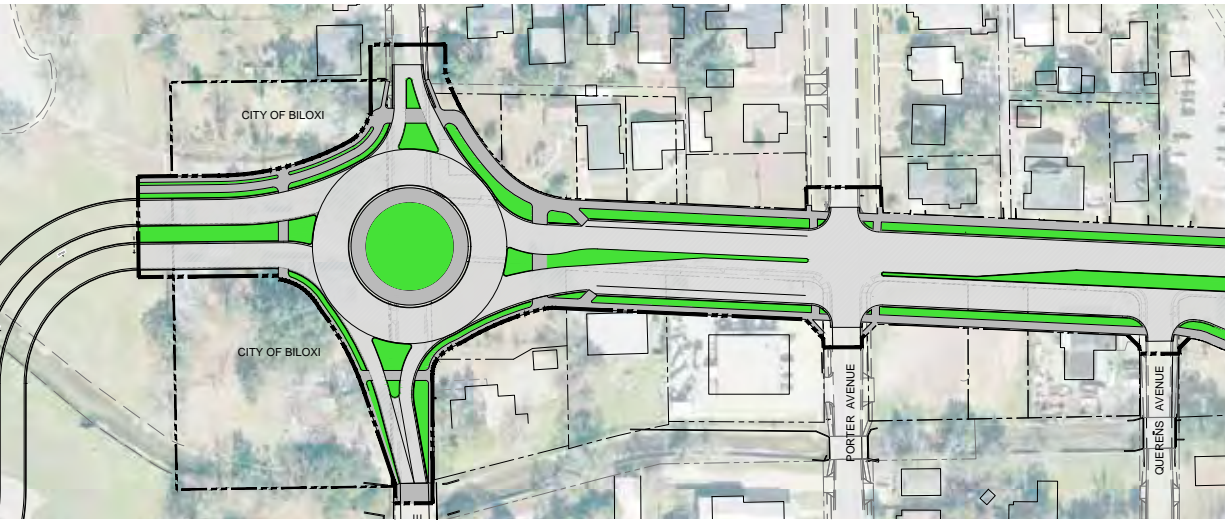
Moody also said the U.S. 90 work would continue to take place

each Sunday through Thursday night, avoiding peak daytime traffic, through the length of the MDOT project, which is supposed to end in November.

Biloxi Police, meantime, in August reported no major traffic tie ups in with the intermittent nighttime lane closures.

Said Moody: "That's a testament to the hard-working and efficient crews that we have out there, plain and simple."

▶ See the Traffic Update at biloxi.ms.us



Keesler gate ahead of schedule; roundabout in the works at Forrest

Phase 1 of the new \$37 million Keesler AFB Entry Gate project continues to move steadily toward an early conclusion. The City of Biloxi has substantially completed construction of the new road from Forrest Avenue westward onto the base for an eventual link up with Larcher Boulevard. This \$7.2 million portion of the project began May 21, 2018 with a projected completion date of December 2019. The road is complete, except for some lighting installation and final asphalt at the lighting points.

"You could drive on the road today, but we do have to finish some of the lighting that was added to our part of the project," said Ben Smith of project engineers Brown, Mitchell & Alexander.

Utilizing a \$7.2 million grant from the Mississippi Development Authority, Biloxi was tasked with building a new road from Forrest Avenue to C Street on base. Keesler is responsible for completing the road to Larcher, and adding new checkpoints and protocols that will eliminate security concerns at the existing entry gate on White Avenue.

"This project was long overdue and gathering dust on someone's desk in Washington when I took office," noted Biloxi Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich. "Three days after I was first elected in 2015, Gov.

Phil Bryant came to my house to ask me about my priorities. Number One was a new main entry gate at Forrest and Division. Gov. Bryant pledged state help and Sen. Thad Cochran and the rest of our congressional delegation helped direct federal dollars to build the new gate and ensure Keesler's mission going forward."

Biloxi will soon begin creating a roundabout intersection at Forrest and Division Street, once utilities are relocated. Upon completion of the roundabout, Biloxi will begin Phase 2 of construction, creating a new four-lane boulevard along Division Street, from the I-110 exit to Forrest Avenue. At least 15 of 27 necessary property acquisitions are complete, with the remainder under negotiation.

"I'm impressed with how well the project is moving along," Gilich added. "BMA and City Engineer Christy Lebatard have worked closely with Keesler engineers and leadership to fine-tune the project and make appropriate modifications when necessary. Overall this is a great example of how the city and Keesler work together to benefit our community. But make no mistake: This new gate will play a critical role in ensuring that Keesler remains the best training base in the Air Force."

News & notes

• Biloxi First roast:

Paul Tisdale, the longtime educator and current Biloxi City Councilmember, will be the target this year for the Biloxi First Roast. Mark your calendars: The annual benefit for Biloxi Public Schools is Oct. 24 at the IP. Reservations: Dewey Mason, 228-229-8733, dewey.mason@bxsi.com; or Ann Denison 228-860-8871 at ann.denison@biloxischools.net



• **Gaming revenue:** The August state gaming report compiled by the city's Finance Division shows the impact of gaming since Day 1 back in 1992. Biloxi's casino market has generated gross gaming revenues of \$20.2 billion and paid \$2.47 billion in total state and local taxes. See the complete report on the city's website.

• **Lifeguards:** The Parks & Recreation Department is hiring certified lifeguards for the Biloxi Natatorium and Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center. Interested? The Human Resources Division has job postings on the city website, or you can call 228-435-6259.

• **Senior Prom:** Tickets are now on sale for the 13th Annual Mississippi Gulf Coast Senior Prom which will take place at the IP Casino on Oct. 17. The affair is open to ages 50 and older and includes a night of music, dancing, and food! Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased at the Biloxi Parks & Recreation Office, 377 Hiller Dr. For more information, call Gwen Johnson at 228-388-7170 or Glenda Carter at 228-547-8665.



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Kyle Hancock
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Samuel Hughes
Cael Keith
Madison Kelly
Piper Lind

Peyton Lyons
Jose Martinez
Taylor McBride
Parker Morrow
Michaela Parker
Christopher Rivera
Aidan Sernski
Ryan Spiers
Kevin Tran
Eleftherios Vganges
Ava Wold

Juniors:

Veronika Landry
Shaun McRight
Hannah Nguyen
Addie Grace Pyron
Sailie Smith
Abigail Welborn

Sophomores:

Thomas Diep
Madeline Pitre
Kaylee Roch


Btv September Schedule

- In Biloxi, see BTV on Sparklight Channel 56, Uverse Channel 99 (follow prompts)
- Streaming and schedule updates at www.biloxi.ms.us/btv

6 a.m.	Down in Biloxi, by Rockin' Ray Fournier (4 min)
6:04 a.m.	A Day in the Life of Biloxi (9 min)
6:13 a.m.	Biloxi Builders and Visionaries (8 min)
6:21 a.m.	Biloxi Today (3 min)
6:25 a.m.	Infrastructure video (5 min)
6:30 a.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)
6:45 a.m.	The History of Biloxi (11 min)
7 a.m.	Special presentation: Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame (1 hour)
8 a.m.	Special presentation: Social Change in a Democracy (90 min)
9:30 a.m.	City Council meetings (3 hours)
12:31 p.m.	An ode to the Biloxi Lighthouse (2 min)
1 p.m.	Biloxi Sport Hall of Fame (1 hour)
2 p.m.	Breakfast with Mayor (25 min)
2:25 p.m.	Infrastructure update (5 min)
2:30 p.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)
2:45 p.m.	August Taconi Biloxi (11 min)
3 p.m.	City Council meetings (3 hours)
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7 p.m.	Special presentation: Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame (1 hr)
8 p.m.	Special presentation: Social Change in a Democracy (90 min)
9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.	City Council meetings (3 hours)
12:31 a.m.	National anthem by Ronny Broussard (2 min)

Be a part of history

BTV and the White House Hotel want your help in solving a mystery. All this month, we're airing the "Social Change in a Democracy," a 1951 documentary filmed in Biloxi. We want you to help identify the people and places from back then. Tune in at 8 a.m. or 8 p.m. daily on BTV in Biloxi (Sparklight Ch. 56 or Uverse Ch. 99), streaming at biloxi.ms.us/btv or Coastwide on Sparklight Channel 70.

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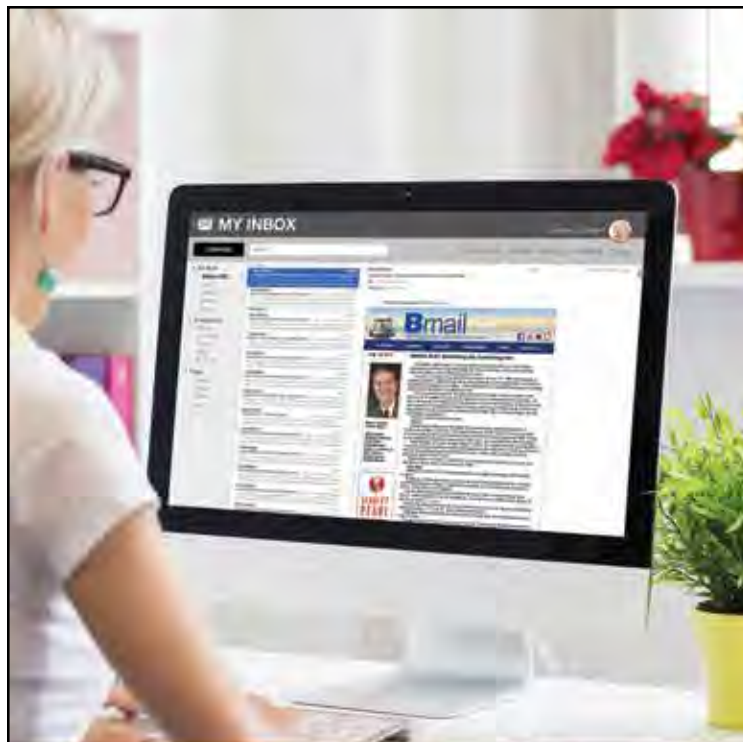
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Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2019

Thirteen outstanding athletes and coaches have joined the talented list of Biloxi standouts and will go down in history as Biloxi Sports Hall of Famers.

The honor was bestowed on the remarkable individuals for their achievements and significant contributions to the betterment of athletics in the City of Biloxi.

A high school and college football coach, a former Indians basketball star, three Biloxi Boxing Club legends, a 165-pound walk-on center on the 1949 LSU Sugar Bowl team, two of the area's best-ever high school baseball pitchers and a former Biloxi Dodgers pitcher who has distinguished himself over 40 years of umpiring high school softball are among the list of this year's inductees.

An induction ceremony for the 2019 Class of the Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame was held on Aug. 25 at the Biloxi Civic Center.

Here is the lineup.



George Creel – A 1952 graduate of Biloxi High, Creel first established himself as a hard-hitting knockout specialist in the late 1940s. After an exceptional boxing career, he became a co-founder of the Biloxi Boxing Club. As a volunteer coach and manager, he developed numerous Golden Gloves champions and helped bring regional and national boxing tournaments to Biloxi.



Anthony Hill – A scintillating kick returner with “take it to the house” speed, Hill was an offensive juggernaut for the early-1980s Biloxi Indians. His speed and elusiveness quickly elevated him among Mississippi Coast receivers. A threat to score every time he touched the ball, he earned the nickname Anthony “Thrill” Hill.



Alan Marsland – In 1963 and '64, he played on the Biloxi Indians football team. Yet Alan Marsland earned his entry into the Sports Hall of Fame by epitomizing the volunteer coach, booster and sports supporter. He has served on the Biloxi Girls Softball League Board of Directors for 30 years. He has coached the sport for decades as well, producing stars like Alabama pitcher Krystal Goodman. And he has been a tireless supporter of local sports, including his founding of the Biloxi Diamond Club and creating the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Baseball Concessions.



Chris McGee – Known for his fluid moves and speed in basketball and track, Chris McGee earned National High School Football All-American Honorable Mention as a senior at Biloxi High in 1982. He was a gifted wide receiver and was selected to the Mississippi High School All Star game. He earned All-Harrison County and All-Big Eight honors in basketball at BHS, and was a track standout and State award winner. He also won Player of the Week honors seven times while a receiver at the University of Southern Mississippi. He is perhaps best known as the player who caught Brett Favre's first college touchdown pass at USM.



D'Jon “Bobo” McNair – Nominated by his former coach at BHS, Bobo McNair is considered one of Jackie Laird's best basketball players, which is an outstanding compliment considering the large number of star players Laird coached for the Indians. His accolades include: All State, All Star Team, All Big Eight, All District and Street & Smith Magazine All American Honorable Mention. As a star player at Southeastern Louisiana University, McNair collected even more awards, including All Academic, All Defensive Team, Most Valuable Player, Gulf South Conference Team and Louisiana College All Star team.



Byron Meaut – Byron developed his baseball skills in Biloxi summer programs from Little League to Pony League to Colt League to American Legion. His skills grew through each phase and by the time he played as a sophomore at Notre Dame, he was a standout. He struck out 16 while pitching a no-hitter his first year on the varsity. His velocity and breaking pitches overwhelmed many hitters, eventually leading to his Major League Draft selection by the Montreal Expos. Instead, he signed a scholarship to Ole Miss and helped the Rebels to an SEC Championship and College World Series appearance in 1972.



Charles “Charlie” Nobles – A driving force behind Biloxi's 1965 High School Baseball State Championship, Charlie Nobles' pitching record for the Indians was 19-1. At Perkinson Jr. College, he helped the Bulldogs win two State titles, pitching two no-hitters and batting .358. At Bellhaven College, he hit .338 and continued his pitching prowess. For his career, Nobles was 51-4 pitching, and he was part of nine State championships at various levels.



Alex “Lou” Pitalo – A standout, if undersized high school football player at Biloxi High, Pitalo delayed his college football ambitions to serve in the U.S. Coast Guard in the latter stages of WWII. When he returned to the Coast, he accepted an opportunity to play football at Perkinson, helping the Bulldogs to State and National (this side of the Rockies) titles in his final year. He advanced to LSU in Baton Rouge, and excelled even though he was an undersized lineman. After graduating, he had a distinguished head and assistant coaching career that helped start a program at Broadmoor that grew into a State Championship in just six years.



Roger Smith – Another of the Biloxi Dodgers to make the Hall of Fame, Roger Smith is better known as one of the State's most respected high school softball umpires. A 1968 graduate of Nichols High School, he pitched for the Dodgers from 1966-69. He has umpired softball for more than 43 years, including 15 Mississippi High School Activities Association State Championships. He is a three-time Mississippi High School Association Umpire of the Year and is a member of the ASA Umpire National Indicator Club.



David Ward Sr. – One of the Coast's premier amateur boxers starting in the 1950s, David Ward went on to coach the Biloxi Boxing Club for eight years. His fighters won 28 overall team titles and 20 Mississippi Golden Gloves and AAU Championships. He also was a longtime volunteer coach of Little League and Pony League baseball.



Paul Webster – Although he graduated from Ocean Springs High School in 1979, Paul Webster earned his induction into the Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame by crafting an incredible amateur boxing record from 1974-78. As a member of the Biloxi Boxing Club, his overall record was 158-30. He is a five-time Mississippi Golden Gloves Champion, a three-time Gulf States AAU Champion, and a three-time AAU Junior Olympic Boxing Champion.



John Williams – During impressive high school and college careers from the 1960s-1990s, John Williams coached his way to the top of football achievements. His Biloxi Indians were 66-16, including an 11-0 State Championship season in 1968. At Mississippi College, he took a perennially losing program and flipped it into an annual winner. The highlight of his career at MC was an 11-3 record in 1989, which produced a Division II College Football Championship.



Seber Windham – Today he is known as the successful head coach of the Biloxi Indians basketball program. Back in the mid-to-late 1980s, Seber Windham was a baseball and basketball Phenom at BHS. Team captain of his high school basketball Indians, Seber helped Biloxi win consecutive State Championships in the late 1980s. He was also named Most Valuable Player. His playing career continued in college as a two-sport, scholarship athlete.

► See all Hall of Fame members at
<https://biloxi.ms.us/residents/parks-recreation/sports/hall-of-fame/>

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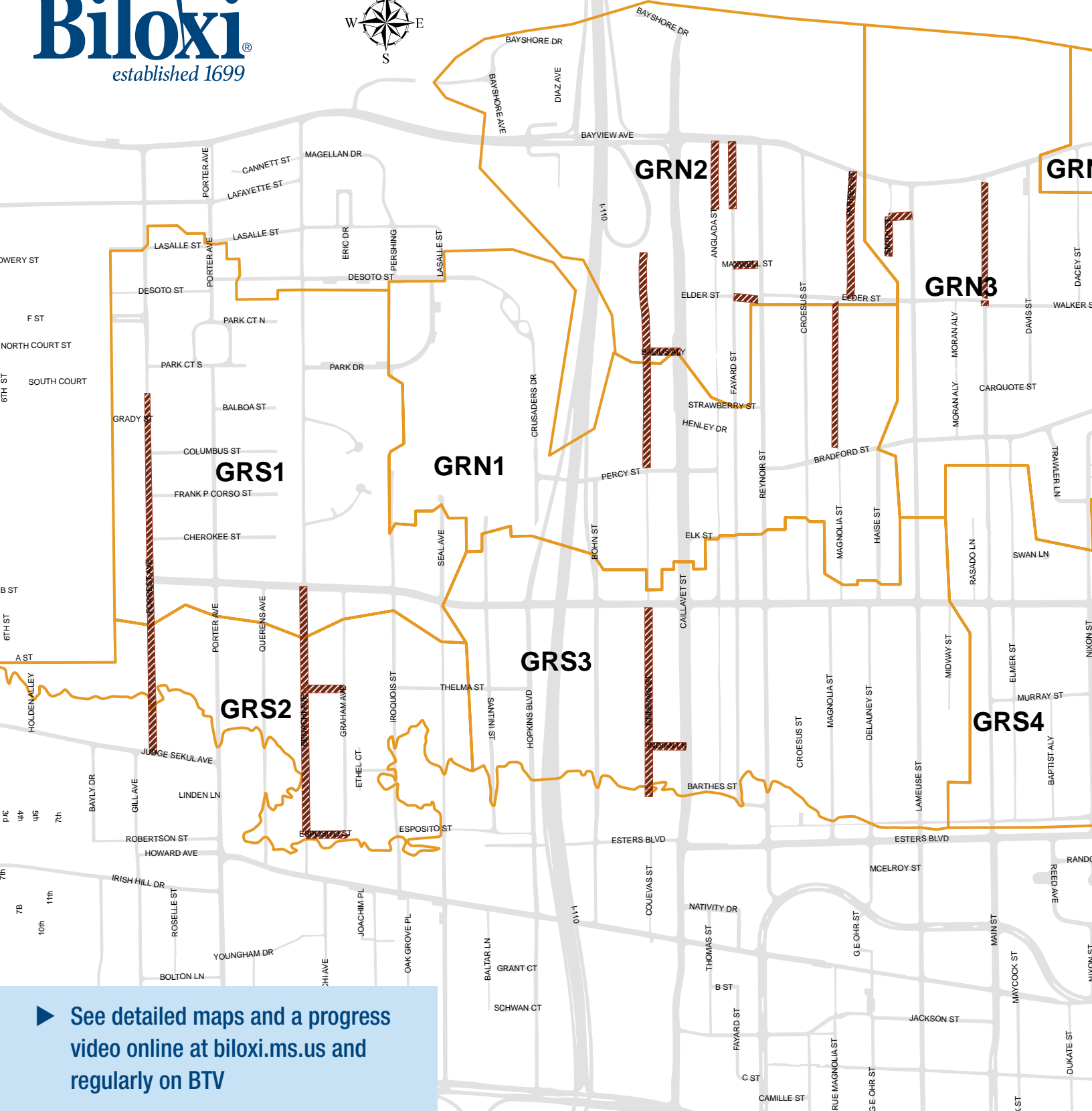
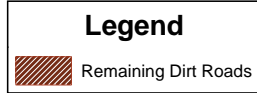
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The North Contract: Remaining dirt roads (as of Aug. 13, 2019)

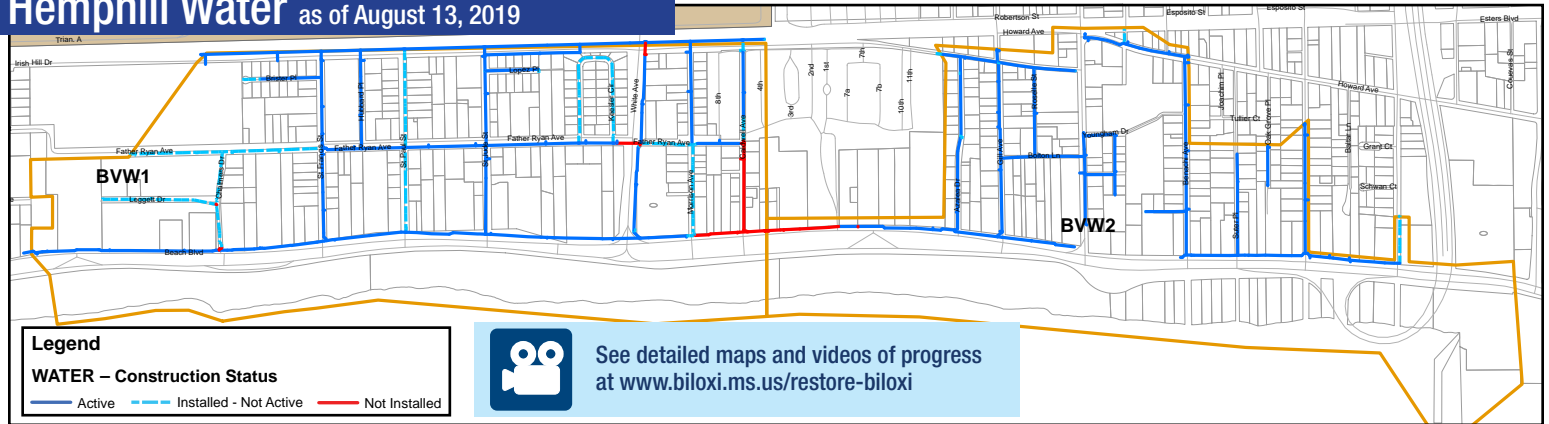


► See detailed maps and a progress video online at biloxi.ms.us and regularly on BTV



Detours and lane closures are becoming more evident south of the CSX Railway, especially on Irish Hill and other thoroughfares, 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.

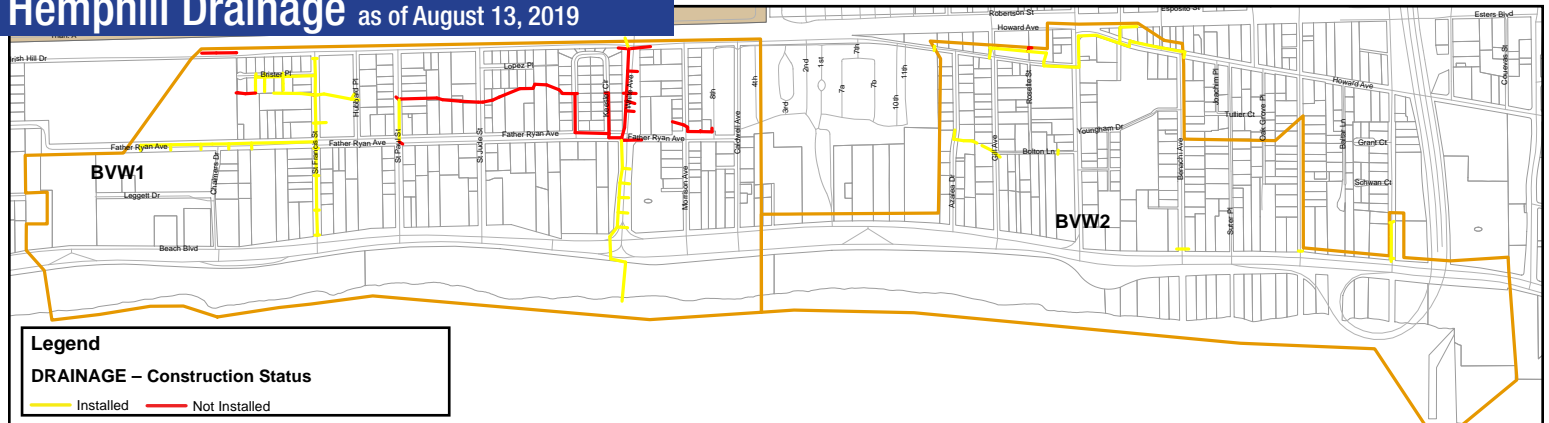
Hemphill Water as of August 13, 2019



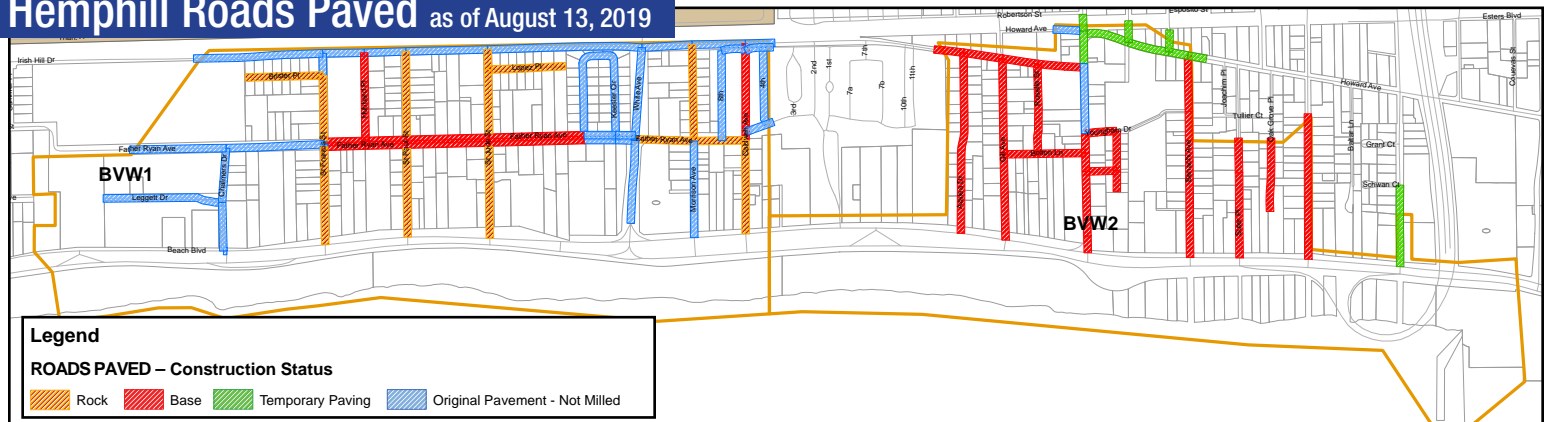
Hemphill Sewer as of August 13, 2019



Hemphill Drainage as of August 13, 2019



Hemphill Roads Paved as of August 13, 2019



Best Bets!



Run, walk and climb to honor our brave

The annual Tunnel to Towers 5K Run and Climb, which honors the sacrifices of our first responders and military, takes place on Saturday, Sept. 14 at 5 p.m. The 5K will begin at the Ocean Springs Harbor, travel over the Biloxi Bay Bridge, along the south side of U.S. 90 and finishes at Margaritaville where participants, if desired, can climb 110 steps. The event was created in honor of Firefighter Stephen Siller who made the ultimate sacrifice when saving lives on Sept. 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center, which, by the way, had 110 floors. Details: tunnel2towers.org/events/2019-tunnel-towers-5k-run-climb-biloxi/.

Drawdown at the Seafood Museum

The Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum will hold its 34th Annual \$10,000 Drawdown on Saturday, Sept. 21. The affair, the museum's major fundraiser of the year, will be at the museum, 115 1st St. and will begin with cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by a seafood galore and more buffet at 7 p.m. and the drawdown at 8 p.m. Live entertainment, a silent auction, an open bar, and door prizes will also be part of the event. Tickets are \$100 and admit two to the drawdown. Details: 228-435-6320.



Mississippi Senior Olympics Cycling Registration Deadline: Sept. 1. Open to ages 50 and older. Details: www.msseniorolymp.org/.

Biloxi Excel By 5 Orientation, Sept. 3, 10:30 and 11:45 a.m.; Sept. 4, 9:30 and 10:45 a.m.; Sept. 5 and 10, 10:30 and 11:45 a.m.; and Sept. 17, 10:30 a.m.; Cafeteria of the Biloxi Excel By 5 Community Resource Room, Lopez School, 140 St. John Ave. Orientation is required for all parents/caregivers before children can play in interactive rooms. Previous orientations do not apply because of yearly changes. Details: Susan Hunt, 228-297-2021, susan.hunt@biloxischools.net.

Southern League Playoffs, Biloxi Shuckers, Sept. 4-5, MGM Park 106 Caillavet St. Details: 800-745-3000 or 228-233-3465, www.biloxishuckers.com.

Friday Morning Serial, Sept. 6, 8 to 9 a.m., Gulf Coast Community Design Studio, 769 Howard Ave. Speakers: Sept. 6, Renee Collini, Northern Gulf of Mexico Sentinel Site Cooperative MSU Climate Change Scientist; Sept. 13, Bridget Turan, Gulf Coast community Foundation HUB; Sept. 20, DJ Baker, Alliance for Sustainable Farms; and Sept. 27, Aleshia Jones, American Lung Association Tobacco Free. Admission is free and each Friday event is open to the public. RSVP: eenglebreton@gccds.msstate.edu. Details: 228-436-4661.



First Friday, Sept. 6, 5-8 p.m., Rue Magnolia and Water Street. Downtown shops and galleries stay open late and offer specials and refreshments. Live entertainment and prize giveaways will also be part of the event. Admission is free. Details: 228-435-6339.

Biloxi Historical and Cultural Society Meeting, 2020 Vision, The U.S. Census: The Past, Present and Future, Sept. 9, 6 p.m., Biloxi Community Development Building, Auditorium, 676 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Free, public event to gain helpful information about the census: the past, present and future. Details: 228-435-4613.

Biloxi Aquatics Adult Swim Session, Overcome Your Fear of the Water, Sept. 14 and 21, 10 to 10:45 a.m., Biloxi Natatorium, 1384 Father Ryan Ave. Free sessions open to ages 18 and older who fear the water and want to get acclimated being in the water. Details: 228-435-6205.

Fireman's Day Parade, Sept. 14, 10 a.m. Parade begins on Howard Avenue in front of Bradford O'Keefe Funeral Home and travels west to the West End Hose Co. No. 3 Museum. Dozens of firefighting vehicles from fire departments across the Coast will be part of the parade, and hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks will be available for the public at the museum following the parade. Details: 228-435-6200.

Best Bet!



Adults: Fret not about being in the water!

Are you age 18 or older and afraid of being in the water? Well, the City of Biloxi Aquatics Division wants to help you with this fear by getting you acclimated to being in the water. The division will hold two free sessions at the Biloxi Natatorium, 1384 Father Ryan Ave., on Sept. 14 and 21 from 10 to 10:45 a.m. These sessions will take place before the facility opens to the public. Space is limited and each session will be conducted by an American Red Cross certified Water Instructor. Details: 228-435-6205.

Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the 16th 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

Tunnel to Towers 5k Run & Climb, Sept. 14, 5 p.m. Margaritaville Resort, 195 Beach Blvd. The event, honoring the first responders whose lives were lost in 9/11, begins at the Ocean Springs Harbor and ends at Margaritaville where participants can climb 110 floors, symbolic of the 110 floors in the World Trade Center. Details: tunnel2towers.org/events/2019-tunnel-towers-5k-run-climb-biloxi/.

Biloxi Seafood Festival, Sept. 14, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sept. 15, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. Public festival celebrating the Gulf Coast's seafood heritage. Affair includes live entertainment, arts and crafts, kid activities, lots of seafood and The Sun Herald Gumbo Championship on Sept. 15, where, for a separate fee, attendees can taste professional and amateur gumbo from teams competing for trophies. Admission charged. Details: 228-604-0014, <https://www.facebook.com/biloxiseafoodfestival>.

Getting off Auto Photography Workshop, Sept. 14, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Local photographer Alex North will help attendees unleash the power of the camera. By using the manual mode, Alex will display how to consistently shoot manual and capture images with a camera. Workshop limited to 10. Details and to reserve a spot: 228-374-3105.



Bike Biloxi, Sept. 17, 6 p.m. Ride begins at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. and travels through downtown. Bicycle ride ends with refreshments at a downtown restaurant at cyclist's expense. Helmets and lights recommended. Admission is free. Detail: 228-435-6339.

Breakfast with the Mayor, Sept. 18, 8 a.m., Golden Nugget Biloxi, 151 Beach Blvd. Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich will address a Biloxi Chamber audience on what's happening in Biloxi. Event is free and open to the public. Details: 228-604-0014.

The Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum's 34th Annual Drawdown, Sept. 21, 6 p.m., 115 1st St. The Drawdown is the museum's major fundraiser of the year and includes a buffet, to begin at 7 p.m., and the drawdown set to begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$100 per couple. Details: 228-435-6320.

Biloxi Main Street Book Club, Sept. 26, 5:30 p.m., Jacked Up Coffee Bar, 999 Howard Ave. Book of the month is "Two by Two" by Nicholas Sparks. Stop by Southern Bound Books, next door to the coffee bar, to pick it up a copy. Details: 228-435-6339.



Biloxi Football

Home Games played at Biloxi Indian Stadium, 1845 Tribe Dr. Details: 228-435-6310, www.biloxischools.net.

Biloxi Junior High Football

- **Home Game:** Sept. 5, 5 & 6:30 p.m. – Biloxi vs. North Gulfport
- **Home Game:** Sept. 12, 5 & 6:30 p.m. – Biloxi vs. Picayune Middle

Biloxi 9th Grade Football

- **Home Game:** Sept. 3, 6 p.m. – Biloxi vs. West Harrison

Biloxi 9th Grade and Junior Varsity Football

- **Home Game:** Sept. 23, 5 & 6:30 p.m. – Biloxi vs. Harrison Central
- **Home Game:** Sept. 30, 5 & 6:30 p.m. – Biloxi vs. George County

Biloxi High Varsity Football

- **Home Game:** Sept. 13, 7 p.m. – Biloxi vs. Hammond
- **Home Game:** Sept. 27, 7 p.m. – Biloxi vs. D'Iberville

Biloxi Little Theater

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

- **A Chorus Line, Directed by Aaron Lind**, Sept. 13-14 & 20-21, 8 p.m., Sept. 15 & 22, 2 p.m.

Center Stage

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

- **Comic Potential**, Sept. 19-29, times vary

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., weather permitting

Biloxi Schooners

367 Beach Blvd., 228-435-6320, schooner@maritimemuseum.org

- Walk-on sunset sails, charters, or sails to Horn Island

Biloxi Shrimping Trip

693 Beach Blvd., 228-392-8645, biloxishrimpingtrip.com

- Sunset cruises, fishing trips, and three shrimping trips daily.

Betsy Ann Riverboat Cruise

173 Beach Blvd., 228-229-4270, betsyannriverboat@gmail.com, betsyannriverboat.com

- Hibachi Night Cruises, Historical & Ecological Tour, and Sunset Eco Tours

Ship Island Excursion

Margaritaville Resort boat dock, 195 Beach Blvd., 228-864-1014, msshipisland.com

- Daily service for Fall: Wednesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Friday Night Sunset Music Cruises, 7-9 p.m. boarding begins at 6:30 p.m.
- Ticket prices vary, call for more information.

Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum

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

- **Camille Conversations Lunch**, Sept. 6, & 27, 11 a.m.
- **34th Annual \$10,000 Drawdown**, Sept. 21, 6 p.m.

Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art

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

- **Visionary Bayou Technician Steve Shepard exhibition**, through Sept. 14
- **Southern Witness, John Barnes exhibition**, through Sept. 7

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., 228-374-0606

- **Steak Nights with Entertainment**, Sept. 7 and 21, 6 p.m. Ribeye's, \$18; Fillet Mignon, \$23
- **Charity Bingo**, Sept. 6, 13, 20, and 27. Early Bird Start, 6:30 p.m.; Regular games, 7 p.m. Cash prizes, drawings and gifts. Kitchen open until 8:30 p.m.
- **Sunday Bingo**, Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. Early Bird Start, 2 p.m.; Regular games, 2:30 p.m. Jackpot cash prizes, drawings and gifts. Concessions available.

Fleur de Lis Society of Biloxi (French Club)

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

- Every Friday night in September, **6 p.m. Seafood Dinners with Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.**

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
1 Mississippi Senior Olympics Cycling Registration Deadline	2 Story Time Woolmarket Library	3 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi Biloxi Excel By 5 Orientation Lopez School Biloxi 9th Grade Football Home Game Biloxi Indian Stadium	4  Southern League Playoffs	5 Biloxi Junior High Football Home Game Biloxi Indian Stadium  Southern League Playoffs	6 First Friday Downtown Biloxi Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society Friday Morning Serial Gulf Coast Community Design Studio Australian Pink Floyd Show Hard Rock Ballroom with a Twist Beau Rivage	7 Ballroom with a Twist Beau Rivage
8 Ballroom with a Twist Beau Rivage	9 Story Time Woolmarket Library Biloxi Historical and Cultural Society Meeting, 2020 Vision, The U.S. Census: The Past, Present and Future Biloxi Community Development Building	10 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	11	12 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library Biloxi Junior High Football Home Game Biloxi Indian Stadium	13 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society Biloxi High Varsity Football Home Game Biloxi Indian Stadium Inkin' The Coast MS Coast Coliseum Michael Bolton Beau Rivage	14 Biloxi Aquatics Adult Swim Session Biloxi Natatorium Tunnels To Towers 5k OS Harbor/Margaritaville Biloxi Seafood Festival Biloxi Town Green Photography Workshop Biloxi Visitors Center Inkin' The Coast MS Coast Coliseum Don Feider – Hard Rock Anthony Cools – Beau Rivage
15 Inkin' The Coast MS Coast Coliseum	16 Story Time Woolmarket Library	17 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi Bike Biloxi Biloxi Visitors Center	18 Breakfast with the Mayor Golden Nugget Biloxi	19 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library	20 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society Don Feherty Beau Rivage	21 \$10,000 Drawdown Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum Biloxi Aquatics Adult Swim Session, Overcome Your Fear of the Water Biloxi Natatorium Grand Funk Railroad Hard Rock
22	23 Story Time Woolmarket Library Biloxi 9th Grade and Junior Varsity Football Home Game Biloxi Indian Stadium	24 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	25	26 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library Biloxi Main Street Book Club Jacked Up Coffee Bar	27 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society Biloxi High Varsity Football Home Game Biloxi Indian Stadium Johnny Mathis with special guest Gary Mule Deer Beau Rivage	28 Biloxi Gun & Knife Show MS Coast Coliseum John Breuer Live Hard Rock Johnny Mathis with special guest Gary Mule Deer Beau Rivage
29 Biloxi Gun & Knife Show MS Coast Coliseum	30 Story Time Woolmarket Library Biloxi 9th Grade and Junior Varsity Football Home Game Biloxi Indian Stadium	1 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	2	3 Community Market Festival Story Time Biloxi Library	4	5

Traveling along the path of time

Before there were roads

When French-Canadian Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville first encountered our shoreline, he saw no roadbed adjacent to the waters of the Mississippi Sound. Instead, he was greeted with an immense array of magnificent trees. His crew had no choice but to cut down part of this ancient forest to make way for the early settlers' buildings, boats, and households. It was certainly a challenging

recycling and reuse project as they only had hand tools and muscle strength at their disposal.

Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra

The evolution of our Beachfront road

The first southernmost east-west road paralleling the water's edge of Biloxi's peninsula began as a narrow, dirt path through which horses, buggies, and

pedestrians traveled. There were no railroad tracks then. With the increase in commerce and population, this rugged road was eventually widened and stabilized with oyster shells, bricks, wood planks, and cement. In some areas tiny bridges were constructed to allow passage over drainage streams and soggy areas.

Over time, the road was widened, lengthened and modernized. Once electricity was introduced to Biloxi, streetcar lines appeared south of the roadway. Often, storms would cause havoc with these rails and reconstruction would take place. Old images of street car rails in Biloxi accompany the unusual sight of power poles on the sandy beach area.

The road also went through a list of names. Our grandparents remember this well-traveled path as East and West Beach, Central Beach, and East and West Beach Blvd. In 1926 U.S. Highway 90 was created, and in 1955, the Biloxi portion of the four-lane highway was completed.

After the Apollo 13 flight, the roadway was known as Fred Haise Blvd. in honor of our hometown hero.

With the severe damage caused by Hurricane Katrina, this essential artery had to once again be repaved, complete with new traffic signals, signs, striping, drainage, and sidewalks.



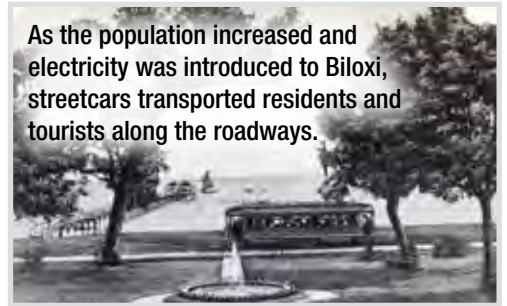
Oyster shells were used to pave roads back-in-the-day. Shade trees and mini-parks provided a comfortable meeting place before the sand beaches made their debut.

In the late 1800's, the typical salesman would travel by horse and buggy on a dirt path along Biloxi's shoreline. In the summer, folks would congregate atop the shoofly – a breezy, elevated porch away from pesky insects.



As travel progressed along the coast, streetcar tracks lined the south side of "Beachfront Road."

As the population increased and electricity was introduced to Biloxi, streetcars transported residents and tourists along the roadways.



Hanging out with Grandpa

Back in the day, Sundays were very special. In the afternoon, after church and after the family had Grandma's home-cooked lunch, seafood gumbo with potato salad, Grandpa Tony and Grandma Polly would sometimes take us for a long ride along Beach Boulevard.

We all climbed in Grandpa's old Ford Woody Station Wagon and cranked down the windows all the way. That was a time when there were no seatbelts or baby car seats, no air conditioning, and no GPS gizmos.

First, we would pick up Aunt Josephine who lived on The Point. Then, we would stop at Mr. Sumrall's "fillin' station" at the corner of Main and Howard to buy gas.

A guy in a uniform shirt would always pump it for us. No one was allowed to touch the gas tank, not even adults. The station attendee would even put air in our tires and wash our windshield - all for free! Grandpa didn't even have a credit card. Gas was so cheap, then, that he would pay with a little bit of his pocket change.

As we traveled along the beach road, I

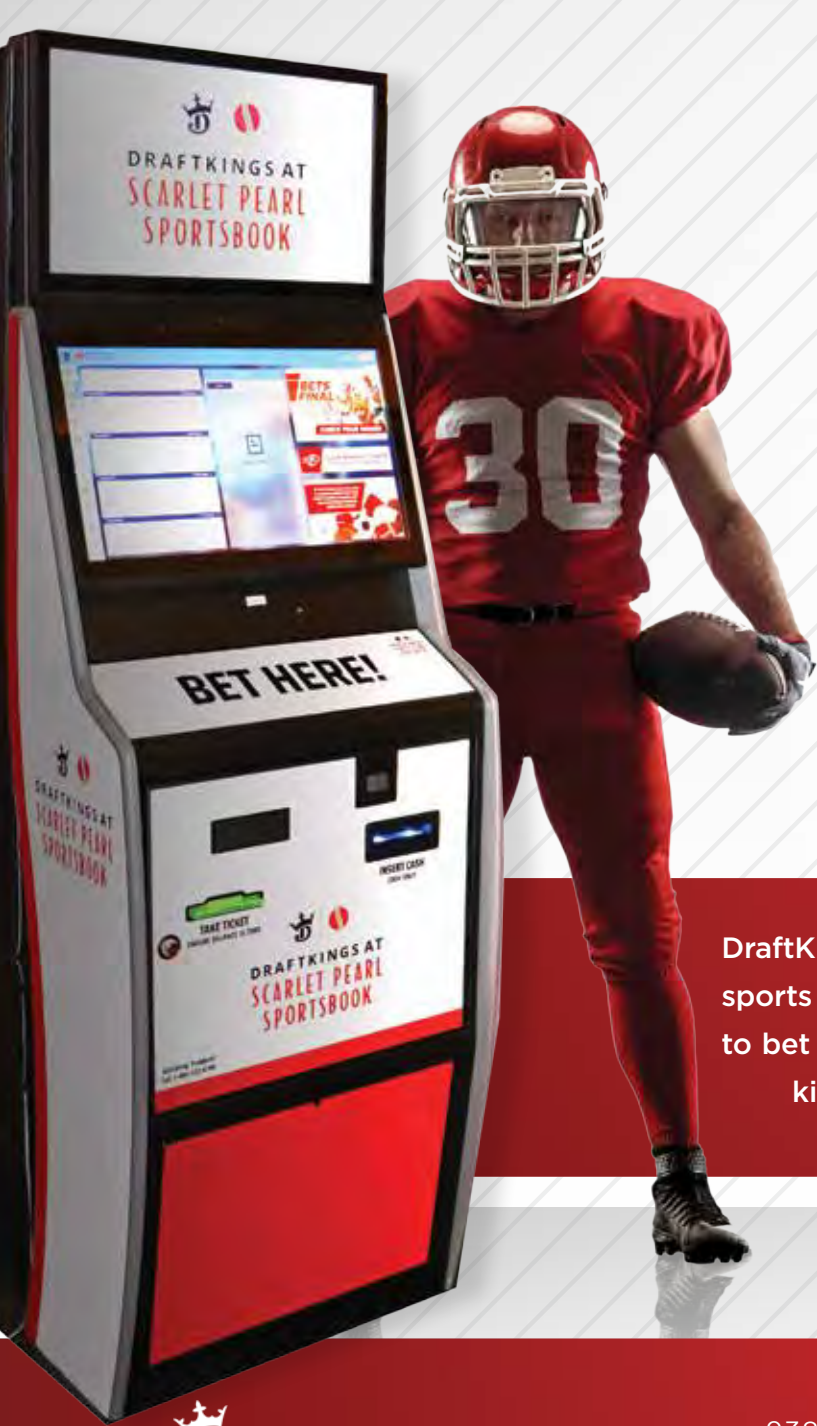
always enjoyed the breeze and watched the scenery. I always wondered how those gorgeous oak trees alongside the road could always have the prettiest long gray curly hair. Aunt Josephine knew all about Biloxi, and told me that the "hair" was really Spanish Moss that was once used for stuffing mattresses and pillows.

Sometimes, Grandpa, Grandma, and Aunt Josephine would start talking fast in words that I could not understand. My older sister Lucy reassured me, not to worry, that they were talking a language from their old country.

Grandpa would let us listen to his car radio. He would turn it on by turning a round knob and numbers would light up. We would really have a good time listening and singing along with the popular tunes.

I remember listening to WLOX's 24-hour radio station (1490FM on the radio dial) and waiting impatiently for hit songs of the day, like Elvis Presley's All Shook Up, or Hound Dog. Grandma would sing too and get real excited and tell us again and again how she went to see Elvis sing at Si Simon's place.

Ahhhhh... those were the days!!!



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BNews Monthly SEPTEMBER 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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