

## Tick, tick, tick. Asphalt arrives as clock moves forward

Contractors working north and south of the CSX railway are continuing to make progress as the calendar continues to advance.

Oscar Renda Contracting, whose deadline for work north of the railway was January, is focusing on the handful of streets still needing asphalt while Hemphill Construction, working south of the railway with a March 2020 deadline, has re-opened White Avenue to

traffic and is advancing on Father Ryan Avenue and connecting neighborhood streets.

"We're pushing every day for more and more progress," says Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich. "You can see it, certainly, especially when you look at the detailed progress maps, but it's never enough until it's finished."

► See detailed maps on Pages 14-16 and video at [www.biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi](http://www.biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi)

The Edgewater Gulf Hotel, 1940.



## An oasis of luxury in a lush West Biloxi

To put it simply, it appeared to be paradise, this magnificent Edgewater Gulf Hotel, which opened its doors to 1,100 guests on Jan. 10, 1927. The palatial grounds included a 400-room hotel, an Olympic-size swimming pool, a golf course (see the links in the upper left of the photo), horseback riding, convention space and, of course, the magnificent beachfront.

The hotel, incidentally, faced northward, owing to the numbers of visitors arriving by train. (That's the L&N railway traversing left to right through the greenery in the image.)

It all gave way in August 1971 to make space for a new Sears that was part of the growing Edgewater Plaza Shopping Center. Today, Sears has been replaced by the mall's eight-screen digital movie theater. And the Edgewater Gulf? The proud hotel did not go without a fight. Demolition crews took three attempts and exhausted 850 pounds of explosives to take down the multi-story complex back in '71.



- Back in the Day columnist Jane Shambra, who also wrote about Edgewater Mall in the August BNews, has the inside story on the Edgewater Gulf Hotel on Page 21.
- Longtime Edgewater Mall Manager Terry Powell tells the colorful history of the storied property in a new BTV special airing at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. throughout November.



## ALSO INSIDE This month

### Millions for the waterfront

Gov. Phil Bryant doled out \$20 million in grants recently, including \$5.9 million for Biloxi waterfront projects. Page 4

### New firefighters on board

Two new fire stations are on the way, which means new firefighters for the Biloxi Fire Department. Meet the new crew, Page 6.

### Checking in on The District

Developers of the ambitious downtown development, The District on Howard Avenue, discuss progress in a report this month. Read the latest on Pages 8-9.



### Year 'round Carnival

The new downtown Mardi Gras Museum opens its doors this month and you can take a peek inside now. Pages 12-13

### Even more inside

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## Gross gaming revenue

In millions

FY 2019: \$883.5
FY 2018: \$841.9
FY 2017: \$821.9
FY 2016: \$830.6
FY 2015: \$858.6
FY 2014: \$809.6
FY 2013: \$823.0
FY 2012: \$827.2
FY 2011: \$823.8
FY 2010: \$820.3
FY 2009: \$844.0
FY 2008: \$981.4

The city, by the way, receives about \$20 million a year in gaming taxes.

# Numbers don't lie; they say what you want them to say

Perhaps it was Ronald S. Cochran, the former city attorney, who related the story. The city is looking to hire a lawyer, and it all boiled down to a one-question interview for the three candidates.

Mayor: "OK, Lawyer No. 1, what's 1 plus 1?"

Lawyer No. 1: "Why, 1 plus 1 equals 2."

Mayor: "Lawyer No. 2, what's 1 plus 1?"

Lawyer No. 2: "Well, 1 plus 1 can be 2, or it can be 11."

Mayor: "And, finally, Lawyer No. 3, what's 1 plus 1?"

Lawyer No. 3: "What do you want it to be?"

So, who got the job? More on that later.

This discussion is more about numbers – how they can be sliced and diced in a manner that lends itself to myriad interpretations, lawyerly advice notwithstanding.

Jim Borsig, whose experience in state and local government and the worlds of academia and lobbying perhaps made him the city's most-learned CAO over the years, put it simply: "There are three kinds of lies," he'd say with a smile: "Lies, damn lies, and statistics."

And now comes some new sets of statistics, which, of course, lend themselves to myriad interpretations.

The latest report is in on gross gaming revenue for the Biloxi casinos -- that amount taken in by the eight casinos operating in Biloxi after wagers are settled. With the September figures now in hand, comparisons to previous fiscal years (Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 each year) can be easily made.

On the surface, it appears to be great news. Outstanding, in fact.



So there's the age-old question: Where does the gaming revenue go? See the state report at [biloxi.ms.us/resources/gaming-revenues](http://biloxi.ms.us/resources/gaming-revenues).

Biloxi's gross gaming revenue was \$883.5 million for FY 2019. That's a 16 percent increase over the FY 2018, but, more significantly, it represents the highest gross gaming revenue figure in the last decade.

You'd have to go all the way back to FY 2008 to find a higher number, \$981 million, which was in the wake of the \$1.0 billion year in gross gaming revenue in FY 2007. Go figure, a year after Katrina, the highest gross gaming revenue in history. But that's a story for another day.

"True numbers are your friend," says Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich. "True numbers do not lie."

However, with multi-columned budgets, reams of spreadsheets of various color-coded columns, and unlimited terabytes of numbers-laced data, there's any number of ways to fit round numbers into square pegs.

Everything, the mayor likes to say, is not

always what it appears to be.

To be sure, he adds, the Biloxi gross-gaming-revenue numbers are even more significant, considering the challenges.

"We knew that a couple of years ago, when Scarlet Pearl opened in D'Iberville, we were going to take a hit, and we did," Gilich says. "We took a million-dollar punch, a million-dollar drop in revenue that year, but these numbers show we've overcome that."

"Some will point out the increase coincides with the arrival of legal sports books in the past year. Some also will point out that the increase in revenue is despite the negative publicity involving three months of beach closures this past summer."

"But here's something else to consider when it comes to numbers:

"Biloxi and the Gulf Coast are the No. 8 market in the country as far as gross gaming revenue. Of the three dozen gaming markets in the country, we're No. 8. What's telling about that is this: Draw a 100-mile circle around Biloxi and draw a hundred-mile circle around any of the Top 7, whether it's Las Vegas or Atlantic City or wherever. How many people do you see in that Biloxi circle and how many do you see in the other one? We're a much smaller market, per capita, but we're No. 8 in the country. Who's doing a better job? I say we are."

And who are we to argue?

Finally, you ask, who got the job? Lawyer 1, Lawyer 2 or Lawyer No. 3?

C'mon. The numbers don't lie. They say what you want them to say.

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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For more information, contact Bobby Gillon:  
228-392-1900 • [bobby@thedistrictonhoward.com](mailto:bobby@thedistrictonhoward.com)

Every Day in November!



### Mardi Gras!

There's a new museum opening this month in downtown Biloxi, and it's about one of our most cherished traditions.

**7 a.m. and 7 p.m.**



### Edgewater

Today, it's all about Edgewater Mall but there's a storied past to this West Biloxi property.

Mall Manager Terry Powell takes you on a tour through the years.

**8 a.m. and 8 p.m.**



### Kroc Center

It's one of only a handful of such facilities in the country, and it's right here in Biloxi. An insider's guide to the Kroc Center.

**7:15 a.m., 7:15 p.m. and 2 p.m.**

**PLUS:** Infrastructure video update • Biloxi Public Schools • City Council meetings and more

**Listings on Page 21 • See it all on Sparklight 56, Uverse 99 or online at [biloxi.ms.us/btv](http://biloxi.ms.us/btv)**



## News & notes

- **Byrd is the word:** Motorists on Jim Byrd Road should be enjoying the freshly paved and wider portion of the 1.6 miles of the Woolmarket roadway just inside the city limits. A city-county project added improved drainage, one foot to the width of the roadway, and, of course, new asphalt.
- **Popp's Ferry redux:** The city any day now should have on the street a new Request For Proposals for a new operator of the bait shop and kayak rentals at Popp's Ferry Causeway Park. Rest assured, standard operating hours will be in place and enforced.
- **West Biloxi:** You hear a great deal about the Popp's Ferry extension to U.S. 90, where CSX has signed off on a new crossing and property acquisition continues. Three other major projects are in the offing in West Biloxi: Drainage improvements on Pine Grove and Churchill, and \$1 million in water, sewer and drainage improvements in the Tanglewood area.

## Governor awards \$5.9 million for Back Bay, East Beach boardwalk projects

Governor Phil Bryant has directed \$5.9 million of Mississippi oil and gas royalties to the City of Biloxi to fund ambitious waterfront enhancement projects on East Beach and Back Bay.

Biloxi's two grants are part of Bryant's 2019 GOMESA projects funded by the state portion of leases for energy exploration in the Gulf of Mexico. The governor was in Biloxi, at the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources headquarters on Back Bay, to announce a total of \$20 million in grants for waterfront projects Coastwide.

"We have worked closely for a couple years with Gov. Bryant and Joe Spraggins at the DMR to develop dynamic waterfront experiences for our residents and visitors," Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich said.

"We appreciate their support of these two new projects that will help facilitate greater enjoyment of, and protections for, our waterfronts."

The \$3 million East Beach project involves a new mile-long, 10-foot wide boardwalk from Oak Street to



the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor. Placed on top of the boardwalk will be a 36-inch high knee wall suggested by Gilich and designed to help trap blowing sand from reaching U.S. 90. One-third of the funding on East Beach involves changing to a heavier, less-powdery sand, as Gilich suggested to the state.

A future addition to the same area will include an expansion of the popular Kuhn Street Boat Launch and parking bays.

"This project on the East Beach is a multi-faceted effort to provide a model area for beach enjoyment and sustainability," Gilich added. "Gov. Bryant started the process with his first three Wave-designed

upgrades and reduction of outfalls along that beachfront.

"The boardwalk will provide more accessibility for pedestrians, joggers and cyclists, while the knee wall and heavier sand will help address the continuing problem of blowing sands on Highway 90."

On Biloxi's historic Back Bay, a 10-foot wide boardwalk constructed between Bayview Avenue and the shoreline will enrich that waterfront experience with a new recreational opportunity.

Future enhancements could include a joint living shoreline project with Mississippi State University and an ecotourism development involving Keegan's Bayou.

- **Last call for Camille at 50:** The end of the hurricane season, Nov. 30, also marks the end of the multi-media Camille exhibition at the Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum on Point Cadet.
- **B-Alert:** More than 8500 people receive text alerts about emergency bridge and road closures. To sign up, text BILOXI to 888777.
- **Woolmarket City Center:** Steel should be erected soon for the expansion of the Woolmarket City Center, the library and community center on Kayleigh Cove Drive. It's a joint city-county project, where a library has been operating since July 2018.

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**DIA DE LOS MUERTOS**

### ART AND THE AFTERLIFE

Nov 1, 6-9pm

**At The Mary C**

Benefits The Mary C, Walter Anderson  
& Ohr O'Keefe Museums

Marigold Sangria, Art Making,  
Fashion Show/ Costume Contest

**Tickets \$15**

**Food \$10 per plate**

Tortilla Soup • Queso • Chicken, Onion, Cheese, Meat, Cheese,  
plus the fixin's • Black Rice • Caramel Flan



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From left to right: Firefighters Michael Williams, Jared Kerness, Hunter Farve, Patrick Doswell, Philip Dees, Dewey Braa, Avery Holter, Michael Hill, Nathaniel Dunaway, Kyle Roman, Luke Derouen, David Kelly, Brett Ladner, Peter Armenta, and Michael Underwood

## Biloxi welcomes new firefighters

The City of Biloxi has added 15 firefighters to its battalion at the fire department.

The fleet grew in October with 11 new recruits and four transfers from other fire agencies.

Each complete an in-house orientation and the four already certified firefighters are assigned a station shortly after joining the team.

The new firefighters each must complete an Emergency Medical Technician course and in-house Mississippi State Fire Academy firefighter courses, with tests certified by the academy, before being set free to serve the community.

"We are excited to have such a large group of firefighters join the department," said Deputy Chief Nicholas Geiser of the Biloxi Fire Training Division. "With the two new stations coming on board, this group will help us continue to maintain the professionalism and service we provide to our citizens and visitors."



Biloxi Fire Deputy Chief Vincent Payne watches as Firefighter Michael Hill checks out the uniform.

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**Join us for our Camille  
Conversations –  
Lunch and Learn Series**

11:30 a.m.

*\$10 includes Lunch and Museum Admission*  
228-435-6320 • *Reservations required*

- *Friday, Nov. 8 – Speaker TBD*
- *Friday, Nov. 15 – Speaker TBD*

***Exhibition closes on November 30.***

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## THREE COURSE GOURMET THANKSGIVING DINNER

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28**

**12 PM - 6 PM**

**\$35 per person**

### FIRST COURSE

#### Fall Salad

Cranberry, Apple, Chèvre, Candied Pecans, Balsamic Vinaigrette, Mixed Greens

OR

#### Squash Soup

Coriander, Coconut Milk, Smoked Paprika

### MAIN COURSE

#### Sous Vide Heritage Turkey Breast

Andouille Corn Bread Dressing, Hot Honey Sweet Potato, Cranberry Sauce, Roasted Brussel Sprouts

### DESSERT

#### Spiced Pumpkin Tiramisu

Mascarpone Cheese, Hazelnut Liquor, Coffee, All Spice

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It's been a year since the big announcement of **The District on Howard Avenue**, so we thought it was a good time to check in on this proposed \$53 million, multi-use, multi-building entertainment, residential and retail development that is expected to **re-energize downtown Biloxi**.

By Lee Young

In case you missed The Reunion at the Union a few months ago, HOWARD AVENUE IS BACK! Last November we published an article in this space outlining the vision and master plan for The District on Howard. Here we are one year later and we'd like to let everyone know what we have been up to.

Before diving into our progress, we'd like to give a big thank you to the City of Biloxi for setting the stage for the rebirth of downtown. The brick-paved street between Reynoir and Main and the new sidewalks and street lights along Howard Avenue are a point of pride for all Biloxians.

The most important update is all of the relationships we have been building within the community. Reaching out to community leaders and business owners, tourists and locals, we've received a lot of support, encouragement, and feedback. We have spent a lot of time taking an active part in the community. The

District on Howard is now a proud member of both the Biloxi Bay Area and Mississippi Gulf Coast chambers of commerce, the Gulf Coast Business Council, and the Main Street Association. Through our relationship with Main Street, we are supporting the Biloxi Public Art project and planning is already underway for a mural of our own.

Another big piece of news is the hiring of Bobby Gillon as our director of Marketing & Leasing. Bobby joins our team after a decade of commercial real estate brokerage and development experience in the Northeast. He will be spearheading our leasing and community involvement efforts. Recently, Bobby was named to the Main Street Association Executive Board and will serve as this year's Economic Vitality Chairman.

Pre-leasing and space planning are underway with multiple retail, restaurant, and entertainment tenants for the Barq's Building. With over 30,000 square feet of space on the

first floor to be renovated, brought up to code, and wired with today's technology, this is a process that requires a great deal of planning and staging.

We are exploring ways to configure storefronts along Howard to provide covered, outdoor dining set back off the sidewalk. The second floor of the Barq's Building poses a very different challenge. Originally home to many familiar Biloxi names like Pitalo, Pavlov, Hengen, Sekul, and Collins, much of the infrastructure and detail remains intact. Having been unoccupied for decades, the condition of the offices is being carefully assessed, with an eye on retaining and restoring as much of the original character as possible.

Next door, work has been underway all summer in the Kress building to clean up the interior, seal the roof, repair broken windows and frames, and get all of the building systems back online. While we market the property for a single tenant to operate a live music and entertainment

venue, we are exploring ways to bring the building back to life as a community asset.

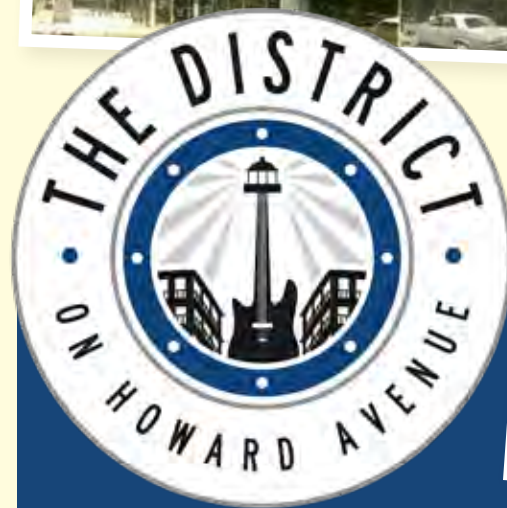
Two of the main concerns we have heard about the Howard Avenue area are the cleanliness and safety. To that end we have made daily efforts to clean up and maintain the streets, the alleys, and the parking areas all along and around Howard Avenue. By reaching out to the local community, the shelters, the Biloxi Police Department, and working with some of the homeless population nearby, we have been cleaning and maintaining our public spaces. Plans are in the works for additional security measures and lighting in strategic areas to improve the quality of your experience visiting downtown.

There is a lot of activity on Howard Avenue and we are excited to be a part of it.

The writer, Lee Edward Young, is a developer involved in the District on Howard Avenue.



Howard Avenue through the years



## Howard Avenue, Downtown Biloxi Plans call for

- 30,000 square feet of boutique shops, local breweries, restaurants, and music venues
- 330 residential units; condominiums and apartments offering one-, two-, or three-bedroom units
- 20,000 square feet of office space

**Details: Bobby Gillon:**  
228-392-1900  
bobby@thedistrictonhoward.com

# Fall Festival

Saturday, November 9, 2019 • 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Biloxi Visitors Center



Free Event!




Pumpkin Patch!  Pumpkin Painting!

Vendor Booths!  Food & Fun!

Games & Crafts!

The Biloxi Visitors Center located at 1050 Beach Blvd.  
is open free to the public daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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- ✓ Biloxi Junior High is ranked highest on the Coast!
- ✓ Biloxi High is #1 on the Coast in Algebra I proficiency and 3rd in US History proficiency
- ✓ The District ranked above the state average in all areas
- ✓ Our District has the highest PreK score on the Coast
- ✓ Our District is 2nd on the Coast and 7th in the state overall
- ✓ The state's goal of 70% proficiency by 2025 has already been achieved in history and science
- ✓ BJHS math and science all ranked Top 5 in the state
- ✓ Biloxi High is #4 on the Coast and 7th in the state overall
- ✓ Biloxi High is 3rd on the Coast and 6th in the state for math growth
- ✓ Biloxi High is 2nd on the Coast for Acceleration and 6th in the state
- ✓ 5th grade math is 3rd on the Coast
- ✓ We currently have 50 students with an ACT score of 30 or above

# Pictures with Santa!

Santa arrives November 9 at 10 a.m. and will be available for pictures through Christmas Eve.

PLUS! Pictures with Santa's LIVE Reindeer will be available:

- Nov. 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Dec. 1, 12 p.m.-6 p.m.
- Dec. 2, 4 p.m.-8 p.m.
- Dec. 3, 4 p.m.-8 p.m.



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**Edgewater Mall**

# Mardi Gras year 'round in downtown Biloxi



## New Mardi Gras museum set to open

Everybody knows about Mardi Gras on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, right? Not so, says Andi Oustalet, who's leading efforts to see the new Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum open in mid-November at its new location on the "new" Howard Avenue in downtown Biloxi.

"We opened our doors for one day in October when Biloxi had its downtown Cruisin' The Coast block party, and 70 percent of the cruisers who came through the door had no idea that Mississippi had its own Mardi Gras," Oustalet declared. "They thought everything in the museum was from New Orleans or Mobile. They were stunned to find out that Mississippi has its own Mardi Gras."

And beginning on Nov. 14 with a gala fund-raiser before doors are opened to the general public later in the month, the story of Mardi Gras will be told each Tuesday through Saturday at the new location midway between Reynoir and Lameuse streets, on Howard Avenue.

The building itself, at 792A Howard Ave.,

has as much history as Mardi Gras. It was dedicated in 1871, according to a marker, decades before the first official parade rolled near the turn of the century.

"I don't think there could be a better location," Oustalet said of the 3,500-square-foot museum. "We've taken an historical building in downtown Biloxi and transformed it into a beautiful museum that represents the history of one of our most cherished celebrations, Mardi Gras. It's centrally located, and it's going to be a big part of the resurgence of Howard Avenue and downtown Biloxi."

The new museum actually has been 15 years in the making. The odyssey began in 2004, when the decision was made to relocate and expand the museum from the Magnolia Hotel near Mary Mahoney's to the Dantzler House, which was on the front beach at the current site of the Biloxi Visitors Center.

"There was a lot of excitement about that move at the time," said city Historical Administrator Bill Raymond. "We would

have been in a high-profile location, just north of the Biloxi Lighthouse, the Dantzler House at two stories was a formidable presence, and, as a result, we saw the excitement, which also was translating into community financial support."

And then Hurricane Katrina came along in August 2005, leveling the Dantzler House and also claiming many of the costumes that had been stored there. Re-establishing the Mardi Gras Museum was not at the top of the list of post-Katrina things to do, but the city and the museum board of directors saw an opportunity with the re-construction of Howard Avenue and all the renewed interest in the area. The museum board leased space in a historic building right in the heart of downtown.

After six months of planning and construction, the museum is scheduled to open to great fanfare on Nov. 14 with a gala celebration and fundraiser honoring supporters who have made significant contributions to see the dream of a new museum come to life. The museum will

open to the general public on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

With 600 boxes of costumes, memorabilia, doubloons, scepters, crowns and costumes, it's going to be hundreds of stories. Visitors will see how costumes have evolved over the years, how Carnival has grown, and, most importantly, the religious significance behind the celebration.

Said Oustalet: "It's not about the Gulf Coast Carnival Association, although there certainly is a great deal of colorful history there. It's about Gulf Coast Mardi Gras in general. We want something from every Carnival krewe in this museum. It's about everybody."

"We have lots of old doubloon collections, and scepters and crowns and gifts that were given through the years and through the decades, many that were unusual or outstanding, and these are things that people are going to want to see."



### What you need to know

Coastal Mississippi  
Mardi Gras Museum  
792A Howard Ave. Biloxi

### The opening soiree

A grand opening party, \$75 a person, will be on Thursday, Nov. 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. This will be an annual fund-raising event to offset museum operations.

### General public

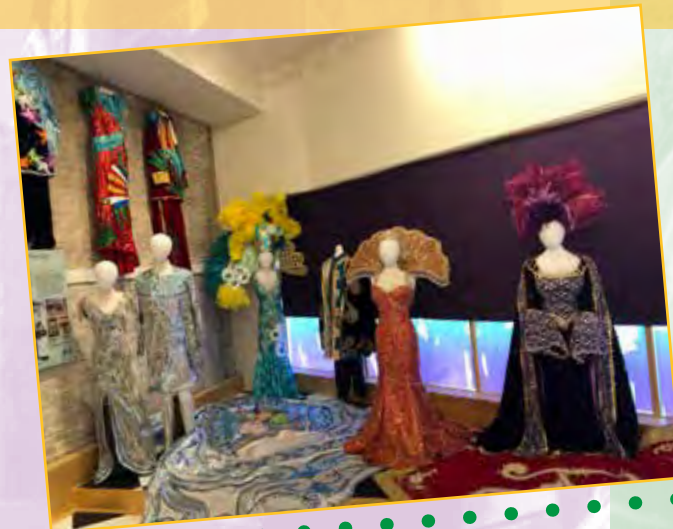
Hours will be Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., beginning Nov. 19. Admission will be \$8 adults; \$7 seniors over 60 or military with ID; \$5 for children under 12.

### Etc.

All krewes along the Coast and in Mississippi are welcome to display their past history and costumes at the museum.

### Contact info

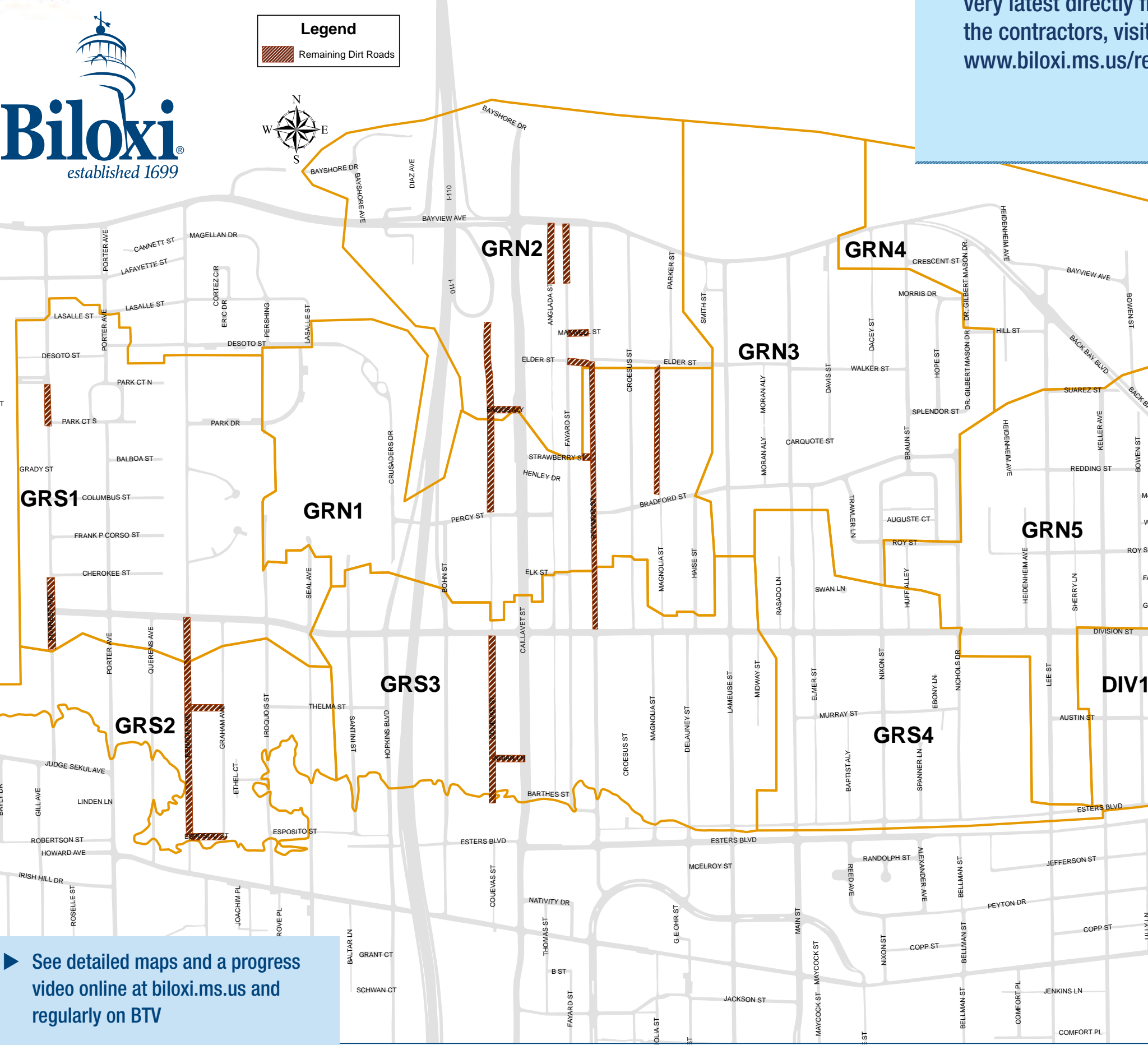
[museum@coastalmardigras.com](mailto:museum@coastalmardigras.com)  
[www.facebook.com/biloximardigrasmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/biloximardigrasmuseum)



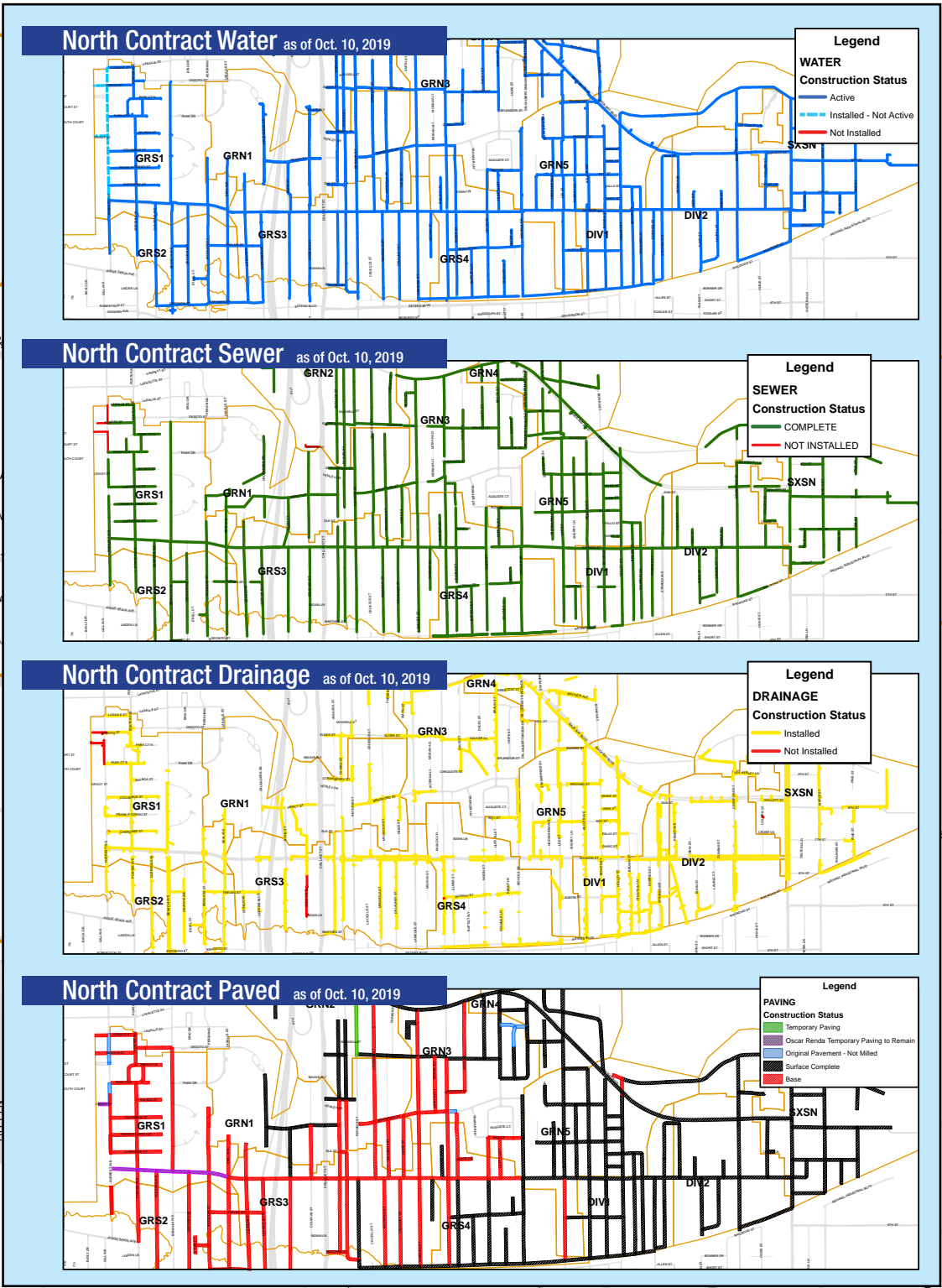
**Btv** Take a tour of the new Mardi Gras Museum at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. each day in November on Btv.



# The North Contract: Remaining dirt roads (as of Oct. 10, 2019)



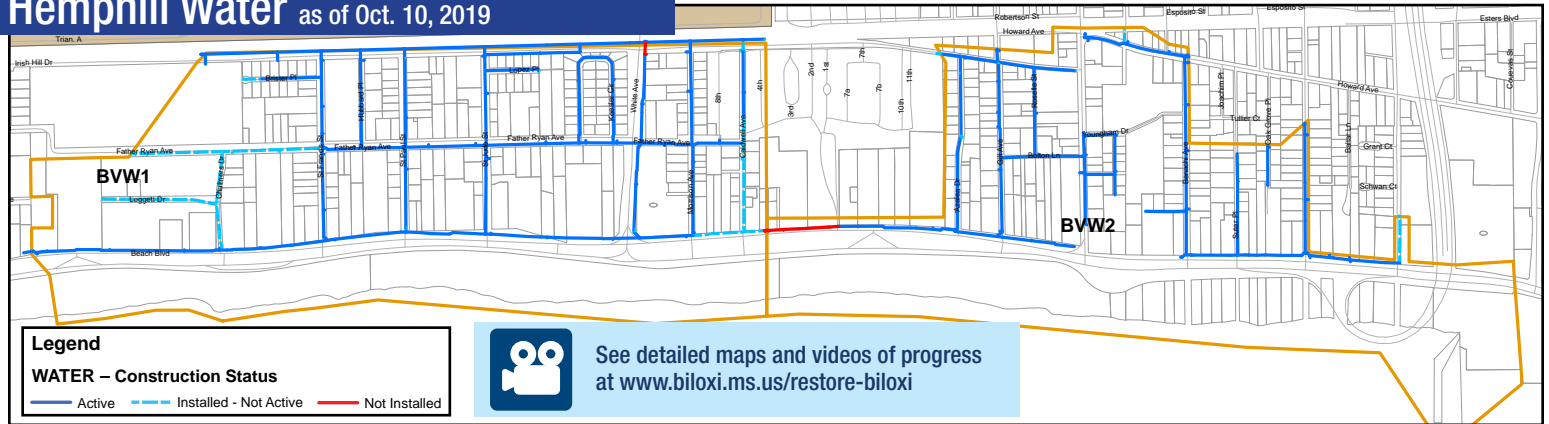
► To see detailed maps of progress and to hear the very latest directly from the contractors, visit [www.biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi](http://www.biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi).



► See detailed maps and a progress video online at [biloxi.ms.us](http://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.

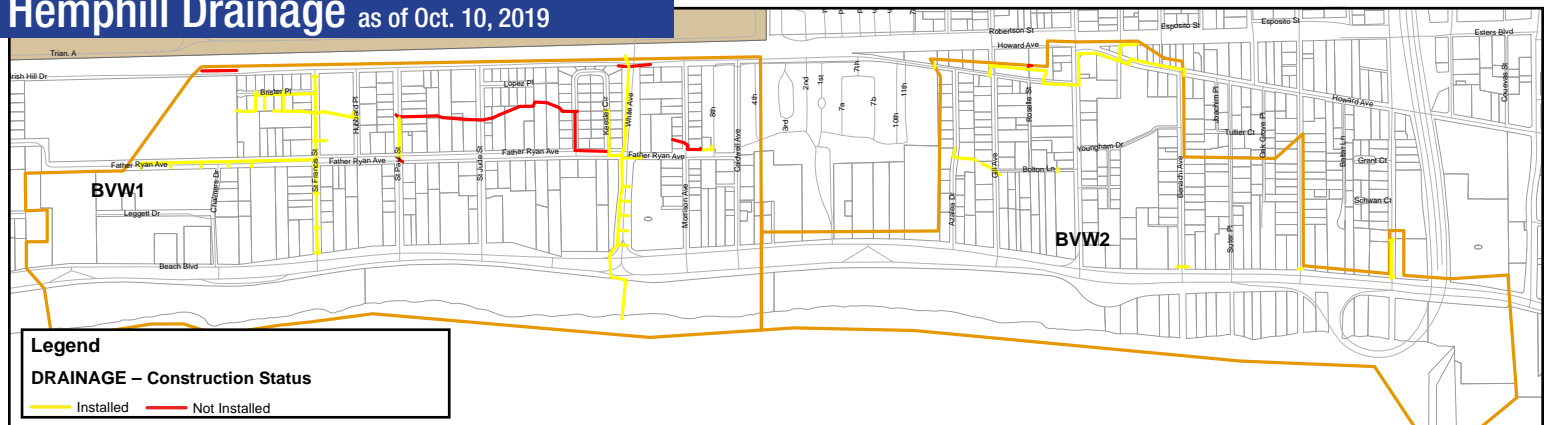
## Hemphill Water as of Oct. 10, 2019



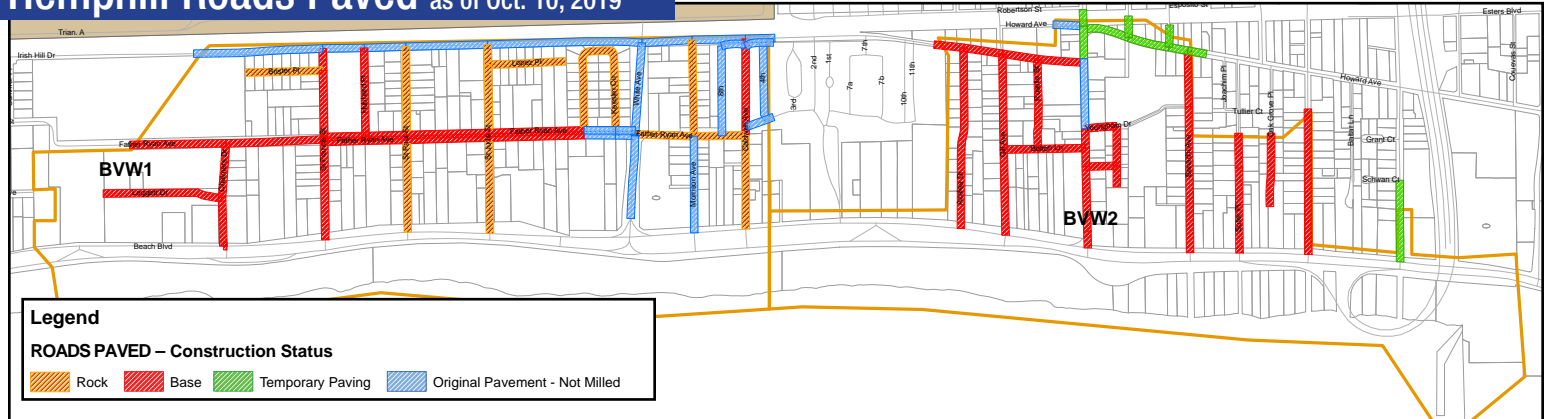
## Hemphill Sewer as of Oct. 10, 2019



## Hemphill Drainage as of Oct. 10, 2019



## Hemphill Roads Paved as of Oct. 10, 2019



## Best Bets!



### Shop early for Christmas!

The holiday extravaganza, Ron Meyers Christmas City Gift Show returns to the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Conventions Center on Nov. 8-10. The three day affair includes aisles of items such as home decor, holiday decor, jewelry, scrapbook supplies, handmade heirlooms, framed art, fragrances and more. Times vary throughout the weekend and admission is \$10 for a one day pass, \$15 for shoppers' paradise (adults only) and free for children age 15 and younger. Details: <https://christmascitygiftshow.com/>.



### Fall Festival

Enjoy the cooler weather and the autumn season at the Biloxi Visitors Center for the Fall Festival. The affair will take place on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with free admission and includes a pumpkin patch, pumpkin painting, vendor booths, games crafts and food! Details: 228-374-3105.



**First Friday**, Nov. 1, 5-8 p.m., Rue Magnolia and Water Street. Live entertainment and prize giveaways will be part of the event. Admission is free. Details: 228-435-6339.

**Biloxi Firefighters Relief Fund Plate Lunch and Raffle**, Nov. 1, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. West End Hose Co. No. 3 Fire Museum, 1046 Howard Ave. \$8 for pulled pork, potato salad baked beans and bread. \$1 drinks. Pre-orders available as well as delivery for four or more. Details: 601-954-1888.

**Friday Morning Serial**, Gulf Coast Community Design Studio, 769 Howard Ave. November speakers: Nov. 1 – Laura Payne, Back Bay Mission Community Relations; Nov. 8 – Summer Bat, artist leading Serial Meditation; and Nov. 22 – Christopher Foley, Asst. Professor of English School of Humanities, University of Southern Mississippi. Free to attend. Confirm attendance: [eengelbretson@gccds@msstate.edu](mailto:eengelbretson@gccds@msstate.edu).

**The Bibletones Gospel Concert**, Nov. 3, 4 p.m., Cedar Lake United Methodist Church, 12332 Cedar Lake Road. A night of inspiring music, food, fellowship and blessings. Admission: love offering. Details: 228-392-3200 or 228-669-5662.

**Breakfast with the Mayor**, Nov. 6, 8 a.m., Merit Health Cafeteria, 150 Reynoir St. 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.

**Biloxi Excel By 5 November Orientation**, Nov. 6, 9:30 a.m. and Nov. 19 at 5 p.m. at Biloxi Family Resources Center, 140 St. John Ave. Orientation is monthly through April for parents/caregivers and is required before children play in the interactive rooms. Details: 228-297-6808 or email [susan.hunt@biloxischools.net](mailto:susan.hunt@biloxischools.net).

**Ron Meyers' Christmas City Gift Show**, Nov. 8-10, times vary, Mississippi Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd. Admission: \$10 to \$15; free for ages 15 and younger. Details: <https://christmascitygiftshow.com/>; 800-476-9336 or 228-831-3020.

**Fall Festival**, Nov. 9, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Fun for everyone with pumpkin patch, pumpkin painting, vendors' booths, games, crafts and food. Details: 228-374-3105.

**4th Annual Gulf Coast Oyster Cook Off & Festival**, Nov. 9, 11 a.m., Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. Seafood, entertainment and more. Admission: \$5 to \$50. Details: <http://www.gulfcoastoystercookoff.com/>.

## Best Bet!

### Celebrate the dogs!



The American Cancer Society is celebrating the lifelong contributions of canine caregivers, especially to cancer patients and cancer survivors, with the Bark For Life of the MS Gulf Coast event on Saturday, Nov. 16 from noon to 4 p.m. at Biloxi Hiller Park. The affair will include an honor walk, K9 demonstrations, McGruff the Crime Dog, cutest dog and look-alike contests, a fashion show, a raffle, onsite adoptions by the Jackson County and Hancock County animal shelters and more! Admission: \$10 for adults, \$15 for one adult and a dog, \$20 for one adult and two or more dogs, and free for ages 16 and younger. Details: [relayforlife.org/barkmsgulfcoast](http://relayforlife.org/barkmsgulfcoast).



## Stay in touch

**BNews:** Welcome to the 18th issue of BNews Monthly. It's a compendium of things you should know about your city: status reports on current and pending public works, and a calendar of community events covering the next 30 days.

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

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

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

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

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

## Frequently Called Numbers

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



**Bike Biloxi,** Nov. 9, 6 p.m. Ride begins at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd., and travels through downtown. Bicycle ride ends at a downtown restaurant at cyclist's expense. Helmets and lights recommended. Admission is free. Details: 228-435-6339.

**Holiday Shape Up: Tis' the season for a healthier you!** Nov. 11-Jan. 4, The Salvation Army Kroc Center, 575 Division St. Eight-week membership for only \$20! Weigh in weekly to participate in the challenge. Prizes for top male and female winners. Details: 228-207-1218.

**Senior Thanksgiving Breakfast and Fellowship,** Nov. 15, 8 a.m. coffee hour; 9 a.m. breakfast. Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Open to all age 50 and older and includes speakers and door prizes. Admission is free. RSVP: 228-388-7170.

**36th Annual Mayor's Cup 5K Run,** Nov. 16, 9 a.m., Lameuse Street at City Hall. Registration fee varies. Details: [www.gulfcoastrunningclub.org](http://www.gulfcoastrunningclub.org), 228-380-7037.



**Bark For Life of the MS Gulf Coast,** Nov. 16, noon-4 p.m. Hiller Park, 380 Hiller Drive. Celebrate the lifelong contributions of canine caregivers to cancer patients and survivors with a fun-filled afternoon. The affair will include an honor walk, K9 demonstrations, vendors, activities, food, and music. Admission: \$10 for adults, \$15 for one adult and a dog, \$20 for one adult and two or more dogs, and free for ages 16 and younger. Details: [relayforlife.org/barkmsgulfcoast](http://relayforlife.org/barkmsgulfcoast).



**Disney On Ice,** Nov. 21-24, times vary, Mississippi Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd. Admission: Tickets begin at \$15. Details: 800-745-3000.

**Biloxi Main Street Book Club,** Nov. 21, 5:30 p.m., Jacked Up Coffee Bar, 999 Howard Ave. Book of the month is "The Sugar Queen" by Sarah Addison Allen and may be purchased next door to the coffee bar at Southern Bound Book Shop. Details: 228-435-6339.



**Special Needs & Family Thanksgiving Dinner,** Nov. 24, 11 a.m. -2 p.m. Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Games, food and fun! Sponsored by City of Biloxi, Oran Caravan #67, and Asgard Motorcycle Club. All ages with physical and mental disabilities are welcome. RSVP: 228-388-7170 or [cbell@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:cbell@biloxi.ms.us).

**Black Friday Featuring Yo Gotti and Friends,** Nov. 29, 8 p.m., Mississippi Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd. Tickets begin at \$70. Details: 800-745-3000.

**Upstairs Downstairs Reunion Party,** Nov. 30, doors open at 6 p.m., Dr. Frank G. Gruich Sr. Community Center, 591 Howard Ave. Admission prices begin at \$20. Must be 21 to attend. Details: [www.clearvisionent.net](http://www.clearvisionent.net).



## Biloxi Public Schools football games

### Biloxi High Varsity Football

- **Home Game:** Nov. 8, 7 p.m. (Senior Night)  
Biloxi vs. Gulfport HSon HS

Home Games played  
at Biloxi Indian Stadium,  
1845 Tribe Dr.

Details: 228-435-6310.

Visit online at [www.biloxischools.net](http://www.biloxischools.net) for details on playoffs and championship games.

**Biloxi Little Theater**

220 Lee St., 228-432-8543, [www.4blt.org](http://www.4blt.org)  
 • **Mary Poppins Jr.**, Nov. 9-11 and 16-18, times vary.

**Center Stage**

2670 Rue Palafox, 228-388-6258  
[centerstagebiloxi.com](http://centerstagebiloxi.com)  
 • **The All Night Strut**, Nov. 14-24, times vary.

**Biloxi Lighthouse and Visitors Center**

1050 Beach Blvd., 228-374-3105, [www.biloxi.ms.us](http://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](mailto:schooner@maritimemuseum.org)  
 • Walk-on sunset sails, charters, or sails to Horn Island

**Biloxi Shrimping Trip**

693 Beach Blvd., 228-392-8645, [biloxishrimpingtrip.com](http://biloxishrimpingtrip.com)  
 • Sunset cruises, fishing trips, and three shrimping trips daily.

**Biloxi Tour Train**

Biloxi Lighthouse Park parking lot, South of Biloxi Visitors Center, Traffic light #40; 228-374-8687, [www.biloxitourtrain.com](http://www.biloxitourtrain.com)  
 • Tours daily. Call for reservations.  
 Experience the history of Biloxi with a ride on an open-air train.

**Betsy Ann Riverboat Cruise**

173 Beach Blvd., 228-229-4270, [betsyannriverboat@gmail.com](mailto:betsyannriverboat@gmail.com), [bestyannriverboat.com](http://bestyannriverboat.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](http://msshipisland.com)

**Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum**

115 1st St., 228-435-6320, [www.maritimemuseum.org](http://www.maritimemuseum.org)  
 • **Camille Conversations Lunch**, Nov. 8 & 15 – Speakers TBD  
 • **Ride in Christmas on the Water Boat Parade aboard a Biloxi Schooner** - Call 228-435-6320 to reserve your spot!

**Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art**

386 Beach Blvd., 228-374-5547, [www.georgeohr.org](http://www.georgeohr.org)

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

1046 Howard Ave., 435-6119/435-6200, [www.biloxi.ms.us](http://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  
 • **Meeting Night**, Nov. 6 and 20, 7 p.m., new members welcome.  
 • **Steak Nights with Entertainment**, Nov. 2, 9, 16, and 23, 6 p.m.; Steaks \$20  
 • **Charity Bingo**, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, Early Bird start 6:30 p.m.; regular games 7 p.m. Cash prizes, drawing and gifts. Kitchen open until 8:30 p.m.  
 • **Sunday Bingo**, Nov. 3 and 10, Early Bird start 2 p.m. Regular games 2:30 p.m. Jackpot cash prizes, drawing and gifts. Concessions available.

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

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472  
 • Every Friday night in November, 6-8 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](mailto: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](http://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, Courtney Lamar
- **Biloxi Planning Commission:** Regularly scheduled meetings: first and third Thursday of the month at 2 p.m.; Community Development, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266.
- **Development Review Committee:** Regularly scheduled meetings: Wednesdays at 9 a.m.; Community Development, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266.
- **Tree Committee:** Regularly scheduled meetings: second Monday of each month at 4 p.m.; Gulf Coast Community Design Studio, 769 Howard Ave. Details: 228-435-6266.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Story Time Woolmarket Library	<b>29</b> Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> First Friday Downtown Biloxi  Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society  Friday Morning Serial Gulf Coast Community Design Studio  So You Think You Can Dance – Beau Rivage  Ronnie Milsap IP Casino Resort & Spa	<b>2</b>  Patti LaBelle Beau Rivage  Classic Albums Live Hard Rock  Brian McKnight IP Casino Resort & Spa
<b>3</b>  The Bibletones Gospel Concert Cedar Lake Methodist Church	<b>4</b> Story Time Woolmarket Library	<b>5</b> Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	<b>6</b>  Breakfast with the Mayor Merit Health Cafeteria  Biloxi Excel By 5 Orientation Biloxi Family Resources Center	<b>7</b> Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library	<b>8</b> Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society  Friday Morning Serial Gulf Coast Community Design Studio  Christmas City Gift Show MS Coast Coliseum  Biloxi High Varsity Football Home Game Biloxi Indian Stadium  Craig Morgan IP Casino Resort & Spa	<b>9</b> Fall Festival Biloxi Visitors Center  Bike Biloxi Biloxi Visitors Center  Christmas City Gift Show MS Coast Coliseum  Oyster Cook Off & Festival Biloxi Town Green  KC & The Sunshine Band Hard Rock  Alice Cooper Beau Rivage
<b>10</b>  Christmas City Gift Show MS Coast Coliseum	<b>11</b> Story Time Woolmarket Library  Holiday Shape Up Begins Today Kroc Center	<b>12</b> Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library	<b>15</b> Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society  Senior Thanksgiving Breakfast & Fellowship Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center  Family Feud Beau Rivage  Kenny G Beau Rivage  98 Degrees IP Casino Resort & Spa	<b>16</b>  Mayor's Cup 5k Biloxi City Hall  Back For Life Hiller Park  Family Feud Beau Rivage  Sugar Ray Hard Rock  REO Speedwagon IP Casino Resort & Spa
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Story Time Woolmarket Library	<b>19</b> Community Market Story Time-W. Biloxi  Biloxi Excel By 5 Orientation Biloxi Family Resources Center	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Community Market Festival Story Time Biloxi Library  Disney on Ice Coast Coliseum  Biloxi Book Club Jacked Up Coffee Bar	<b>22</b> Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society  Friday Morning Serial Gulf Coast Community Design Studio  Disney on Ice Coast Coliseum  Willie Nelson IP Casino Resort & Spa  Joe Bonamassa Beau Rivage	<b>23</b>  Disney on Ice Coast Coliseum  Clairvoyants IP Casino Resort & Spa  Terry Fater Beau Rivage
<b>24</b>  Special Needs Thanksgiving Dinner Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center  Disney on Ice Coast Coliseum	<b>25</b> Story Time Woolmarket Library	<b>26</b> Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Community Market Festival Story Time Biloxi Library	<b>29</b> Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society  Black Friday featuring Yo Gotti and Friends MS Coast Coliseum  Martina McBride Beau Rivage  Chicks with Hits IP Casino Resort & Spa	<b>30</b>  Upstairs Downstairs Reunion Party Frank G. Gruich Community Center  Michael Carbonaro Beau Rivage  Jamey Johnson IP Casino Resort & Spa

# Btv November Schedule

Sparklight 56; Uverse 99 (follow prompts) or at [biloxi.ms.us/btv](http://biloxi.ms.us/btv)

Morning	
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: Step inside the new Mardi Gras Museum (14 min)
7:15 a.m.	Your tour of the Kroc Center (8 min)
7:25 a.m.	Confronted by a panhandler? Use the Salvation Army Help Card (12 min)
7:40 a.m.	Seven minutes – CASA (7 min)
7:48 a.m.	A vintage vignette: "America's Riviera," B&W, 1950s travelogue (9 min)
8 a.m.	Special Presentation: The story of Edgewater Mall (60 min)
9 a.m.	A vintage vignette: "America's Riviera," 1960s travelogue (14 min)
9:14 a.m.	Biloxi's Slavic influence (12 min)
9:26 a.m.	Making pusharatas (4 min)
9:30 a.m.	City Council meetings and bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)
Afternoon	
12:30 p.m.	Gov. Phil Bryant presentation (30 min)
1 p.m.	Breakfast with the Mayor (31 min)
1:31 p.m.	Biloxi Today (3 min)
1:35 p.m.	Infrastructure video (5 min)
1:45 p.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)
2 p.m.	Tour of the Kroc Center (8 min)
2:10 a.m.	Salvation Army Help Card (12 min)
2:25 a.m.	Seven minutes – Court-Appointed Special Advocates (7 min)
2:35 a.m.	A vintage vignette: "America's Riviera," B&W, 1950s travelogue (9 min)
2:45 p.m.	A vintage vignette: "America's Riviera," 1960s travelougy (14 min)
3 p.m.	City Council meetings and bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)
Evening	
6 p.m.	"Down in Biloxi," by Rockin' Ray Fournier (4 min)
6:04 p.m.	A Day in the Life of Biloxi (9 min)
6:13 p.m.	Biloxi Builders and Visionaries (8 min)
6:21 p.m.	Biloxi Today (3 min)
6:25 p.m.	Infrastructure video (5 min)
6:30 p.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)
6:45 p.m.	The History of Biloxi (11 min)
7 p.m.	Special Presentation: Step inside the new Mardi Gras Museum (14 min)
7:15 p.m.	Your tour of the Kroc Center (8 min)
7:25 p.m.	Salvation Army Help Card (12 min)
7:40 p.m.	Seven minutes – CASA (7 min)
7:48 p.m.	A vintage vignette: "America's Riviera," B&W, 1950s travelogue (9 min)
8 p.m.	Special Presentation: The story of Edgewater Mall (60 min)
9 p.m.	A vintage vignette: "America's Riviera," 1960s travelogue (14 min)
9:14 p.m.	Biloxi's Slavic influence (12 min)
9:26 p.m.	Making pusharatas (4 min)
9:30 p.m.	City Council meetings and bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)
12:31 a.m.	National anthem by Ronny Broussard (2 min)

## Inside BTV for November: Real help for panhandlers

### Help for panhandlers:

Ever been confronted by a panhandler on the street or sidewalk? Salvation Army Majors Bradley and Anita Caldwell have helpful advice in a BTV special

airing daily in November: Give the person a Help Card, a pocket-size card that has information on free meals, showers, temporary housing and more. BTV airs the 14-minute story of the Help Card each day in November at 7:25 a.m., 7:25 p.m. and 2:10 p.m. Meantime, you can pick up free Help Cards, printed courtesy of Knight-Abbey Printing and Direct Mail, at the Kroc Center, the Biloxi Visitors Center, the Donall M. Snyder Sr. Community Center or at a growing number of local businesses.



**Kroc Center:** It's a multi-million-dollar, fully-equipped recreation and fitness facility, with lap and children's pools, music lessons, basketball, weights, Zumba and much more. It's the Salvation Army Kroc Center in East Biloxi, and it's open to everyone. Take an eight-minute tour of the facility on BTV each day in November, at 7:15 a.m., 7:15 p.m. and 2 p.m.

**Specials:** Of course, the featured specials on BTV this month are a tour of the new Mardi Gras Museum, which opens Tuesday, Nov. 19 in downtown Biloxi, and the story of Edgewater Mall, which is preparing for Christmas shoppers and Santa Claus. See the Mardi Gras Museum segment each day at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., and see the mall history each day at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.



**The Gov:** Gov. Phil Bryant was in town the other day, with money. See the press conference where the governor announced \$20 million in grants for the Gulf Coast, including \$5.9 million for Biloxi, each at 12:30 p.m. on BTV, throughout November.

**Still playing:** The two vintage travelogue videos about Biloxi and the Mississippi Gulf Coast - one from the '50s in black and white and one from the '60s in vibrant color - remain on the BTV schedule for November. Why? The '60s clip, with its views of pre-Camille Biloxi and Gulf Coast, captured more than 6,500 views on the city's YouTube channel in its first couple of weeks online. See the video vignettes back-to-back (9 minutes and 14 minutes) each weekday at 2:35 p.m.

**No cable?** No problem: The city's two franchisees, Sparklight and AT&T Uverse, are obligated to carry BTV as part of their franchise agreements with the City of Biloxi. However, you don't need cable to see BTV. In fact, the BTV signal going to Sparklight and AT&T Uverse is also being transmitted simultaneously to the internet. See it in real time at [www.biloxi.ms.us/btv](http://www.biloxi.ms.us/btv).



You can also find individual programs on the City of Biloxi YouTube page.

# Meet Me at the Mall!

Whether it's "Meet Me on the Mall" or "Meet Me at the Mall," Edgewater has a long and colorful history – and not-so-humble beginnings – in the journey to becoming a retail engine and entertainment mecca.



Edgewater Mall has always been the ideal place to visit. Situated along a major highway with full views of our magnificent sand beach, the large enclosed shopping mall opened in 1963 as a single story business with only 11 stores.

## Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra

### A lot has changed through time.

Throughout its more than 50 decades and counting of establishment, the mall has seen many changes to its building and surrounding areas.

In fact, the busy highway south of the mall was once a single-lane dirt road, traveled by horses, buggies, trolley cars, and, later,

automobiles and trucks. Until the mid-1960s, long before annexation, the mall's location was referred to as "between Biloxi and Gulfport." Now, it's West Biloxi.

### Way back, before the Mall

Developers Back-in-the Day were visionaries who recognized that the land where our present Edgewater Mall now stands was a prime location for development.

In the 1920's, an amazing iconic hotel was built. The landmark Edgewater Gulf Hotel celebrated its opening in 1927, offering tennis courts, a children's playground, horseback riding, a swimming pool, shopping, and an 18-hole golf course. Each of its 400 rooms faced the Gulf of Mexico.



Its grand opening was accompanied with an elaborate celebration of music, food, and networking for the crowd of distinguished visitors from throughout the United States.

### 'Meet Me on the Mall'

Our mall was born in September 1963, with its slogan "Meet Me on the Mall." In its early days its signage read "Edgewater Plaza" and was proudly advertised as an air-conditioned shopping city.

Stores stayed open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. It was described as "on the beach, between Biloxi and Gulfport." A few years after its opening, the boundaries of these cities were expanded to the common border at DeBuys Road.

The premiere tenants included a bank, grocery store, drug store, jeweler, shoe and clothing stores, service station, photographer, fabric store, music store, barber, restaurant, and pet store. Even a movie theater was added! This was a one-stop shopping venue for everyone. Who could ask for anything more?

### Searching for Santa

Santa has been arriving at Edgewater Mall annually since its 1963 opening. Biloxi's

*"'Twas the month before Christmas when we were very small, All we could think about was Santa at the Mall."*

mall has always been synonymous with jolly old St. Nick. In fact, stored in Grandma's attic treasures are specially-preserved images of young ones visiting Santa.

Each November this jolly fellow travels all the way from his North Pole home to our very own Edgewater Mall to listen to special wishes.

Back-in-the-day, as in November 1963, Santa arrived in a 40-foot wheeled rocket ship, which towered 12 feet high and 8 feet wide and rolled on 10 wheels! Once Santa found his special red velvet chair in the gorgeous holiday-decorated mall, kids were offered the opportunity to take rides in Santa's special transportation device.

### Camille's visit to our mall

In spite of the wrath of Hurricane Camille in 1969, Edgewater Plaza Shopping Center suffered minimal damage and had its power and air-conditioning restored a few days after the powerful storm. Anyone needing fresh drinking water, groceries, and cleaning supplies could go to the mall for help. Mall management even offered free use of washing machines and dryers.

The interior of the mall was closed for a while longer, though, because of the debris and broken glass that littered the mall's interior walkways. Indeed we can truly declare that

Edgewater Mall was both a survivor as well as a first responder of historic Hurricane Camille.

### Did you know?

Years ago there was a train depot located just north of the mall. It was constructed for \$60,000 and opened in August 1927. Passengers could travel via the L&N railroad from Mobile or New Orleans and arrive on schedule to "pass a good time" at the Edgewater Gulf Hotel.

Several commuter trains serviced the Biloxi area at that time, including the memorable Hummingbird and the Gulf Coast Limited. Remnants of the old train station's structure could be spotted behind the mall long after the depot closed.

In the early 1970s, when the White Pillars restaurant was undergoing modernization, timber from that old station was recycled for use as ceiling beams for that iconic restaurant.

### Mysteries of the Edgewater

In 1971, during the demolition of the old Edgewater Gulf Hotel, a secret room was discovered behind a bookcase. Inside the room was a plethora of maps, plats, and even an antique filing cabinet. No one could explain why this room had been hidden all those years and why no one removed any of its contents. If only those walls could have talked!

Then, in 1995, during a renovation project, a secret tunnel was spotted on the south side of the Mall. The operations manager at the mall discovered that, in about 1980, someone had crawled 34 feet through a 36 inch wide drainage pipe, and dug through 10 feet of dirt, perhaps with the intention of robbing a nearby bank. Biloxi Police were called in, and it was determined that a potential thief, was, indeed, unsuccessful in his attempt, and left his tools behind to rust away.



An ad for Edgewater Mall in Deep South Magazine in the 1960s

### Malls are scarce these days

Today, the new construction of indoor malls has, essentially, become obsolete. Some older malls in other parts of the country have been re-purposed into offices or housing venues.

Our mall, however, stands proudly and is thriving. Centered at its perfect location, adjacent to our heavily-traveled U.S. 90 and across from the beaches of the Mississippi Sound, there are no other indoor malls for miles and miles.

Biloxi's Edgewater Mall continues to offer a wonderful, modern, comfortable climate-controlled environment coupled with fabulous retail, eating, and entertainment options for all ages.

"Meet me at the Mall" is still one of the most-often heard, year-'round meeting plans for everyone. And, Grandmas everywhere still proudly collect their favorite grandkids' Christmas Santa photos of visits to our very own Edgewater Mall.

## Edgewater Mall

### Today's Edgewater Mall

- **Address:** 2600 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi
- **Total space:** 1 million square feet of retail and entertainment
- **Stores:** About 100 retailers, including such names as Dillard's, JCPenney, Belk, Men's Wearhouse, Buckle, Bath & Body Works, Victoria Secret, Bella Rose Boutique, and Books-A-Million.
- **Hours:** Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday noon to 6 p.m.
- **Entertainment:** Includes an eight-screen, stadium-style digital movie theater; seven restaurants; a Food Court of 10 eateries; rock-climbing wall; arcade; carousel; and Zoofari riding "animals."
- **Website:** [www.edgewatermall.com](http://www.edgewatermall.com)
- **Facebook address:** [www.facebook.com/EdgewaterMall](https://www.facebook.com/EdgewaterMall)
- **Phone number:** (228) 388-3424

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich  
and the Biloxi City Council  
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