

Infrastructure work headed to Howard, Point Cadet

As infrastructure work continues to wind down on the remaining segments north of the CSX railway – only Forrest and a few streets remain unpaved in the nearly 55 miles of impacted roadways -- other city contractors are ramping up for major work south of the railway.

Hemphill Construction, the firm working on eight miles of streets south of the railway, in early December will begin replacing a 15-inch sewer line and the seven manholes on Howard Avenue between Benachi Avenue and

Hopkins Boulevard.

The sewer work is in the eastbound lane of Howard Avenue, and the work is expected to be completed before Mardi Gras parades roll in February, according to Walt Rode, who is overseeing the city's infrastructure work.

Meanwhile on Point Cadet, Lane Construction has begun a \$10.5 million, 550-day project that will see new water, sewer and drainage lines on the eastern tip of the peninsula, south of the railway and north of Howard Avenue.

- ▶ Infrastructure update and progress, Pages 12-16
- ▶ Detailed maps and video online at biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi
- ▶ BTV: Infrastructure update daily 6:25 a.m. and 6:25 p.m.
- ▶ Nick L. Shrimp: The enormity of it all, Page 2



It's a Biloxi Christmas

The holiday season is upon us and there's a monthlong lineup of events to help welcome Santa Claus to Biloxi and usher in the New Year. Find out about the origin of Christmas on the Water and other Biloxi-specific traditions and see the lineup of holiday events in this week's cover story. See Page 6.

Meantime, this month on BTV, you can get the inside story from the planners of the city's annual holiday events in the special presentation "Christmas Traditions in Biloxi." See the 20-minute program daily at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. throughout December.



ALSO INSIDE This month

Popp's Ferry:

The big picture

The city lays out the plan for the new Popp's Ferry corridor – the "Biloxi Beach connector" – and, yes, the Popp's Ferry bridge, Page 4.



BFD, in black 'n' white

Meet Jack, the newest member of the Biloxi Fire Department, and read the names of the dozens of firefighters recognized for heroic acts, Page 10

Saenger status

The arduous and time-consuming process of upgrading the Saenger Theatre has begun, Page 8

City seeks to save tree

The city is hoping to save a live oak tree threatened by infrastructure work in a Biloxi neighborhood, Page 8

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Nick L. Shrimp



Oh, happy day! Infrastructure work, with all its challenges, expands to Point

It must have been a happy day for those in the Slavonian Lodge when a dozen imposing concrete structures and stacks of large lime green pipes showed up on the street in front of their meeting place on Maple Street in East Biloxi.

The infrastructure project – which lodge members and everyone else in Biloxi has seen decimate streets north and south of the CSX railway over the past five years – is moving to Point Cadet.

Brace yourselves.

There is good news, however, for those who wonder about the state of their city and its massive roadwork.

There's no denying that the North contract – which faced delays even before construction began – has been a dumpster fire. Miles and miles of streets torn up for months and months and months. Let's not forget the impact of torrential rain on dirt roads in low-lying areas that are so prevalent on the Biloxi peninsula.

And now, there's no denying this immutable fact: The North contract is nearly complete. Sure, it's a year behind the last deadline, but the pavement is down. You actually have to look for an unpaved street in East Biloxi. Alas, you still find 'em.

But stop for a moment, if you will, and consider the context.

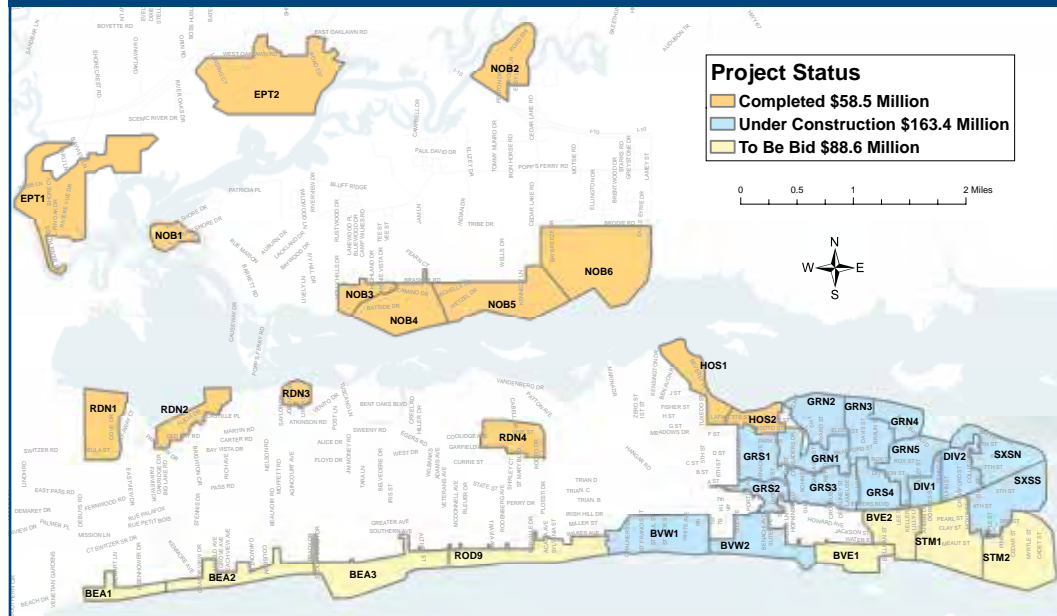
When Biloxi was flush with cash in the decade after gaming, the city averaged spending \$16 million a year in what is known as capital outlay. That would include major street work, whether it was four-laning Popp's Ferry or Cedar Lake roads or building Bayview Avenue or a new Caillavet Street, Crawford and so on, or constructing the Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center or Snyder center, or buying new police cars and fire trucks. It all came to an average of \$16 million a year, mostly all locally financed. As Public Works Director Jerry Morgan, a contractor, used to say at the time: "A.J., a contractor would die for this kind of work."

Those were heady days for Biloxi, but

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.

Overall infrastructure status

As of November 2019



The inside story on infrastructure

- **Background:** Read more on the Point Cadet infrastructure work and see detailed maps of overall progress, Pages 12-16
- **BTV:** The monthly infrastructure update, with photos, video and comments from the contractors airs daily at 6:25 a.m. and 6:25 p.m. through December.
- **Online:** See detailed maps of the progress and a project overview at <https://biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/>

today, right now, the city has \$163 million in construction under contract on infrastructure work alone: \$130 million on the North contract, \$25 million on the Hemphill work, and now \$10.5 million on Point Cadet. That's 10 times the amount of work than has ever been done by the city in a given year.

To that work add another \$35 million in other construction now underway: the Keesler gate at Division Street, boardwalks on Point Cadet, two fire stations north of the Bay, improvements to the Saenger and Woolmarket City Center.

Fact is, between infrastructure and other public works, there's a total of about \$200 million in city construction underway at the moment. Toss in other major projects pending, such as the Popp's Ferry extension and new roads at Ellzey Place and Belle La Vie, and you're looking at a quarter billion.

But it's not so much the amount of work or the milestone of monetary scale (thank you, federal government), but it's the resulting improvements,

many of which will have Biloxi better prepared next time a Katrina comes along. Mayor Gilich likes to point out that the infrastructure work now underway – the wholesale replacing of water, sewer and drainage lines far below the ground – is replacing a system that was built in the late '50s with a 25-year life span.

Biloxi, in a matter of years (let's say in 2024), will have a brand-new, gravity-driven system that will be more efficient and easier to maintain. For instance, you won't hear about "lift stations." These are the pumping stations that pump wastewater from East Biloxi to the Keegan Bayou Treatment Plant and in West Biloxi to the West Biloxi Treatment Plant, off Atkinson Road.

You don't think about where the water goes when you flush the toilet, but "lift stations" play a vital role in public health and welfare. When Katrina struck, Biloxi had 117 of these stations, and virtually all of them were offline, which meant the city's sewer system was not operating. You couldn't flush your toilet for days, until the system was Band-Aided together. Some Band-Aids still remain in place today, in fact.

But this new system, this \$355 million investment, eliminates more than two dozen lift stations and as a result employs larger and deeper pipes, which means far less to maintain and far less to remove, replace or repair in times of a catastrophic storm.

But we're getting ahead of ourselves. We're still a few years away from saying "mission accomplished." Meantime, we're counting on the fellows of the lodge to keep their fellow member, the honorable mayor, abreast of their feelings, as animated as they may be, on the infrastructure work on Point Cadet. Just as so many others have done in East Biloxi.

Oh, happy day for him.

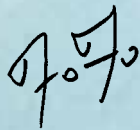


Merry Christmas and Thank You

As we wind down 2019, with this, our first full year of BNews Monthly, we say thank you for the positive feedback we've received on this monthly newsletter, which we launched in June 2018. Our goal is to keep you informed on the myriad issues of interest to you and your fellow residents.

We also thank those advertisers who you see on these pages each month. Their support helps defray the cost of this newsletter, as well as our efforts on BTV and in Bmail. They are certainly civic-minded companies, and they also know that everyone in Biloxi gets this newsletter.

And, finally, the City Council and I wish each and every one of you safe and happy holidays and the best in 2020.



Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich
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BNews Monthly



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Mayor outlines process for Popp's Ferry bridge, corridor

Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich spoke about the city’s efforts to see a new Popp’s Ferry bridge during a chamber gathering the other day, and, like clockwork, hours later phones began ringing in the city’s Engineering Department, a clearinghouse for all public and private construction undertakings in the city.

“People who live on Popp’s Ferry Road, especially those north of the bridge, are understandably concerned about the impact the new bridge and wider approaches will have on their homes and property,” said City Engineer Christy LeBatard. “They let us know every time this issue comes up. But the truth is, there’s not much more we can say at this point, other than the city wants to build a new bridge and here are the general plans.”

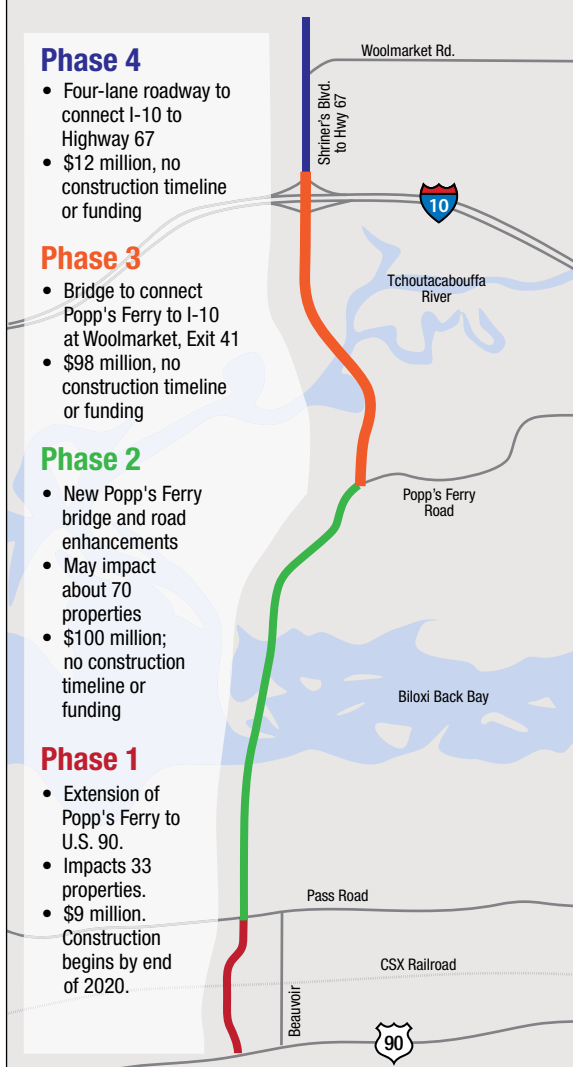
During his chamber presentation, Gilich showed maps of progress on East Biloxi infrastructure work and discussed the plans for the Popp’s Ferry corridor, which would be part of an overall plan known as the “Biloxi Beach Connector.” The plan includes a four-lane roadway that connects from U.S. 90 at the new Popp’s Ferry extension, includes a new, higher Popp’s Ferry bridge, and connects to I-10 at Shriners Boulevard, and which, of course, also provides access to Miss. 67.

Gilich acknowledged such an unfunded project, pegged at \$250 million today, could take 20 years with the necessary state and federal permitting processes and property acquisitions. Actual construction on the southernmost phase, extending Popp’s Ferry Road to U.S. 90 west of the Coast Coliseum, should begin by the end of 2020.

It’s the bridge, however, that frustrates the 20,000 motorists who travel the major north-south route, which, Gilich noted, is vital in times of an evacuation but has to open dozens of times to allow boats access to safe anchorage upriver. Over the past several weeks, the bridge, which was built in 1978 and was transferred by Harrison County to the city some 20 years later, has caused traffic detours and delays because of malfunctions with the raising and lowering of its draw.

The proposed new bridge, which would not have a draw, would tower at least 90 feet above the water, compared to the 32-foot height of the current bridge’s draw. The new bridge would be four lanes, with four-lane approaches at its northern and southern ends. The southern end of the bridge would not touch land until near the intersection of Popp’s Ferry and Atkinson roads because of the bridge’s height.

However, plans and timelines can’t be advanced further because state and federal approvals are pending for a document known as an “environmental assessment,” which is a detailed and concise examination outlining impacts of the route and also rules out other potential routes.



Phase 4

- Four-lane roadway to connect I-10 to Highway 67
- \$12 million, no construction timeline or funding

Phase 3

- Bridge to connect Popp's Ferry to I-10 at Woolmarket, Exit 41
- \$98 million, no construction timeline or funding

Phase 2

- New Popp's Ferry bridge and road enhancements
- May impact about 70 properties
- \$100 million; no construction timeline or funding

Phase 1

- Extension of Popp's Ferry to U.S. 90.
- Impacts 33 properties.
- \$9 million. Construction begins by end of 2020.

Said LeBatard, the city engineer: “Until we have the environmental assessment document approved for that area between Pass Road and all the way to Riverview, we won’t have final design plans complete, and we won’t be able to tell residents exactly what the impacts will be to their properties.

“MDOT and the Federal Highway Administration still have the ability to make changes to the route, but with the public hearings we’ve had over the years, and with input that we’ve had, we don’t expect that will happen. As soon as we receive state and federal approval, which we are hoping will be by the end of the year, we’ll be able to finalize the actual footprint of this project and be able to relay that information to the residents.”

First step after approval would be for city representatives to contact property owners to discuss impacts and surveys of land would be done, followed by appraisals.

South of Pass Road, meantime, where the city plans to extend Popp’s Ferry to U.S. 90 west of the Coast Coliseum, the route has been chosen, the environmental assessment has been completed and approved, and the city has acquired nine of the 33 required parcels of property in the path of the new roadway.

The city hopes to have the 18-month project – expected cost, \$9 million – under construction by the end of 2020.

- ▶ See the mayor’s presentation on BTV daily at 1 p.m. or now on the city’s YouTube page.
- ▶ See plans for Popp’s Ferry at biloxi.ms.us/pfcorridor

News & notes

- **Grants:** Gov. Phil Bryant has been dropping off millions in Biloxi. In November, the Gov. announced \$3 million towards the city’s proposed \$18 million upgrade of Point Cadet Marina. In October, he announced \$2.9 million for a Bayview Avenue boardwalk west of Forrest Avenue, and \$3 million for a new East Biloxi boardwalk and sand beach retention project between Oak Street and the Small Craft Harbor.
- **Gold Star:** Guice Park, the city park immediately north of the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor, has a new war memorial: The Gold Star Families Memorial, which salutes families who have lost members in military service. The new memorial, funded by Keesler Federal Credit Union, joins the Purple Heart Memorial, the USS Biloxi mast, and the World War I memorial.
- **Fire stations:** One of the city’s two new fire stations has officially opened. Station 10, on old Highway 67, opened on Nov. 22. Fire Chief Joe Boney says Station 7, on Popp’s Ferry Road east of Cedar Lake, is expected to go in service by the first of the year.
- **Main Street ornament:** The 2019 Biloxi Main Street Christmas ornament, now on sale at the Biloxi Visitors Center and the Bond Grant House (\$20), salutes the historic Saenger Theatre.
- **Garbage rates:** In case you missed it, monthly garbage rates in Biloxi increased by 47 cents Oct. 1. The \$14.80 rate is based on the city’s bill from the Harrison County Utility Authority. Water and sewer rates remained the same for those who use less than 5,000 gallons of water a month, but high-end users saw a slight rate increase effective Oct. 1. See the rate breakdown at www.biloxi.ms.us/water-quality

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Monthlong lineup of events ushers in the holiday season



By Laurie Rosetti

TRADITION, tradition! The open refrain from that old Broadway hit musical “Fiddler on the Roof” seems to perfectly fit the Biloxi holiday schedule of events.

Christmas in Biloxi is slap-full of tradition, both recent and ancient. Some traditions were carried to us from across the ocean with those who came at the turn of the 20th Century; and some traditions were created more recently by longtime Biloxians who definitely knew that nothing was more “Biloxi” than an event featuring the Gulf of Mexico and our innate love of the water.

Here’s the background and your guide to some of the most popular Biloxi Christmas traditions:

The Lighting of the Biloxi Lighthouse, a relative newcomer to the Biloxi holiday event line-up, takes place on Thursday, Dec. 5 at 5:30 p.m. This unique Christmas tradition includes a visit from Santa Claus and Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich who’ll, in unison, light up the Lighthouse. It is only fitting that Biloxians begin the season at the city’s signature landmark, which has kept watch over every Christmas since 1848.

The fun continues on Friday, Dec. 6, with the **Christmas on the Water Children’s Parade**. Beginning on Howard Avenue at 6 p.m. and ending at the Biloxi Town Green with cookies and hot chocolate with Santa, the event is open to children in kindergarten through fourth

grade. Children ride hay wagons and throw candy canes to people along the route.

In the grand scheme of things, **Christmas on the Water** is one of those more recent Biloxi traditions; but 34 years of success is nothing to sneeze at. Saturday, Dec. 7, will mark three decades plus four years of the beautiful, nay... majestic Biloxi Christmas tradition. Biloxians never shy away from a raucous celebration, but Christmas on the Water, while fun, also possesses a serenity, a wonder-filled calm.

As a spectator watching the lit, elaborately decorated boat procession, while sipping hot chocolate or hot cider, one is filled with a peace that truly is the heart of what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown (yes, that’s a quote from Linus).

Christmas on the Water was born from a discussion in 1984 between Mary Mahoney, legendary restaurateur and Biloxi businesswoman; Rusty David, longtime event chair; and others while dining at the Old French House Restaurant. It was Mahoney’s idea to produce a Christmas event and David’s idea to produce a Christmas event and David’s idea to do something involving boats, neither knew what, exactly; but thus, the beloved Christmas boat parade was born.

It would be 1986, after Mary Mahoney’s death, before the inaugural event sailed. The annual event is always held on the first Saturday in December, from 6 to 9 p.m. and is free to the public. Optimal viewing locations

are any beachfront area between the Biloxi Lighthouse eastward toward Deer Island. The nighttime spectacular culminates with festive fireworks. For more information on registering your boat or the event, call 228-617-3112.

The **pusharata**, now there’s an old Biloxi Christmas tradition. What’s a pusharata you ask? Well, even the descriptions vary (along with the recipes) but suffice it to say it is a delectable morsel that is of the fried-confection variety (the donut hole is a poor cousin to the sophisticated pusharata). Brought to Biloxi by Slavonian (now Croatian) arrivals in the late 1800s, the sweet treat is synonymous with Christmastime and other special Biloxi occasions.

The Slavonian Ladies Auxiliary sell the yummy pastries during Christmas in the City, Biloxi Main Street’s annual Christmas festival, also held on the first Saturday in December. Now in its 15th year, Christmas in the City offers daylong entertainment by local church choirs, dance studios and musicians. With hourly cash giveaways and over 100 arts and crafts vendors, the day is a great way to enjoy the holidays on picturesque Rue Magnolia and Water Street in historic downtown. A word to the wise, if you want the pusharatas, come early, festival hours are 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. and the fruity-nutty glazed balls won’t last till the end. For more information on Christmas in the City, call the Biloxi Main Street office at 228-435-6339.

- Dec. 1

Gulf Coast Carnival Association **Fleur De Lis Children's Christmas Party**, Noon to 2 p.m., Mary Mahoney’s Old French House, 110 Rue Magnolia. See the King, Queen and court of Mardi Gras in a festive affair. \$25 per person, 228-432-8806.
- Dec. 5

Biloxi Lighthouse Holiday Lighting, 5:30 p.m. Biloxi Lighthouse, south of the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich and Santa turn on the Lighthouse Christmas lights. Refreshments, Santa Claus and more. Free.
- Dec. 6

Children's Christmas Walking Parade, 6 p.m. Downtown Biloxi. Dozens of children in an assortment of rides parade from the Gruich center to the Town Green. Free event. 228-388-7170.

Celebrate Christmas on the Town Green, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. Mayor Gilich and Santa flip the switch to illuminate the Town Green Christmas lights. Enjoy hot chocolate and meet Santa. Free event. 388-7170.
- Dec. 7

Breakfast with Santa, Nativity BVM, 8 to 10 a.m., Half Shell Oyster House, 125 Lameuse St. Enjoy pancakes – \$5 per plate – with Santa breakfast. www.NativityBVM.org.

Biloxi Main Street's 15th Annual Christmas in the City, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Rue Magnolia and Water Street Arts District. Dozens of arts and crafts vendors, Santa, entertainment and pusharatas. Free event. 228-435-6339.

Breakfast and photos with Santa, Kroc Center, 8 to 10 a.m., The Salvation Army Kroc MS Gulf Coast, 575 Division St. For \$5, enjoy a Waffle House meal with Santa. Register online: www.krocmscoast.org.

Annual Christmas on the Water Boat Parade, 6 p.m., Mississippi Sound. A line of decorated boats parade along the shoreline from the Biloxi Lighthouse to Point Cadet. Fireworks caps the free event. Details: 228-617-3112.
- Dec. 12

A Charlie Brown Christmas, repeats 13 and 14, 7 p.m., The Salvation Army Kroc MS Gulf Coast, 575 Division St. A live Christmas musical and fundraiser. Admission: \$10. Details: www.facebook.com/kroccentermscoast/.

Beck the Halls, 5:30-7:30 p.m. John Henry Beck Park, 671 Division St. Details: 228-388-7170.
- Dec. 14

International Christmas Festival, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 255 Beauvoir Road. Greek food and pastries, live entertainment, dancing, family activities, market place gifts, and church tours. Free admission. Details: 228-860-3376.

Woolmarket Christmas Parade, 2:30 p.m. Woolmarket Road. Annual parade begins at Chevron on Woolmarket Road, travels to Lorraine Road, turns right on John Lee Road, and ends at Woolmarket Elementary School. See Santa Claus, decorate the Christmas tree, and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. Free event. 228-861-5422.

Come Learn with Santa, 10 a.m., Lopez School, 140 St. John Ave. Excel by 5 holiday event for ages 5 and younger. Free event. 228-297-6808.

Brunch with Santa at Beauvoir, 9 a.m. to noon, at Beauvoir: The Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library, 2244 Beach Blvd. Have brunch with Santa in the historic home. Admission charged. 228-388-4400.
- Dec. 18

North Pole Calling, repeats Dec. 19, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Santa, Mrs. Claus and elves will be telephoning children, ages preschoolers to Grade 2. Applications must be received by Dec.13. Free event. 228-388-7170.
- Dec. 20

Christmas Time at Beauvoir, Repeats daily through Dec. 23, 5-8 p.m., Beauvoir: The Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library, 2244 Beach Blvd. See the historic home decked out for the holidays. Admission fee. 228-388-4400.

Special Needs Christmas Dance, 6 to 9 p.m. Donal M. Snyder Sr. Center, 2520 Pass Road. All ages with physical or mental disabilities celebrate Christmas with family and friends. Food and door prizes. Admission: unwrapped gift, \$10 or less. 228-388-7170.
- Dec. 21

Visitors Center Holiday Open House, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. repeats Dec. 22, Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Dozens of artists and craftsmen show and sell their wares for last-minute Christmas shoppers. Refreshments, children’s activities, door prizes, free tour train rides. Free admission. 228-374-3105.
- Dec. 31

New Year's Eve & Oyster Ball Drop, 8:30 p.m. to midnight, Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum, 115 First St. Oyster Ball Drop ushers in the New Year. Live entertainment by Ruffwater, heavy hors d’oeuvres, full bar, party favors, and fireworks. \$75 per person, 21 and over only. 228-435-6320.

See more in Community Calendar, Pages 17-20



A Biloxi Christmas on BTV

Learn about the traditions of Biloxi Christmas in a BTV special airing daily at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. in December.

Repairs begin at Saenger

Renovations to the exterior of Saenger Theatre has officially begun but the visual process may take some time to see.

Last week, Blackline Corporation, who was awarded the bid in August, began their initial walk through of the nearly century old building in preparation for the 300-day, \$2 million project.

“It will probably take a couple weeks before anyone actually sees any demolition,” said City Engineering Director Christy LeBatard. “The contractors have to inspect, prepare and set up before demolition will take place.”

The current phase of work includes demo and replacement of the top portion of the fly tower – the elevated brick structure atop the rear of the theatre’s roof – to the roof line, replacement of some of the structural beams and installation of a new roof and HVAC.

“The structure of the flyer tower was a main safety concern and initial reason for closing the theatre in March 2018. LeBatard said. “We know this has been a long process but for a building this old, research and analysis had to be done as well as relocation of some of the exterior utilities that support the neighboring buildings before the actual work could take place.”

Back in July, councilmembers tabled the

repair contract for 60 days and tasked the administration to look for other ways to fund the costly repairs.

So the Gilich administration received proposals from the private sector as an option to lease or manage the theatre.

“We know that there are people interested in saving this theatre. I am one of them,” Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich declared. “Now we are reviewing the proposals, continuing to actively look for other funding, and are excited to see what the future holds for the Saenger.”

Once this phase of work is complete – an estimated timeline of August, weather and anomaly permitting – the city will assess the building as to its re-opening or, if funding becomes available, moving into another phase of work.

The historic theatre, located in the downtown district, is a 975-seat venue that has been host to numerous performing arts, groups and city events. The Saenger was constructed in 1928 and opened in 1929 with the showing of Paramount’s first all-talking movie, “Interference.” The theater became a city building in 1975 and has since undergone several renovations.

A timeline has not yet been set for the Saenger Theatre’s re-opening.

The large sign affixed to the front of theatre stands as a nostalgia symbol of old Biloxi.



City seeks to save oak in Azalea neighborhood

The city is hoping to save a decades-old live oak that residents had wanted removed while infrastructure workers were in the area.

Over the years, the tree on Azalea Drive just south of Irish Hill had begun to encroach on Azalea Drive and limited the line of sight at the intersection. In fact, the issue with the three-foot trunk and expanding root system became more evident as Hemphill Construction workers began installing a new curb on Azalea, part of the city’s infrastructure work in the neighborhoods between U.S. 90 and Irish Hill.

“Many of these streets are narrow and over the years as these trees grow their root system takes up more and more room, which is an issue when they are near roadways,” said Biloxi Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich. “In many cases, these trees are part of the character of these neighborhoods, and when we can we try to work around them.”

Azalea, like Gill, and so many of the other streets that connect the two-tenths of a mile between U.S. 90 and Irish Hill, is home to about two dozen homes and is a narrow two-lane street with a traffic volume typically limited to residents.

Some of the residents from the neighborhood had complained to the city that the tree had begun to encroach into the road so much that the street is essentially one lane



The three-foot trunk and expanding root system encroaches on Azalea Drive.

when it meets Irish Hill. One neighbor even asked for the tree to be cut down and hauled away.

After input from the Tree Committee and City Arborist Eric Nolan – who said the tree was healthy – Gilich stepped in.

“I would like to give this tree a chance to survive,” said the mayor, who met with Tree Committee members at the site. “Some root

trimming is necessary for the sake of public safety, as the tree roots are blocking one travel lane of the street. We will trim the roots and install a concrete curb and fertilize the tree to help it recover from the trimming.”

The city plans to re-establish the 18-foot roadway – two nine-foot lanes – after the city’s arborist performs tree root trimming.

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Edgewater Mall

The Biloxi Fire Department – in black and white



Meet Jack, the top dog in the Biloxi Fire Department

The Biloxi Fire Department has added a new four-legged member to the team.

Jack, a one-year old Dalmatian, was called to duty in November and will serve as an ambassador for the department.

“He is a great addition,” Biloxi Fire Chief Joe Boney said. “We are getting him ready for his service and when we feel Jack has met all the requirements that we want him to meet, he will be issued a badge just like every other firefighter in the department.”

Jack is expected to be instrumental in the department’s fire prevention program, attending school events, making appearances at West End Hose Co. No. 3 Fire Museum on Saturdays, and many other activities in the public.

Jack also will be a companion for the firefighters. “Unfortunately, he can’t be at all the stations all the time,” Boney said, “He is assigned to Central and makes visits to the other stations to provide companionship to the guys, just for their friendship.”

Jack’s arrival at the Biloxi Fire Department caps a harsh upbringing. A woman found him chained underneath a house and malnourished. She asked the owner if she could foster Jack and find him a suitable home. After hearing about the Biloxi Fire Department building two new stations, the woman contacted Chief Boney and Jack’s new life began.



Mason awarded top accolade in Biloxi Fire Department

Deputy Chief Andy Mason, a 24-year veteran of the Biloxi Fire Department, has been awarded one the department’s highest honors, the Phil McCabe Five Bugle Award, an honor named for the department’s first chief and recognizing a member who exemplifies the department motto of “Always Ready with Willing Hearts.”

The announcement was made during the annual Biloxi Fire Department Awards Ceremony on Nov. 8 at the Biloxi Civic Center.

In all, more than 120 presentations were made, highlighting two dozen acts of heroism or accomplishment that “exemplify the highest ideals of the Biloxi Fire Department in its commitment and dedication to the city it serves.”

Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich, Biloxi Fire Chief Joe Boney and Assistant Chief Mark Dronet made the presentations before an audience of about 200 firefighters, family members, friends and local businesses, who were being honored for their support of the department through the year.

Said Boney of Deputy Chief Mason: “This man’s service to God and his fellow man is one of his greatest traits, he is passionately devoted to his family; he is humble, kind, and gentle, and just in case you did not know, he is a closet Alabama fan, and an expert prankster.”

Added Boney: “In 1910, then Chief of Department for the FDNY, Edward Croker stated it best when he said, ‘I have no ambition in this world but one, and that is to be a firefighter, the position may in the eyes of some appear to be a lowly one, but we who know the work that the firefighter has to do believe his, to be a noble calling.’

“It is my belief that this year’s recipient is the Biloxi Fire Department’s living example of that phrase.”

Other awards presented during the evening:

Firefighters of the Year: Biloxi Elks: Capt. Jeff Walden; Firefighters Joe Bates, Brian Capehart, Nick Dubuisson, and Mark Seymour; Keesler Federal Credit Union’s 1st Responders Annual Award: Battalion Chief David Williams, Capt. Rodney Strickler, Firefighters Nick Allen, Shawn Battise, Jacob Fairley, Ronald Garcia, Justin Lopez, John Parker, and Jake Vuyovich.

Life-saving Award medal/ribbon: Capt. Brian Rouse and Firefighter Bryan Williamson

Medal of Merit: Firefighters Wesley Gillespie, Bryan Hall, and Charles Meadows; Firefighter Justin Lopez; Firefighters Jacob Fairley, Jeremy Fowler, Josh McGoey, and John Parker

Medal of Bravery: Firefighter Mark Dronet Jr.

Unit Citation

Ribbon: Battalion Chief Anthony Trosclair, Capt. Clay Courtney, Firefighters Ryan Byrd and Mark Dronet Jr., Capt. Brian Rouse, Firefighters Gerry Thibodeaux and Bryan Williamson, Deputy Chief Andy Mason, Capts. Richard Conine, Charles Hawkins, Curtis Zeigler, and Firefighters Joe Bates, Shane Breland, Brian Deas, Bryan Gipson, Timmy Groue, Joseph Gunter, Chad Leitenberger, Cody McDaniel, Charles Parker, Richard Parker, James Steed and William Sudduth.

Certificate of Training: Capt. Jim Davis, bachelor’s degree, Fire Administration; Firefighter Colton Tillman, associate of arts degree

Nationally certified EMTs: Firefighters Taylor Beesley, Jonathan Harris, Brian Deas, John David Parker, Chris Denton, Justin Parker, Ronald Garcia, Hugh Peterson, Wesley

Gillespie, Robert Peterson, Bryan Gipson, Colton Tillman, Sam Groue, Jake Vuyovich.

Certificate of Appreciation: Support of Kids Academy: Anne Marie Borries, Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, Keith Crosby, Palace Casino Resort; Jimmy Freeman, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino; Phil Frisby, Pitcher Point Investments; Al Greene, Beau Rivage Resort & Casino; Mark McCrindle, IP Casino Resort & Spa; Christy Millbourne, Mississippi Department of Transportation; Kevin Murray, Servpro; Patty Nash, Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino; Gary

Sly, Blossman Gas; Sean Shoemake, US Select Insurance; Susan Varnes, Treasure Bay Casino & Resort; Arika Zandee, Smoothie King. Assistance during Thunder Over the Sound Air Show, Sherry Bell and Tommy Searight, Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department; Darren Ivy, Merit Health

Biloxi; Beau Blaylock, Gulf Coast Produce; Billy Kelley, Gulfport Fire Department; James Carver and Charles Wise, American Medical Response; Ron Lessner, Biloxi Police Department; Kim Chatham, Merit Health; Sheriff Troy Peterson and John Dodd, Harrison County Sheriff’s Department; Matthew Nault, Gulfport Fire Department; James Donnett, Keesler Air Force Base Fire Department; Chase Edwards, Combat Readiness Training Center; Jack Ewing and Will Freeman, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources; Pat Sullivan and Steve Moore, Harrison County Fire Service; Glenn Faust, Mugshots; Don Wilson, MEMA; Nate Wilson, Ocean Springs Fire Department.

For 9/11 ceremony: Dr. Todd Boucher, Popp’s Ferry Elementary School; Kristi

Vermillion, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.; Traci Kessler, Nativity BVM Elementary.

For arson investigation assistance: Gregory Marks and arson canine Toggle, Gulfport Fire Department.

For search and rescue assistance: Joseph Branning, Eli Humphrey, Brandi Dorcik, Weston Mayley, Joel England, Jamie Risner, Kenneth Garner, Kayla Parker, Thomas Goldsworthy, Tara Ramage, Montana Gregory, Aaron Smith, Roderick Wiggins, and April Herndon, all of Biloxi Police Department; Brandon Hendry and Stephanie Parks, Harrison County Sheriff’s Department.

For singing National Anthem at ceremony, Jamie Howe

Special recognition: Biloxi Police Chief John Miller

Certificate of recognition: Firefighter John Massey; Inspector Caleb Hudson; Chief Joe Boney, Battalion Chiefs Tony McCormack and David Williams; Capts. Mike Downs, Matt Powell, Rodney Strickler; Firefighters Nick Allen, Bradley Blaylock, Daryle Bradley, Anthony McGee, Jesse Richard, and Eric Tanner; Inspectors Will Fairley, Caleb Hudson, Brian McLeod, Robert Powell, and Secretary Shelby Wescovich; Firefighter Joshua Yarbrough; Firefighter Travis Sexton; Firefighters James Landry, Matthew Newton, Robert Romero

Certificates of Commendation: Retirees: Battalion Chief Anthony Murphy, 30 years; Firefighter Keith Capehart, 28 years; Battalion Chief Michelle Crowley, 26 years; Deputy Chief Jeffrey Merrill, 25 years; Capt. Darren Parker, 24 years; Firefighter Dan Royal, 22 years; Firefighter John Waltman, 22 years; Firefighter Greg Jacquet, 19 years. Also, Firefighters Richard Martin, Ray Romero; Firefighters Nick Dubuisson, Josh McGoey and John David Parker; Capt. Matt Powell; Firefighters Nick Allen, Matthew Bozeman, Brian Dawkins, Ken Morton, Jesse Richard, Donald Tillman, and Mickey Worzella; Firefighter Cory Mooney.

Longevity ribbon: Joe Boney, 35 years; Anthony Murphy, 30 years; Anthony Shook, 30 years; Glen Howe, 25 years; David Williams, 25 years; Charles Battise, Jason Davis, Steven Dunaway, and Rouse, Brian; all 20 years

► **BTV: See the Awards Program daily at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.**

Infrastructure work expands to area of Point Cadet

The city's massive infrastructure project, which is in the final phases on the \$130 million North contract and midway through \$25 million worth of infrastructure work in neighborhoods south of the railway just west of downtown, is expanding to the east end of Biloxi's peninsula.

A \$10.5 million, 550-day contract has been awarded to Lane Construction to install new water, sewer and drainage lines in the area south of the CSX railway, involving three miles of roads from the tip of the peninsula at Michael Boulevard, south to Third Street and west to Hoxie. Among the streets that will be impacted, all south of the railway: Oak, Maple, Wisteria, Tchula, Fourth, Fifth, and sections of Howard and Third.

Work has begun along Maple and Pine streets, and rows of four-foot wide pipes and large drainage boxes along the roadside signal the work to come.

In some areas, contractors will have to install 42-inch sewer pipes 23 feet below ground, which is part of the reason this segment of Point Cadet is being done first. The work actually began Oct. 14 and has a deadline of April 16, 2021.

"From a sequencing standpoint, we had to start here because it requires the deepest work south of the tracks," said Walt A. Rode, the



Concrete sewer manholes, eight feet in diameter and nearly five feet tall, line Maple Street. The manholes – 11 will be used on Maple Street – will be stacked three atop each other and will be as far as 20 feet below the street.

city's infrastructure manager. "All the sewer lines tie in at the Sixth Street pumping station and you work from the deepest to the most shallow."

With the awarding of the \$10.5 million Lane contract, the city now has more than \$163 million in infrastructure construction underway. Additionally, another \$58.5 million in construction – covering areas north of the

Bay, west of Keesler, and in Eagle Point – is complete.

Still to be awarded is another \$88.6 million in work, which would see the installation of water, sewer and drainage lines just north of U.S. 90, from the current work at Chalmers Drive, all the way to the city's western boundary at Debuys Road, along with extensive work near the city's major casinos.

Congratulations

INDIAN NATION



**We will continue
our mission
of
Excellence From All...
For All.**

  biloxischools.net

We are proud of the hard work and dedication put in by our students, staff, parents/guardians and community! We are all one in Biloxi and we've got the following results to prove it...

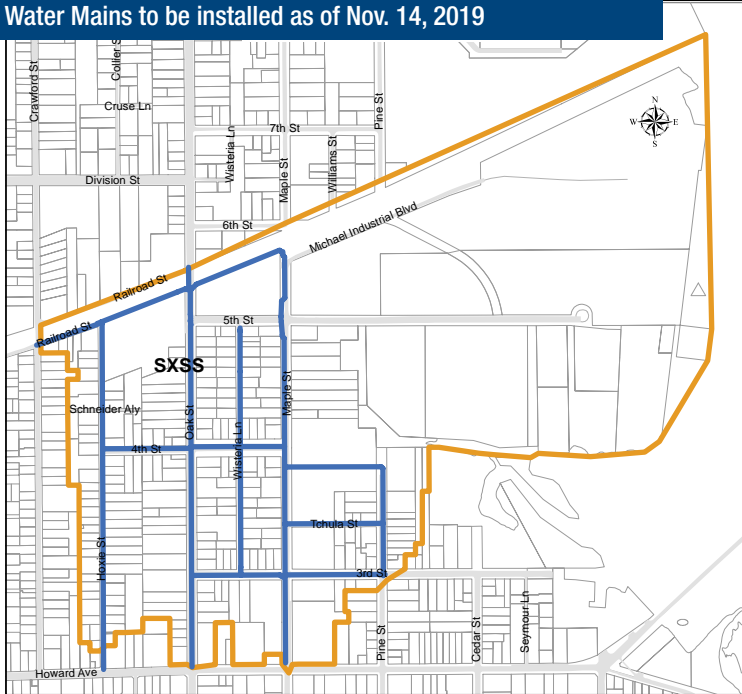
- ✓ The Biloxi Public School District is an A-Rated District!
- ✓ Biloxi Junior High is ranked highest on the Coast!
- ✓ Biloxi High is #1 on the Coast in Algebra I proficiency and 3rd in US History proficiency
- ✓ The District ranked above the state average in all areas
- ✓ Our District has the highest 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

Infrastructure Repair Program Sixth Street South

Lane Construction in October 2019 began a \$10.5 million, 550-day project to install new water, sewer and drainage lines in a Point Cadet area south of the CSX railway. It involves three miles of roads, from the tip of the peninsula at Michael Boulevard, south to Third Street and west to Hoxie. Deadline: April 16, 2021.

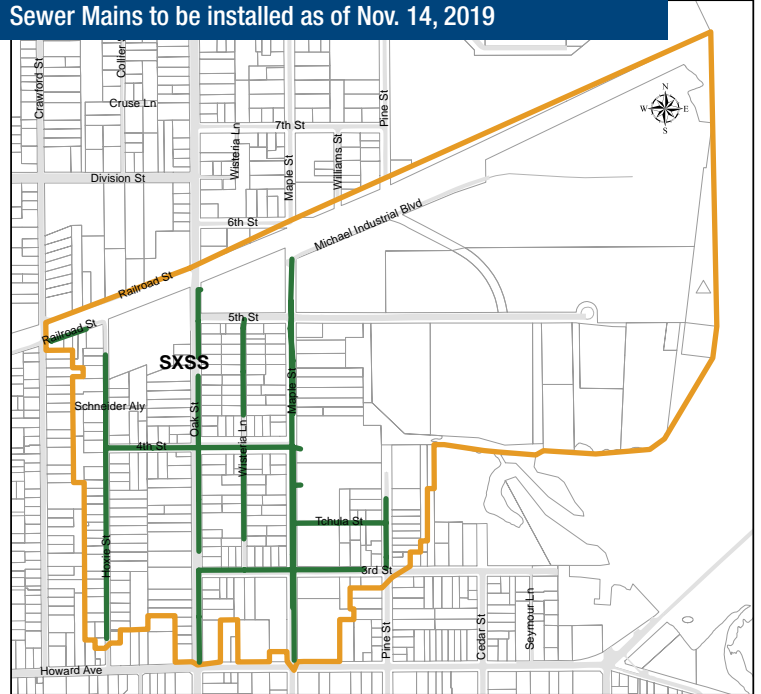
Lane Construction Water

Water Mains to be installed as of Nov. 14, 2019



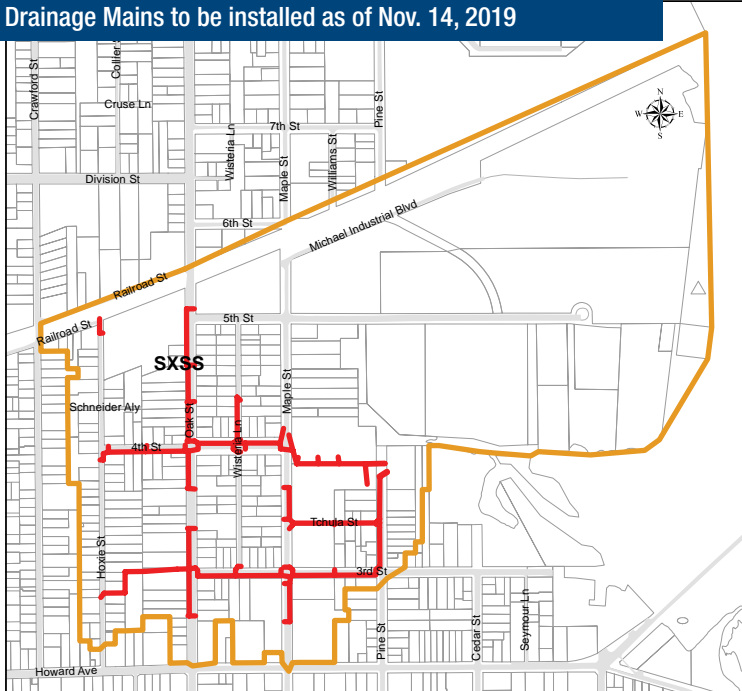
Lane Construction Sewer

Sewer Mains to be installed as of Nov. 14, 2019



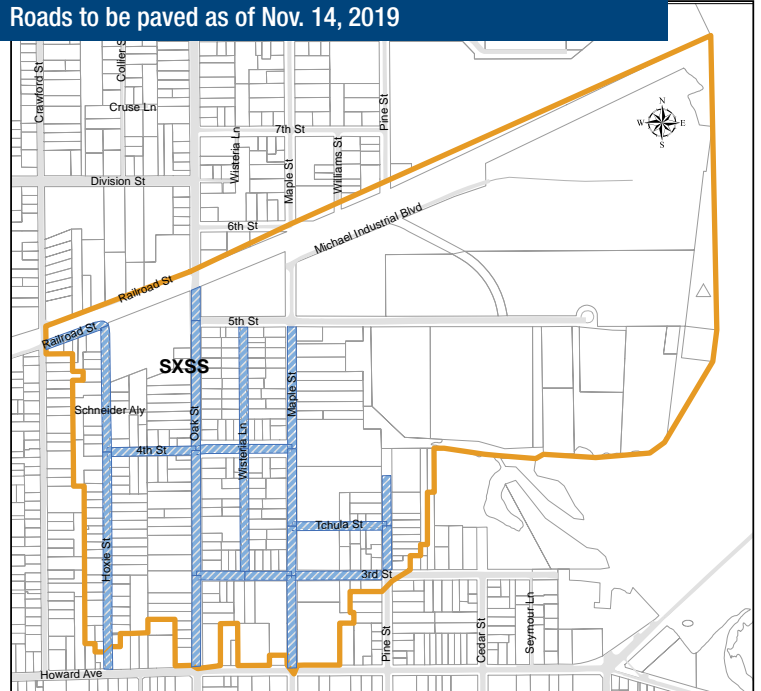
Lane Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of Nov. 14, 2019



Lane Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of Nov. 14, 2019

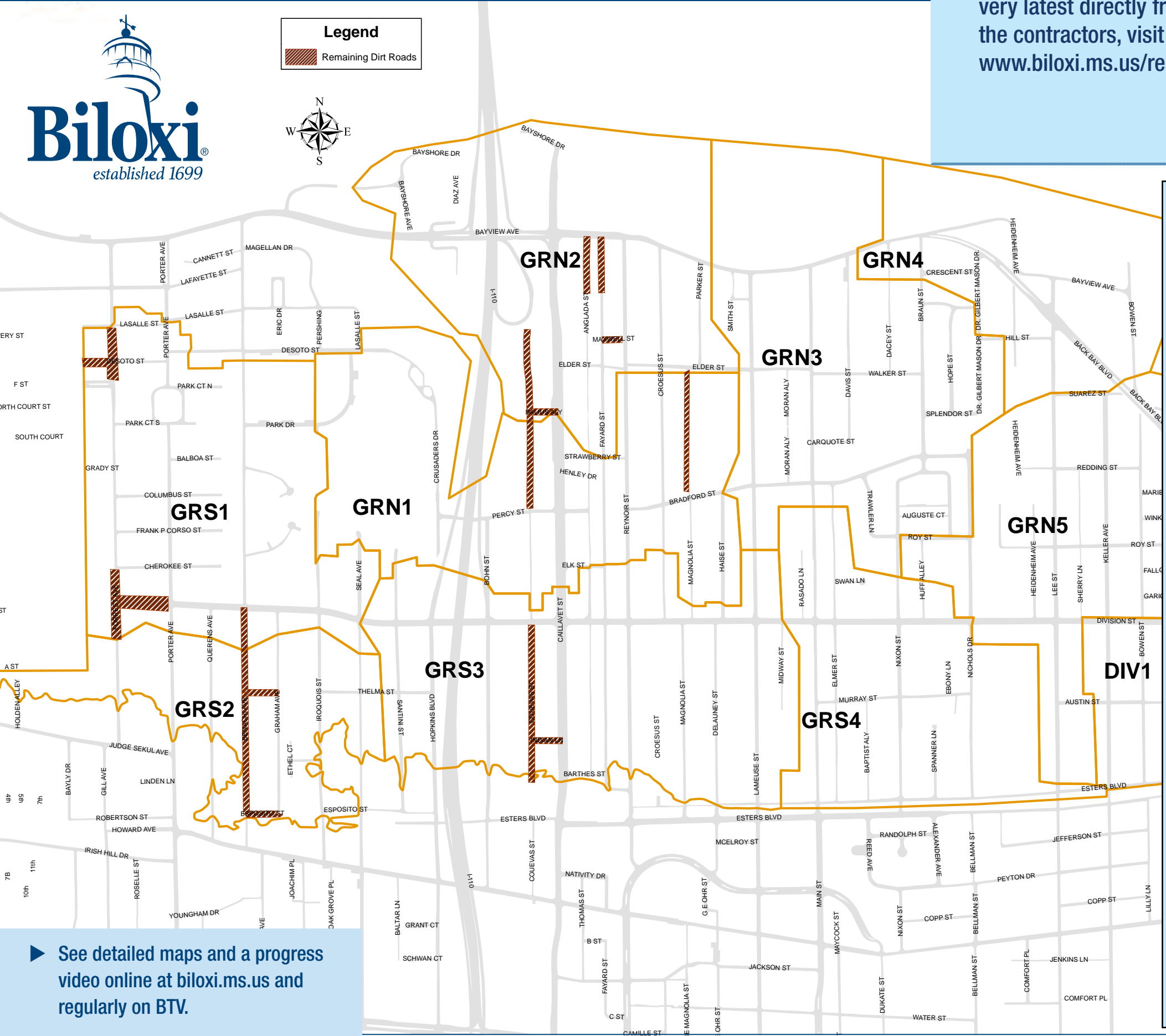


The North Contract: Remaining dirt roads (as of Nov. 13, 2019)



Legend

Remaining Dirt Roads



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



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

North Contract Water as of Nov. 13, 2019

Legend
WATER
Construction Status
Active
Installed - Not Active
Not Installed

North Contract Sewer as of Nov. 13, 2019

Legend
SEWER
Construction Status
COMPLETE
NOT INSTALLED

North Contract Drainage as of Nov. 13, 2019

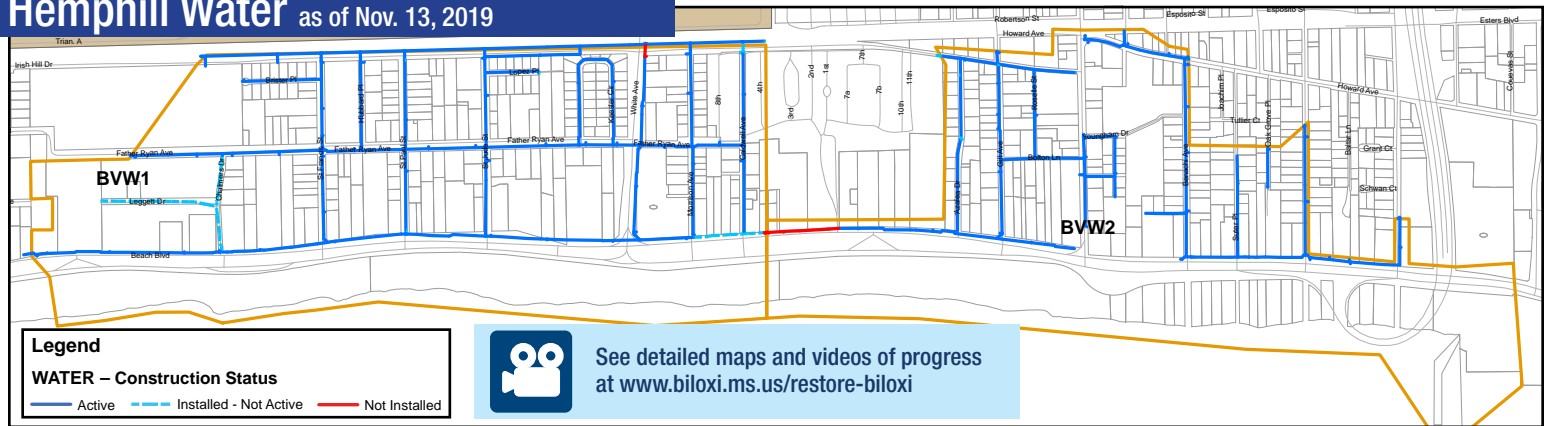
Legend
DRAINAGE
Construction Status
Installed
Not Installed

North Contract Paved as of Nov. 13, 2019

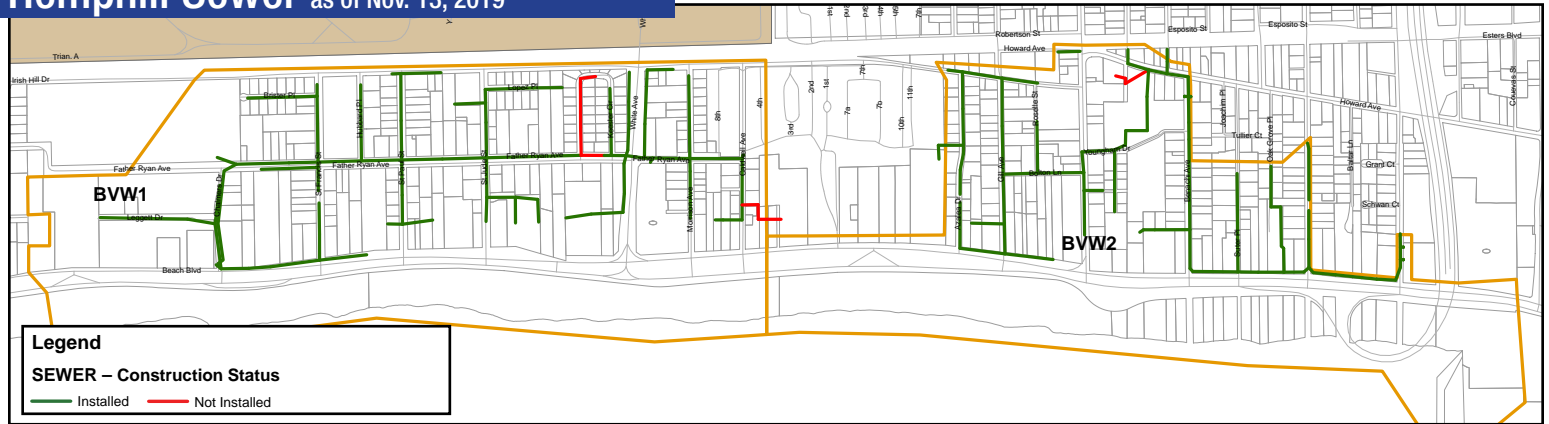
Legend
PAVING
Construction Status
Temporary Paving
Oscar Rends Temporary Paving to Remain
Original Pavement - Not Milled
Surface Complete
Base

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.

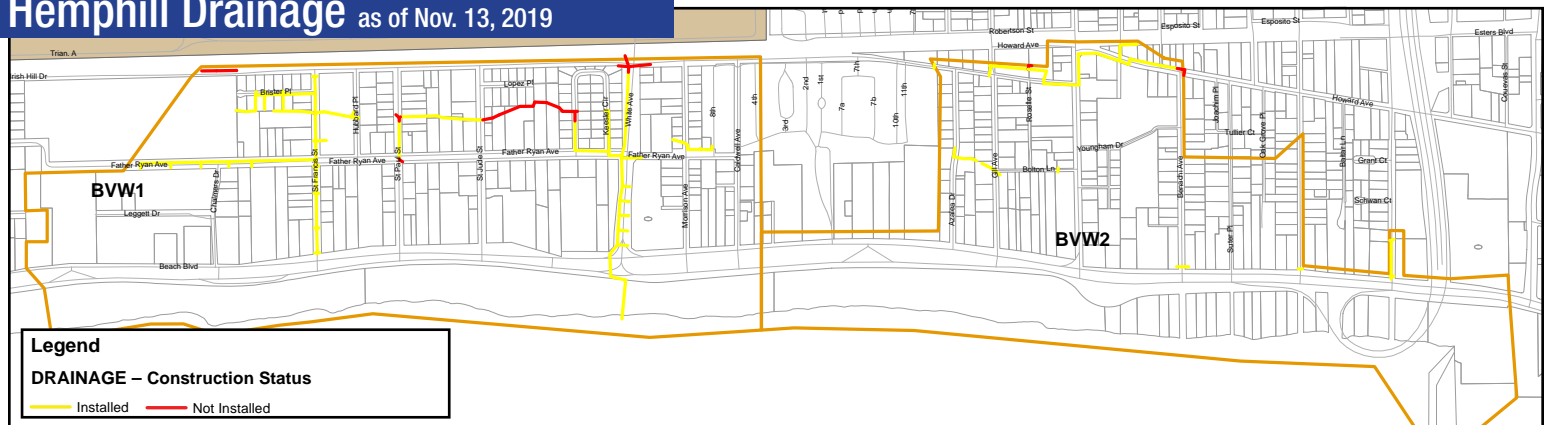
Hemphill Water as of Nov. 13, 2019



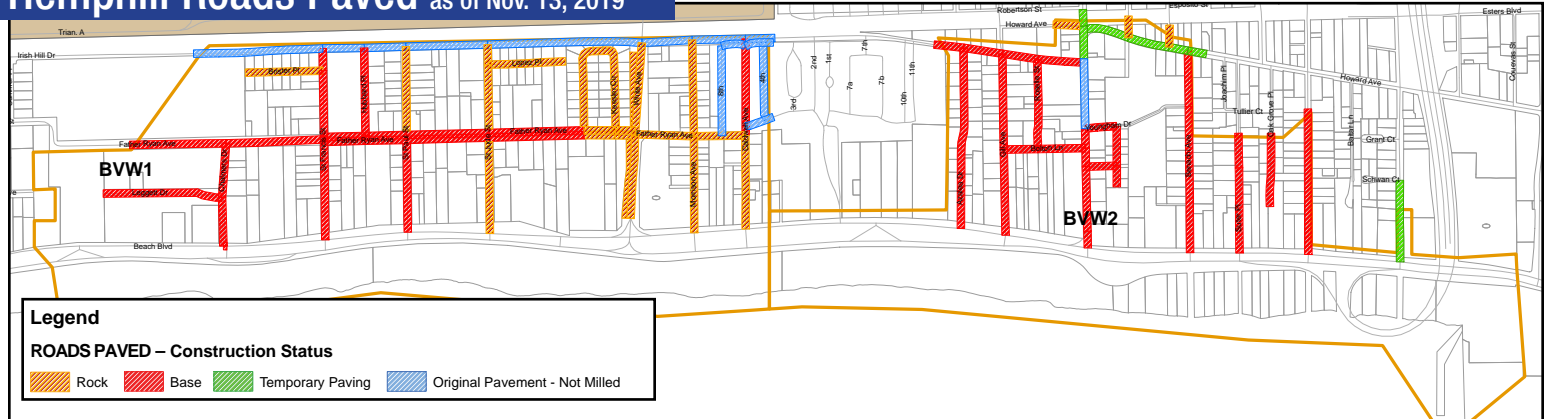
Hemphill Sewer as of Nov. 13, 2019



Hemphill Drainage as of Nov. 13, 2019



Hemphill Roads Paved as of Nov. 13, 2019



Best Bets!

Breakfast with Santa

Santa Claus will be spreading his magic and cheer at several breakfast events throughout the month. Jolly Old Saint Nick will make an appearance at the Nativity BVM Elementary School's \$5 pancake breakfast at the Half Shell Oyster House and The Salvation Army Kroc Center for a \$5 breakfast on Dec. 7 from 8 to 10 a.m. Then, on Dec. 14, the family can enjoy brunch with Santa at the historic Beauvoir from 9 a.m. to noon. The affair will include crafts and visits from some of Santa's friends. Admission will be charged. More details on each of these event are listed in the calendar.

Christmas parade in Woolmarket

Holiday decorated floats, Christmas music, candy canes and more will be part of the annual Christmas parade in Woolmarket. The festive event will begin at 2:30 p.m. at the Chevron on Woolmarket Road and travel to the Woolmarket Elementary School where, at the gym, children can visit with Santa Claus, decorate the Christmas tree and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. Happy Holidays!

Holiday Open House

Looking for a special, hand-crafted gift for Christmas? Then mark your calendar for the City of Biloxi's annual Holiday Open House. Local artists and craftsmen will be selling their wares at the Biloxi Visitors Center on Dec. 21 and 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Free admission, door prizes, and free tour train rides around downtown Biloxi will also be part of the event. For more details, call the Visitors Center at 228-374-3105.

Ice Skating, through Jan. 6, Mississippi Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd. Details: MSCoastColiseum.com.

Laying of the Wreaths to Honor our Fallen, Dec. 1, 2 p.m., Beauvoir, The Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library, 2244 Beach Blvd. Admission is free. Details: 228-388-4400.

GCCA Fleur De Lis Children's Christmas Party, Dec. 1, 12-2 p.m., Mary Mahoney's Old French House, 110 Rue Magnolia. Santa, Queen Ixolib, King D'Iberville and the 2019 Gulf Coast Carnival Association Royal Court will be on site for an afternoon of fun including treats, crafts, and music! Admission charged. RSVP required: executivedirector@msgcca.org.

Biloxi Lighthouse Holiday Lighting, Thursday, Dec. 5, 5:30 pm. Kick-off the Christmas Season in Biloxi with the annual holiday lighting of the Biloxi Lighthouse. Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich, along with special guests from the North Pole, will be on hand to flip the switch that lights the Christmas decorations on the lighthouse. Refreshments, holiday music and visits with Santa Claus. Free event. Details: 228-374-3105.



First Friday, Dec. 6, 5-8 p.m., Rue Magnolia and Water Street Art District. Downtown shops and galleries stay open late and offer specials and refreshments. Live entertainment and prize giveaways will also be part of the affair. Free admission. Details: 228-435-6339.

Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum ribbon cutting, Dec. 6, 4 p.m. 762 Howard Ave. Details: 228-435-6308.

Children's Christmas Walking Parade, Friday, Dec. 6, 6 p.m. Downtown Biloxi. Annual parade featuring marching bands and coast children, grades K-4, riding hay wagons. Parade travels from the Dr. Frank G. Gruich Sr. Community Center on Howard Avenue, west on Howard Avenue, south on Reynoir Street, east on Jackson Street, south on Lameuse Street, ending at the Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. Check-in: 5:15 p.m. Free admission. Applications: www.biloxi.ms.us. Details: 228-388-7170.

Celebrate Christmas on the Town Green, Dec. 6, 6:30-8 p.m. Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. The public is invited to decorate the Christmas tree, meet Santa, enjoy hot chocolate and watch the lighting of the tree and Town Green. Free admission. Details: 228-388-7170.

Breakfast with Santa, Nativity BVM, Dec. 7, 8-10 a.m., Half Shell Oyster House, 125 Lameuse Street. Nativity BVM Elementary School holds its annual pancakes with Santa breakfast. Tickets: \$5 per plate. Details: www.NativityBVM.org.

Biloxi Main Street's 15th Annual Christmas In The City, Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Rue Magnolia and Water Street Arts District. Annual festival filled with dozens of vendors, Slavonian Ladies Auxiliary pusharatas, Santa, family fun Christmas entertainment and more. Free admission. Details: 228-435-6339.

Biloxi Youth League Basketball Registration, Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-noon, Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Open to Biloxi and non-Biloxi residents. Fees apply. Details: 228-388-2483 or email sports@biloxi.ms.us.

Breakfast and photos with Santa, Kroc Center, Dec. 7, 8-10 a.m., The Salvation Army Kroc MS Gulf Coast, 575 Division St. Admission: \$5 per person. Food provided by Waffle House. Register online: www.krocmscoast.org.

Annual Christmas on the Water Boat Parade, Saturday, Dec. 7, 6 p.m., Mississippi Sound. Boats decorated in Christmas lights parade along the water south of the Biloxi Lighthouse and travels east ending at Point Cadet. Fireworks spectacular to follow. Free event. Details: 228-617-3112 or 228-432-2563.

A Charlie Brown Christmas, Dec. 12, 13, & 14, 7 p.m., The Salvation Army Kroc MS Gulf Coast, 575 Division Street. A live Christmas musical and fundraiser. Admission: \$10. Details: www.facebook.com/kroccentermscoast/.



Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the 19th 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

Beck the Halls Christmas Event & Caroling, Dec. 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m. John Henry Beck Park, 671 Division St. Meet Santa, enjoy some tasty treats and watch How the Grinch Stole Christmas. Details: 228-388-7170.



www.mississippigulfcoastmarathon.com.

Come Learn with Santa, Dec. 14, 10 a.m., Lopez School, 140 St. John Ave. Holiday event for children age 5 and younger. Free admission. Details: 228-297-6808 or susanhunt@biloxischools.net.

Brunch with Santa at Beauvoir, Dec. 14, Beauvoir, The Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library, 2244 Beach Blvd. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Visit the historic Beauvoir, have brunch with Santa and meet some of his friends. Admission charged. Details: 228-388-4400 or visitbeauvoir.org.

Bike Biloxi and ugly sweater contest, Dec. 17, 6 p.m. Ride begins at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd., and travels through downtown. Bicycle ride ends with refreshments and food at a downtown restaurant at cyclist's expense. Helmets and lights recommended. Free admission. Details: 228-435-6339.



North Pole Calling, Dec. 18-19, 5:30-7 p.m. Children, preschoolers-Grade 2, can talk with Santa, Mrs. Claus and Elves. Applications available online at www.biloxi.ms.us and at the Edgewater Mall. Applications must be received by Dec. 13. Free event. Details: 228-388-7170 or email programs@biloxi.ms.us.

Christmas Time at Beauvoir, Dec. 20-23, 5-8 p.m., Beauvoir, The Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library, 2244 Beach Blvd. Admission charged. Details: 228-388-4400.

Biloxi Main Street Book Club, Dec. 19, 5:30 p.m., Jacked Up Coffee Bar, 999 Howard Ave. Book of the month is "Outlander." Stop by Southern Bound Books, next door to the coffee bar, to purchase a copy of the book. Details: 228-435-6339.

Special Needs Christmas Dance, Dec. 20, 6-9 p.m. Donal M. Snyder Sr. Center, 2520 Pass Road. All ages with physical and mental disabilities are invited to celebrate Christmas with family and friends! Food and door prizes. Admission: unwrapped gift, \$10 or less. Details: 228-388-7170 or email programs@biloxi.ms.us.

Holiday Open House, Dec. 21-22, Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Local artists and craftsmen showing and selling their wares. Refreshments, children's activities, door prizes, free tour train rides and much more. Free admission. Details: 228-374-3105.

New Year's Eve & Oyster Ball Drop, Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m. – midnight, Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum, 115 First St. Ring in the New Year at the Museum with an Oyster Ball Drop. Live entertainment by Ruffwater, heavy hors d'oeuvres, full bar, party favors, and fireworks. Admission: \$75 per person, 21 and over only. Details/tickets: 228-435-6320.



Biloxi Little Theater220 Lee St., 228-432-8543, www.4blt.org

- **What the Elf? This Ain't Ya Mama's Christmas Show** (not recommended for Children), Dec. 20

Center Stage

2670 Rue Palafox, 228-388-6258

centerstagebiloxi.com

- **It's a Wonderful Life – The Live Radio Show**, Dec. 7-8

Biloxi Lighthouse and Visitors Center1050 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 Schooners367 Beach Blvd., 228-435-6320, schooner@maritimemuseum.org

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

Biloxi Shrimping Trip693 Beach Blvd., 228-392-8645, 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

- 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,betsyannriverboat.com

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

Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum

762 Howard Ave., 228-435-6308

Open Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Ship Island ExcursionMargaritaville Resort boat dock, 195 Beach Blvd., 228-864-1014, msshipisland.com

- Ferry service resumes spring 2020. Private charters available year round.

Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum115 1st St., 228-435-6320, www.maritimemuseum.org

- **Holiday Open House**, Dec. 14, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art386 Beach Blvd., 228-374-5547, www.georgeohr.org**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**, Dec. 7 and 14, 6 p.m. Ribeye's, \$20
- **Charity Bingo Sunday**, Dec. 8, 15, 22, and 29. Early bird start, 2 p.m., regular games, 2:30 p.m. Cash prizes, drawings and gifts. Concessions available.
- **Charity Bingo Friday**, Dec. 6, 13, 20, and 27. Early bird start, 6:30 p.m.; regular games, 7 p.m. Jackpot cash prizes, drawings and gifts. Kitchen is open until 8:30 p.m.

Fleur de Lis Society of Biloxi (French Club)

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

- **Karaoke every Friday night in December.**
- **New Year's Eve Dance**, Dec. 31, music by Barlow Brothers 8 p.m.–midnight, \$20 per person.

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 Laying of the Wreaths to Honor the Fallen Beauvoir GCCA Fleur De Lis Children's Christmas Party Mary Mahoney's Old French House	2 Story Time Woolmarket Library	3 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	4	5 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library Biloxi Lighthouse Holiday Lighting	6 First Friday Downtown Biloxi Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society Children's Christmas Walking Parade – Downtown Christmas on the Town Green – Biloxi Town Green Brian Setzer Orchestra Beau Rivage PostModern Jukebox Hard Rock Restless Heart Christmas IP Casino Resort & Spa	7 Breakfast with Santa Nativity BVM Breakfast with Santa Kroc Center Christmas in the City Downtown Arts District Youth Basketball Registration Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center Christmas on the Water Lighthouse to Point Cadet Larry, Steve, & Rudy The Gatlin Brothers – IP Casino
8 The Nutcracker Presented by MS Gulf Coast Ballet Theatre Beau Rivage	9 Story Time Woolmarket Library	10 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	11	12 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library A Charlie Brown Christmas Kroc Center Christmas with Aaron Neville Beau Rivage	13 MS Gulf Coast Marathon Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society A Charlie Brown Christmas Kroc Center Theory of a Deadman IP Casino Resort & Spa Christmas with Aaron Neville Beau Rivage	14 MS Gulf Coast Marathon A Charlie Brown Christmas Kroc Center Int. Christmas Festival Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Woolmarket Christmas Parade – Woolmarket Road Come Learn with Santa Lopez School Brunch with Santa – Beauvoir The Nut Cracker IP Casino Resort & Spa Christmas in the Air – Beau Rivage
15 MS Gulf Coast Marathon Christmas in the Air Beau Rivage	16 Story Time Woolmarket Library Christmas in the Air Beau Rivage	17 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi Bike Biloxi and Ugly Sweater Contest Biloxi Visitors Center Christmas in the Air Beau Rivage	18 North Pole Calling Christmas in the Air Beau Rivage	19 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library North Pole Calling Biloxi Book Club Jacked Up Coffee Bar Christmas in the Air Beau Rivage	20 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society Christmas Time at Beauvoir Special Need Christmas Dance Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center Brandon Bennett IP Casino Resort & Spa Christmas in the Air Beau Rivage	21 Christmas Time at Beauvoir Holiday Open House Biloxi Visitors Center Brandon Bennett IP Casino Resort & Spa Christmas in the Air Beau Rivage
22 Christmas Time at Beauvoir Holiday Open House Biloxi Visitors Center Christmas in the Air Beau Rivage	23 Story Time Woolmarket Library Christmas Time at Beauvoir Christmas in the Air Beau Rivage	24 Community Market Story Time-W. Biloxi Christmas in the Air Beau Rivage	25 Christmas in the Air Beau Rivage	26 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library Christmas in the Air Beau Rivage	27 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society The Extreme Circus of China IP Casino Resort & Spa Christmas in the Air Beau Rivage	28 Better Than Ezra Beau Rivage
29	30 Story Time Woolmarket Library	31 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi New Year's Eve & Oyster Ball Drop – Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum The Molly Ringwalds & DJ After Party Beau Rivage Morris Day and the Time – IP Casino Resort	1	2 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library	3 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society	4



December Schedule

Sparklight 56; Uverse 99 (follow prompts) or at 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: The Best of the Biloxi Fire Department (60 min)
8 a.m.	Special Presentation: Christmas Traditions in Biloxi (20 min)
8:25 a.m.	Making Pusharatas (4 min)
8:30 a.m.	Special Presentation: "Downtown Biloxi" (9 mins)
8:40 a.m.	Back Bay Mission (16 min)
9 a.m.	City Council meetings and bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)
Afternoon	
Noon	A vintage vignette: "America's Riviera," B&W, 1950s travelogue (9 min)
12:10 p.m.	A vintage vignette: "America's Riviera," 1960s travelogue (14 min)
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)
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8 p.m.	Special Presentation: Christmas Traditions in Biloxi (20 min)
8:25 p.m.	Making Pusharatas (4 min)
8:30 p.m.	Special Presentation: Downtown Biloxi (9 min)
8:40 p.m.	Back Bay Mission (16 min)
9 p.m.	City Council meetings and bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)
Midnight	National anthem by Ronny Broussard (2 min)

Holidays highlight BTV in December

Your Christmas preview: BTV ushers in the holiday season with a new 20-minute program that gives you a preview and background on the city's time-honored holiday traditions. The traditions are not unlike the programming on BTV this month – some old and some new.

"Christmas Traditions in Biloxi" will tell viewers the story behind the story on the holiday lighting of the Biloxi Lighthouse (from Christmas to Twelfth Night), this month's open house at the Visitors Center, the Children's Christmas parade, Lighting of the Town Green, the Christmas in the City crafts show, and, of course, the centerpiece of it all, the Christmas on the Water Boat Parade.

The program – which ends with a preview of 10 Christmas events in Biloxi – airs at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. each day in December.

Downtown visions: Lee Young and Bobby Gillon of the District on Howard Avenue update the status of their downtown development work, and Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich talks about what Howard Avenue was and what it could be in a nine-minute programming airing at 8:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. each day in December. You'll see vintage footage of downtown Biloxi and a look as it appears today.

Honoring Biloxi firefighters: Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich, Biloxi Fire Chief Joe Boney and Assistant Fire Chief Mark Dronet Sr. honored a host of Biloxi firefighters the other day for their heroic efforts in the past year.

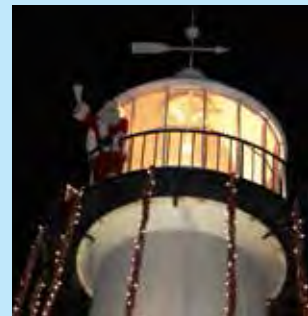
In fact, during the hour-long replay of the recent Biloxi Fire Department's annual awards ceremony, you'll see more than 100 presentations that recount acts of bravery and service in 2019.

See the program daily at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on BTV.

The standards: You'll also find the monthly updates of infrastructure work (6:25 a.m. and 6:25 p.m.) and Biloxi Public Schools (6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.) throughout December, along with our lineup of All Things Biloxi. This month, by the way, the infrastructure segment includes the first of monthly update from Lane Construction, the firm working on infrastructure on Point Cadet.

Encore: We're keeping a few other programs in the lineup for December: Police Chief John Miller and the Salvation Army discuss panhandlers in two programs airing daily, and we're also continuing to air the two "America's Riviera" travelogues, one from the '50s (in black and white) and the other from the '60s (in living color). Why? Because we think they're relevant.

How to watch BTV: If you live in Biloxi and have cable, you can see BTV on Sparklight Channel 56 or on AT&T Uverse Channel 99 (follow the prompts). If you don't live in Biloxi or don't have cable, you can watch BTV online at biloxi.ms.us/btv, where you can also see programming updates.

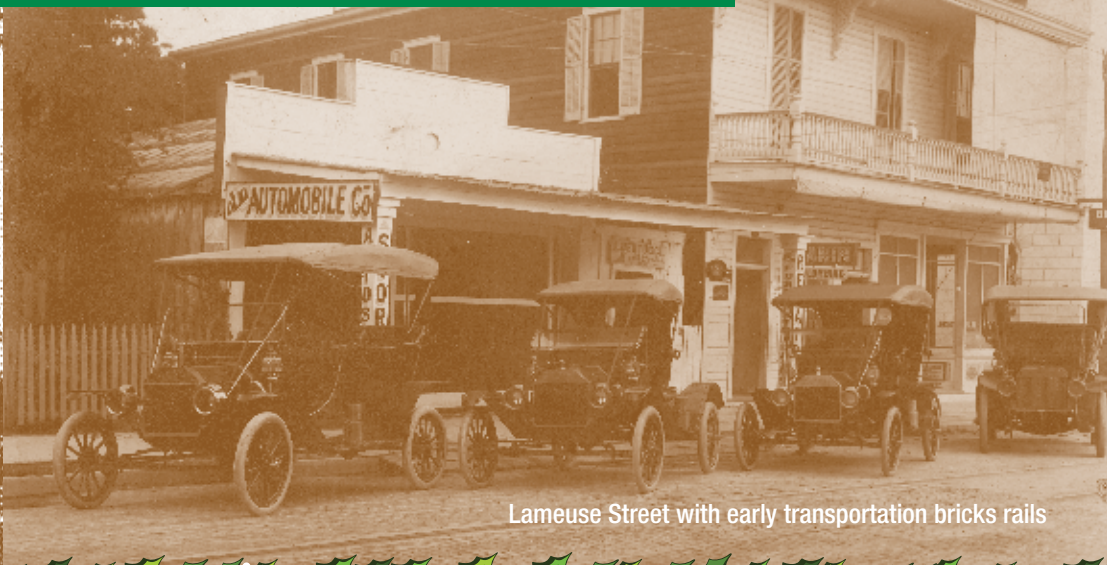


You can also find individual programs on the City of Biloxi YouTube page.

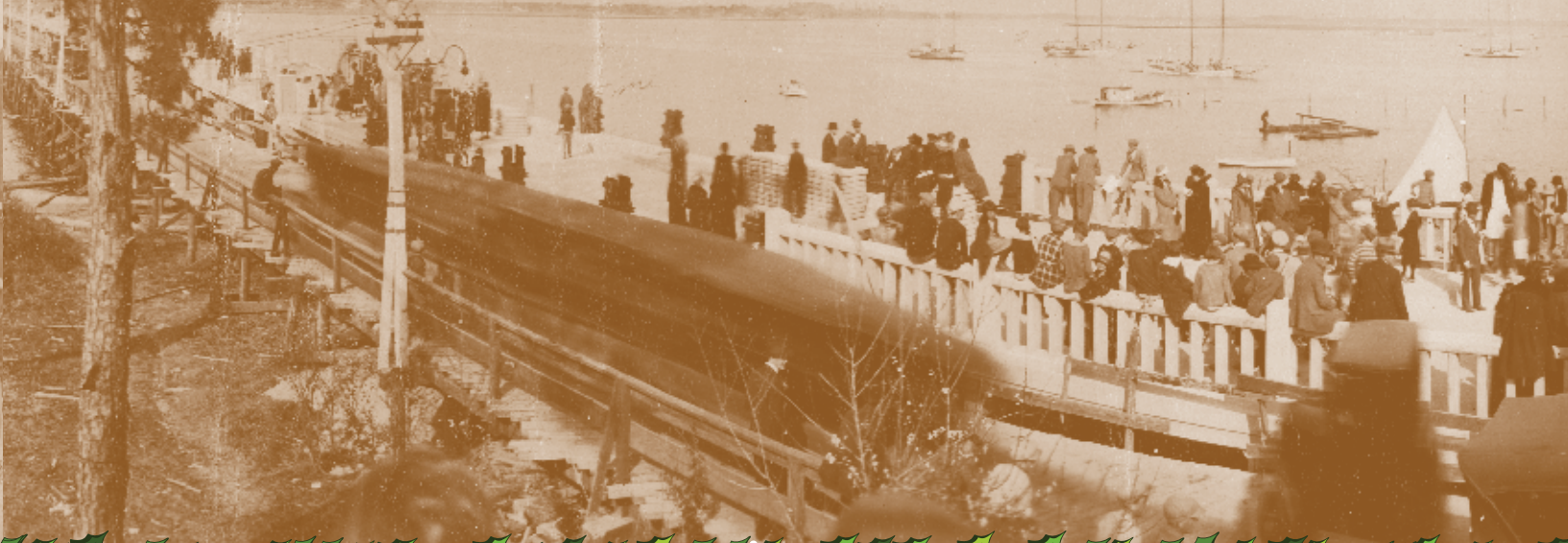
Celebrating Christmas Past

Back Bay bridge in 1927

1910 trolley
on Beach Blvd.



Lameuse Street with early transportation bricks rails



The holiday season brings families together. The smell of cookies cooking and turkey baking evokes memories of Christmas Past.

Celebrations and gatherings have evolved over time and the means to get there has too.

Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra

Back in 1699, when Monsieur d'Iberville and his crew voyaged to our shore, food, shelter, safety, and doing their jobs for the King of France was their main focus. There were no elaborate Christmas decorations or large feasts for the explorers.

Monsieur would document their explorations. He was a great author of journals. Jolly Old St. Nick had not been "invented" yet, but if Monsieur could have wished for a special gift in his stocking, it would probably have been a new goose quill pen, a bottle of ink, and fresh paper for his journal writing.

Throughout history, we have read and seen how Christmas family traditions have grown in Biloxi. The ways to get to Grandma's house to celebrate has changed throughout the decades.

Traveling by foot

As establishments grew, so did families. Back in the day, families lived in close proximity to one another, and walking from house to house was a common mode of transportation.

Certainly, the Native Americans were experts at traveling safely and quickly on foot paths, with Biloxi's Pass Road being one of their historic walking trails.

By horse and buggy

In the early 1900s, folks would travel by a horse and buggy. This was common along the narrow Beach Road, then called Front Road.

By boat

Living along the Coast, boats have always been a popular method of transportation. My Uncle Edmond always had lots of boats. He fished, crabbed, tonged for oysters, and even sailed for fun. On Christmas Day, if he had a little extra time, he would give us a ride on one of his boats.

I can still remember drifting along the shoreline, smelling that whiff of the waters of the Mississippi Sound, and feeling the cool breezes along the way. Rain or shine, warm or cold, our ride to Grandma's on one of his boats was one of the best Christmas memories ever!

By Bus

As large tour cars, or buses emerged, traveling across a larger area became simple and easier for families to get together during the holidays.

I remember traveling by Greyhound bus one holiday season. I remember it well, because there was always a picture of a fast running dog painted on the sides.

Grandma Polly once told me that she remembered going to a greyhound racing track on the Pass Road in West Biloxi. She told me she would try to figure out the winner and, if she won, she would get a few dollars. Perhaps she would use that to buy a few Christmas gifts.

By trolley rides

With the recent renovation of downtown Howard Avenue, we all can reminisce about the popular trolley cars that appeared not only on Howard Avenue, but all through town as well as along railroad

tracks adjacent to Biloxi's Front Road or today, U.S. 90.

By trains

In the 1940s and 50s, the Hummingbird locomotive traveled the rails from New Orleans to Mobile on a regular schedule. Grandma loved to talk about her young days when she traveled by way of the L&N Railroad from the depot in Biloxi to the one in Pass Christian to visit family.

Ferry Service

At one time, the best way to travel across Biloxi's Bay was by ferry boat. Two distinguished ones could be taken from one side of the Biloxi peninsula to the other.

One was the Popp's Ferry Boat which traveled near the route of our present Popp's Ferry Bridge. The other was Siglet's Ferry which serviced the Coalville-Woolmarket area.

Both of these areas have since been annexed into the corporate limits of the City of Biloxi. The flat ferry boats could transport timber, animals, horse and buggies and people, across our calm waterways and could be guided simply by pulley rope and oar. No fancy motors were in service then.

Ferry used to travel Back Bay.



There were no fancy fast-traveling cars and interstate highways back in the day. Today, travelling to Grandma's house only takes a few minutes, especially with our fancy superhighways in place. What would Grandma think of today's high-efficiency, hybrid, and all-electric vehicles travelling

super-fast, with the luxuries of climate-controlled, plush interiors and equipped with radios, televisions, and wireless telephone service? And Grandpa, I wish he was alive today to see how much automobiles have changed since he was a mechanic working on those old Model-Ts!

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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