

The beginning of the end

It was a quiet-yet-significant milestone just before Christmas when paving crews laid down the last stretch of base course of asphalt in the nearly 55 miles of infrastructure work north of the CSX railway. The work was at the north end of Forrest Avenue, the several blocks between Bayview and the Keesler gate at Meadows Drive. (The unpaved section at Division Street is part of the new Keesler gate, and a block-long section of Magnolia is a gas company issue.) Now, workers from Oscar Renda Contracting will turn to finishing up driveways, sidewalks and landscaping throughout the overall work area, and they'll be videotaping sewer and drainage lines for final city inspections. Then, after all of the OKs, the final surface coat of asphalt will be applied to streets.

Meanwhile, south of the railway



Portions of Howard Avenue remained closed at the end of 2019 as Hemphill Construction workers installed a 15-inch water line near Benachi Street. The work is expected to move eastward to Hopkins Boulevard, with the southernmost lane closed to traffic. The Howard Avenue work is expected to be completed before Mardi Gras parades roll in February. Work also continues throughout the eight-miles of the project, from downtown Biloxi to Seashore Methodist.

- Detailed progress maps, Pages 13-16
- See larger maps and video of progress at biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi
- BTV infrastructure updates: Daily at 6:25 a.m. and 6:25 p.m.

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A New Year, a new you

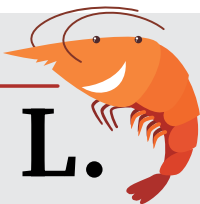
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Nick L. Shrimp



The unvarnished pomp and circumstance of local governance

“Do you know how much a human brain weighs?” he asked, more like a declaration than a question.

“No, actually, I don’t. I don’t think it’s ever something I’ve ever thought about.”

“Well, let me tell you,” he said, in the listen-to-me tone. “A human brain weighs about 3.33 pounds. That’s what a human brain weighs, about 3 pounds and 3 ounces. And you sound like a quarter-pounder right now.”

Such are the colorful exchanges and outbursts you could hear on any given day in the corridors of perceived power, the places where policy is made. Some act with the wink and the knowing nod, or the gentle raising of a hand for “Aye.” Others prefer to pontificate, perhaps shedding light (or not) on a matter of public policy, and certainly not passing up a colorful I-told-you-so moment. It’s the normal dichotomy of public policy by politicians, and, on occasion, with input from interested observers, aka Citizen Voters and Taxpayers.

Once a year, however, the state suggests a collective reasoning for it all, a chance to take account of the present, the recent past, and perhaps a chance to ponder the future. You know, the vision thing. There’s actually a state law in the mayor-council form of government that requires the mayor to provide an annual report “to the Council and the public on the work of the previous year.”

In Biloxi, for years it’s been called the State of the City, a presentation typically made in January or February, an opportunity for the city’s mayor to provide an overview of the program of work underway in Biloxi.

The origin of the present-day State of the City presentation could be traced back to 1981, when Biloxi transitioned from the commission form of government to today’s mayor-council.

Former State Rep. Gerald Blessey was elected the inaugural mayor under the new form of government and to satisfy the spirit and intent of the state mandate, Blessey called and conducted a special, year-end council meeting at City Hall, where a written report was presented with an overview.

“We didn’t call it the State of the City,” said Blessey, who remains active in public policy. “It

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.



Mayor “FoFo” Gilich delivers the State of the City address.



A look back in time: You can see State of the City presentations from previous years each day from 7 to 9 a.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. throughout January on BTV. Tune in on Sparklight Channel 56 or Uverse Channel 99 in Biloxi or at biloxi.ms.us/btv online worldwide.

highlighted the progress made during the year and the things set in motion that will take more than a year to accomplish.”

Blessey was no stranger to using the bully pulpit during his two terms as mayor in the 1980s: He marshalled public support for what would become an award-winning Waterfront Master Plan; he unveiled a long-range in-house study called Vision 2000, which envisioned a Biloxi 20 years in the future; and in a provocative address at the old Broadwater Hotel, he delivered what later would be viewed as a State of Tourism in Biloxi, which denigrated the shabby conditions of Biloxi hotels and motels at the time, an address delivered in the wake of the bar association moving its annual convention from Biloxi to Destin.

Today’s State of the City addresses, to be sure, benefit from the bells and whistles of a video presentation.

For 30 years now, the presentation has been made during a luncheon by the Biloxi Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. The annual affair, which takes place on Jan. 30 this year, is the culmination of years when the mayor’s office actually presented two states of the city each year, one for the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce and one for what was then its younger upstart.

Over the years, in its search for an audience, the presentation was held in the morning, in the afternoon, at noon, and in the evening. Locations ranged from the tip of Point Cadet (J.L.

Scott Marine Education Center), to the western boundary, at Jefferson Davis campus of Gulf Coast Community College. The price has ranged from free to its present-day highwater mark of \$50. (The speech is free; you pay for the lunch.)

It nearly always was viewed as a platform – sometimes grudgingly for the previous chief executive – to let the citizenry know not necessarily about the city’s program of work, but about how those public works play into the vision for the city’s future.

The late Gary Michiels, one of the best-all-round and wisest fellows we ever met, served as emcee of the annual State of the City presentation for years. Gary, who parlayed his radio business acumen into a weekly newspaper for a few years, knew a thing about making presentations.

“It’s simple really,” he said once. “You tell ‘em what you’re going to tell them. You tell them. And then you tell them what you told them.”

And it’s Don Snyder, who for years ran a First Class recreation department for the city, who could be credited with bringing the State of the City presentation from the dark ages.

“I think it’s a lot of good information,” Snyder said after enduring a 30-minute speech by Mayor Holloway one year. Snyder, for whom the city named the Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center on Pass Road, had a tactful nature about him.

“I think we know that making public speeches is not one of A.J.’s favorite things,” he said with a smile, “but it would be great if it could be a little movie, to show things going on, instead of just talking about them, for so long.”

Says Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich, who has presented two of the addresses since he became mayor: “This presentation gives the public an idea of what our administration believes is important to the city. It’s not just a 12-month report, but looks further out in the future, maybe 10 to 15 years down the road on where we need to be in order to be a thriving city.”

But, please, no quarter-pounders.

New fire station, training facility to open Jan. 11 at Cedar-Popp's

The City of Biloxi on Jan. 11 will formally dedicate a \$4 million, 13,000-square-foot, battalion-size fire station and fire training facility on Popp's Ferry Road just east of Cedar Lake.

The station, known as Station 7, will be a command station to serve areas north of the Bay of Biloxi. Fire Chief Joe Boney said the station will typically be staffed by as many as eight firefighters, along with a battalion chief. The station will have three engine bays, including room for a 75-foot ladder truck now housed at Station 6, at the Margaret Sherry Library. The battalion chief is moving his office from Station 9 at Eagle Point, and the fire department's training operations also will be moved to the new station.

"This new station will be an impressive presence,"

Mayor Andrew

"FoFo" Gilich said. "It makes a huge statement about this city's investment in public safety, especially north of the Bay."

"We want to thank Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District, which worked with us on the financing for this \$4 million station. This station has been a long time coming. The city first talked about it in 1999, 20 years ago, and we're pleased to be able to make it happen."

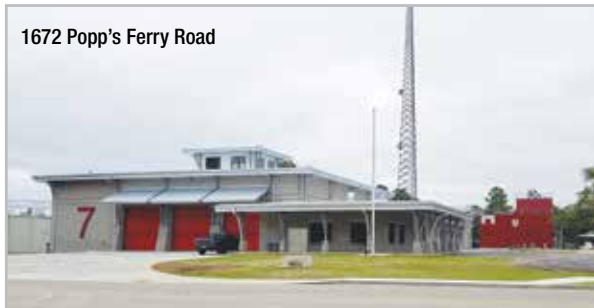
The station, which will be home to the city's first-ever fire training facility, will be second in size only to the Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center, where the fire department administration is housed.

"Mayor Gilich and the City Council recognized the case we made for constructing this larger station," Boney said. "This area north of the Bay has seen significant demographic changes in recent years. We've seen new medical facilities, new retirement facilities, new apartment complexes, new businesses and new subdivisions. We now have a huge high school, a huge junior high school and an elementary school in this station's run. None of these things were there when the city planned the current smaller station years ago."

Added Boney: "The mayor and council recognized these things, and this new station means we'll have the firefighters and the assets where they need to be so we can respond appropriately."

The city weeks ago also opened Station 10, on old Highway 67 just east of Cedar Lake Road. The new station is expected to dramatically decrease response times in the East Woolmarket area. Currently, according to Assistant Fire Chief Mark Dronet, the fire department has a four-minute-and-36-second average response time citywide, but the response time for Station 8 on Woolmarket Road is a minute higher, and three minutes higher when assisting in calls outside the city limits.

"A minute or even three minutes may not sound like a great deal of time," Boney said, "but a fire can double in size in three minutes, and, of course, every minute counts when responding to medical calls, which account for two-thirds of our calls."



1672 Popp's Ferry Road



Get a tour of the new station each afternoon
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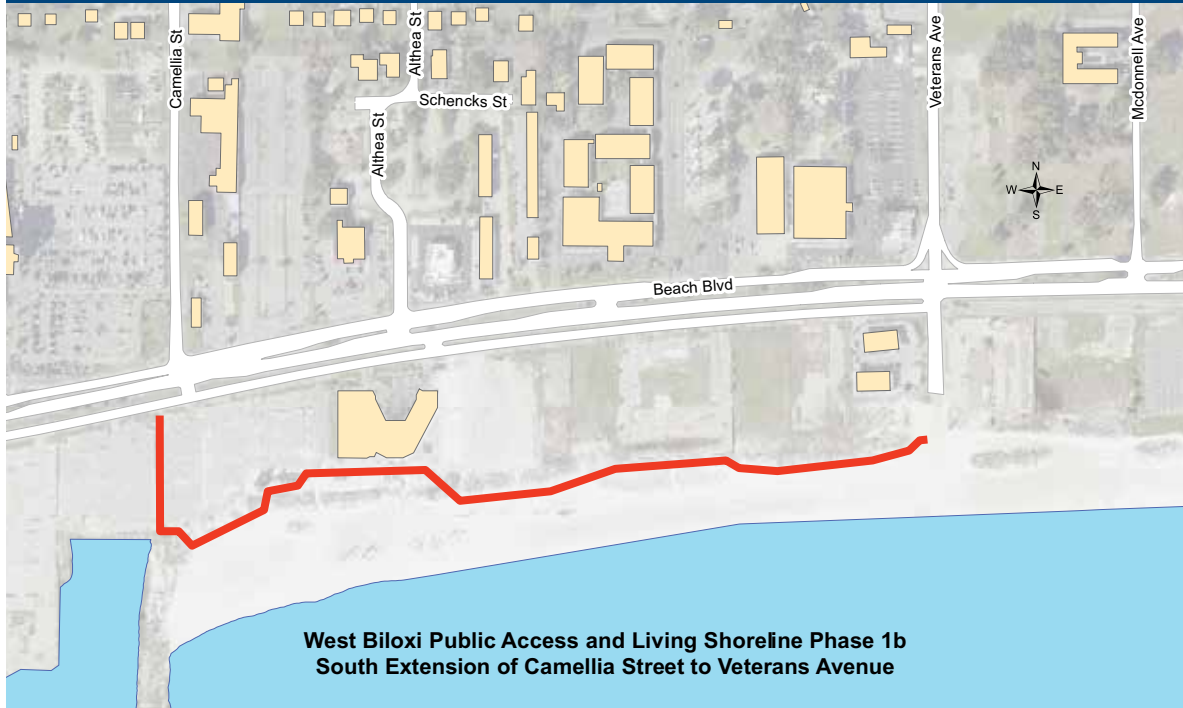
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Next phase of West Beach Boardwalk



West Beach Boardwalk to double in size

Boardwalks are coming up all over the Biloxi waterfront, with construction ready to begin on expanding the west beach walkway to Treasure Bay.

The next phase of the West Beach Boardwalk will be under construction in the next few weeks and in several months the beachside boardwalk will double in size, with a 10-foot-wide boardwalk running from the comfort station near Rodenberg Avenue all the way to Treasure Bay Casino Resort, a mile to the west.

The new stretch of boardwalk will be similar to the initial phase, according to Ed Ott, a city engineer overseeing the work. It will be about 2,500 feet long, will be a mix of elevated and ground level with concrete walkways, will be lighted, and will have conveniently placed wooden benches and informational kiosks displaying background about the surrounding area.

"Our beautiful waterfront is very important to who we are, and providing our residents and visitors access to that waterfront is one of the priorities," said Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich, who envisions a boardwalk that would one day run from Back Bay, around Point Cadet and all the way to West Biloxi and the city limits with Gulfport.

Currently, a boardwalk connecting Point Cadet Marina with the Point Cadet fishing bridge is under construction, and funding has been announced for boardwalks on Back Bay, between Forrest Avenue and Kensington Drive; and on East Beach, between



the small craft harbor and Oak Street. In fact, the East Beach boardwalk, which will be concrete, will include a knee wall to help keep sand from blowing onto U.S. 90.

While no construction timetables have been announced for the East Beach and Back Bay boardwalks, the Point Cadet is expected to be completed in several months.

Work on West Beach, however, should be underway in a matter of weeks.

The look will be similar to the popular boardwalk between Rodenberg and Veterans.

Said Ott: "On average, the deck or walking surface will be about two feet above the existing sand beach, and as sand moves and propagates during high wind events and storms, we could see portions of the deck around six inches to a foot above the sand. We think it's going to be a very inviting stroll for residents and visitors, and we think it will add to the restaurants and other businesses along the path."

News & notes

- **Roll call:** March is a key month for Census 2020. That's when you'll be receiving a letter in the mail from the U.S. Census Bureau giving you two ways to respond to the vitally important national roll call: via online (a first for the Census) or by a toll free number. Biloxi's latest population, according to a Census estimate from 2018: 45,968. Pre-Katrina it was 50,644. Visit census.gov
- **Mardi Gras heads up:** Biloxi's three parades are the Children's Walking Parade on Saturday, Feb. 15; the Neptune parade on Saturday, Feb. 22; and Gulf Coast Carnival on Fat Tuesday, Feb. 25.
- **Kloud 7:** The Biloxi Shuckers have announced a multi-year partnership with Kloud 7 Business Communications for the naming rights to the luxury suite at MGM Park. Beginning in 2020, the area will be known as the Kloud 7 SkyBox. First Shuckers game: April 9. Visit biloxishuckers.com
- **Hail State:** Mississippi State Bulldogs will host the Texas Tech Red Raiders for two games, March 10 and 11, at MGM Park. The Bulldogs and Raiders have gone to the College World Series in each of the last two seasons. State, BTW, will also return to MGM Park in 2021 for two more games. Visit biloxishuckers.com
- **Light poles:** There are hundreds of light poles throughout the city with varied responsible parties: City of Biloxi, Coast Electric and MDOT. If you see a light out or have an issue with a light pole, contact the city's Citizen Service Representation, Craig Ross, at 228-435-6271. Ross will be able to direct you to the responsible party.



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Happy New Year!

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Mississippi Power

A Sound Initiative

Cities, counties form group to protect Mississippi Sound

By Gerald Blessey

Our coastal way of life is threatened. We must stand united to protect it.

The 2019 openings of the Bonnet Carré Spillway caused great damage to the Mississippi Sound and our fisheries, tourism and coastal culture.

Recognizing the threat of future openings and other man-made damage, Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich asked me to form a voluntary coalition of coast mayors, supervisors and their attorneys to study the issues and recommend legislation and legal action to restore the sound and protect it from further harm.

The Mississippi Sound Coalition organized on Nov. 20, 2019 and approved its Mission:

The Mission of the Mississippi Sound Coalition is to restore and protect the ecosystem of the Mississippi Sound and the way of life and economies of coastal communities that depend on it, based on good science and fair public policy.

From time to time, the Coalition recommends action to its member governments for:

- Public education about scientific and legal issues affecting the Mississippi Sound;
- Advocacy of legislation, appropriations, projects and public policies to U.S. Government, Senators and Members of Congress and Mississippi officials and legislators to restore and protect the Mississippi Sound and all who depend on it; and
- When needed, litigation in the public interest to restore and protect the Mississippi Sound and all who depend on it.

Thus far, coalition voting members are the mayors of Biloxi, D'Iberville, Gulfport, Long Beach, Pass Christian, Diamondhead, Bay St. Louis, Waveland, Ocean Springs and Pascagoula, and the presidents of the Hancock and Harrison County Boards of Supervisors.

Members elected Marlin Ladner as chairperson, Blaine La Fontaine as vice chair, and Gerald Blessey, special counsel for Biloxi, as manager of the coalition and its attorneys committee, including Robert Wiygul, a renowned environmental lawyer practicing in Ocean Springs.

Be a part of the movement

Any person or business interested in joining the Mississippi Sound Coalition should send a letter, including your address, phone number, email address and a statement of support of the coalition's mission, to Gerald Blessey, Manager of the Mississippi Sound Coalition, PO Box 4648, Biloxi, Mississippi, 39535. There is no financial obligation.

Louisiana's Mississippi River Control Measures



Solangi named science adviser to coalition

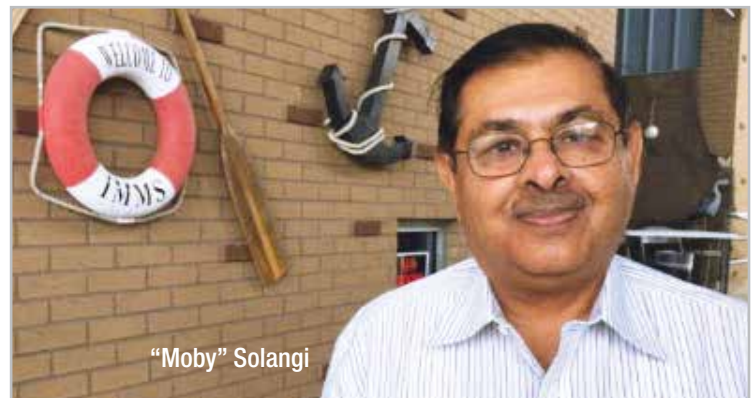
Dr. Mobashir “Moby”

Solangi, an authority on the Mississippi Sound and Gulf of Mexico, has been appointed to serve as chair of the Science Advisory Committee to advise the Mississippi Sound Coalition members about natural science and social science research and issues that may affect the Mississippi Sound ecosystem and the fisheries, tourism and Coastal way of life that depend upon it.

The announcement was made by Marlin Ladner, chair of the Mississippi Sound Coalition and president of the Harrison County Board of Supervisors.

Dr. Solangi received his Ph.D. in Marine Biology in 1980 from the University of Southern Mississippi. He currently serves as president of the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport.

He has been an adjunct professor at USM, MSU, and LSU and has published over 50 scientific papers in professional journals. He has served as staff scientist at the Mississippi Bureau of Marine Resources. He was a research assistant at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs, and the National Marine Fisheries Service in Galveston, Texas.



“Moby” Solangi

“The coalition is honored to have Dr. Solangi serve as head of the Science Advisory Committee,” said Gerald Blessey, special counsel to the City of Biloxi and manager of the coalition. “The coalition's mission is to take action based on good science and fair public policy to restore and protect the Sound, and we are so lucky to have Dr. Solangi head a committee of scientists to advise us in this crucial work.”

Added Blessey: “Dr. Solangi is renowned worldwide for his research and experience regarding marine mammals, such as dolphins, sea lions, seals, as well as sea turtles, rehabilitation of stranded marine animals, environmental biology regarding oil pollution, fisheries and wildlife management, aquaculture, and marine education and conservation of endangered and protected species.”

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The City Center today



The City Center will take on the look of a new building this year.

Yes, it's been 20 years. Yes, that's progress you're seeing

By Nathan Barrett
Ward 7 Councilmember

Twenty years ago, the City of Biloxi annexed a large portion of the Woolmarket community.



For many years, minimal progress was made on much-needed infrastructure and amenities in Ward 7.

Because of the lack of progress for those years, coupled with the enormous growth of the community, the needs started to multiply.

Although the needs are great, much progress has been made in the last five years.

One of the biggest needs is access to public water and sewer. Although we still have more to accomplish, a large portion of Ward 7 now has water and sewer access.

In 2018, we added our first public sidewalk in Ward 7, and received over a \$1 million grant for additional sidewalks. We are hoping to start construction on that project sometime next year.

We also opened a new library with the help of Harrison County, and we are in the process of completing a community center that is connected to the library.

In November, we opened a new state-of-the-art fire station on the east side of Ward 7, which will help with response times and help lower insurance rates for residents in that area.

Early next year, we will begin construction on a new six-acre park in Eagle Point. It will have a walking track, basketball court, playground, a pavilion for parties, restrooms and more.

We have also partnered with Harrison County and paved several of our main roads that were in dire need of repair.

Ward 7 is the largest ward in Biloxi and we still have many needs; however, it is encouraging to see progress.

As your representative, I, along with my fellow council members and the administration, will continue to work hard to meet as many needs as possible for Ward 7.

► Reach Ward 7 Councilmember
Nathan Barrett at nbarrett@biloxi.ms.us
or 228-547-5816

Woolmarket City Center will take shape in 2020

Today, it's not unlike many of the other non-descript sheet metal structures in Woolmarket, but to hear librarian Donna Posey tell it, the new library inside the Woolmarket City Center is "a mansion."

The library moved from a cramped trailer to its 1,500-square foot environment several months ago, and this year an upscale masonry façade and expanded community room with a stage and other amenities will complete the Woolmarket City Center

Woolmarket City Center

expansion and preparing to tear out the old west exterior wall," said Robert Smith, a city engineer who is overseeing the project with architect Frank Genzer.

"The contractor will begin interior work this month, and the city is expecting the project to be complete in early summer."

The city's Parks & Recreation Department will be responsible for renting the community room, which is expanding from 1,500 feet to 2,750 square feet. The county operates the library, which takes up roughly half of the center.

"This new façade, the new stage and other amenities planned on the community center side of the building will make it much more functional for user groups," said Biloxi Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich. "We're appreciative of the county's efforts in helping make this new facility happen, especially the expanded library."

County library's increased space leads to increased use

"I'm tickled pink with the new location," Woolmarket librarian Donna Posey says of the months-old new digs for the Woolmarket public library. "It's like a mansion compared to the trailer."

After a year and a half in its new location in the Woolmarket City Center, the Woolmarket branch of the Harrison County Library System is booming. Gone is the 900-square-foot trailer in favor of nearly 1,500 square feet of books, computers and a children's reading area. The additional space means the number of books offered at the library has grown from 6,503 to 7,138.

After Katrina, increased population in the area led to a need for additional library services and the branch's founding. It was housed in a donated temporary trailer.

However, this solution was temporary, and the upkeep on the trailer became untenable.

Biloxi leaders, including Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich and Ward 7 Councilman Nathan Barrett, worked with District



Woolmarket librarian Donna Posey stands among the books in the new library, which grew from 900 square feet to nearly 1,500 square feet. And the library is no longer on wheels.

5 Supervisor Connie Rockco to find a permanent home for the Woolmarket branch in the new community center. The library opened in July 2018 at its new location and held a celebration and groundbreaking for an expansion of the community center in early 2019.

"We are very happy that Biloxi and the county worked together on this project to give the library a new home, said Harrison County Library System Director Sarah Crisler-Ruskey. "The materials checked out are up almost 80 percent, attendance at programs has almost doubled, and computer use is up. We look forward to serving even more patrons once the

renovations are complete and the community center is at full speed. This area is growing, and we are glad to be part of it."

The Woolmarket Public Library is at 13034 Kayleigh Cove and is open Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

► For information on programs and story times for children, visit www.harrison.lib.ms.us under the calendar tab, or sign up on the webpage for the events newsletter. The Woolmarket library can be reached at (228) 354-9464.

Shape Up in Biloxi



It has become a commonality for people to flock to the gym and focus on getting in shape for the New Year. By making those resolutions to commit to a healthier lifestyle, a challenge usually ensues. How can I fit in the time?

Well, in Biloxi, city leaders have made it easier to schedule time to be fit.

Did you know that the two city swimming pools open at 5 a.m. on weekdays? The thinking behind that was so that citizens could get in a swim before going to work and beginning the hustle and bustle of the day. Actually, patrons that frequent the Biloxi Natatorium, the large Olympic size swimming pool located at 1384 Father Ryan Ave., usually line up along the front sidewalk weekday mornings waiting for the lifeguard to open the doors.

The Biloxi Natatorium offers several lap lanes for those wanting to get in the meters, a shallow end of four feet for the walkers and splashers, and a deep end of 13 feet for the treaders or the synchronized swimmers.

The pool is heated in the winter, in the water and along the deck and dressing rooms, and has a retractable roof to let the sunlight in during the warmer months. The Nat, as many call it, is open weekdays from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. for adults and 3 p.m., when the kiddos get out of school, to 8 p.m. for ages 17 and younger. Admission is a mere \$3 per adult and \$1 per child. As for the programs, there is a year-round swim team for ages five and older and summer swim team for ages 18 and younger.

If swimming is not your thing, then check out the Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center on Pass Road. It is a community

center which means it offers an array of amenities. The center, named for the longtime Biloxi Recreation Director Donal Snyder Sr., is open six days a week, and includes a fitness center, basketball courts, racquetball courts, and numerous active programs. There is also a smaller lap pool for adults that stays around a toasty 86 degrees and a small therapy pool with an average water temperature of 90 degrees.

The center even has an indoor walking track that looks over the basketball courts. Sixteen times around makes a mile. That may seem a little monotonous but the action from the b-ballers below can create an entertaining trek. And best of all, access to the walking track is free and available weekdays from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. That makes it easy to get in a quick walk during your lunch break or while the children play an after school sport.

If you're fonder of swinging the racket, the center has two racquet ball courts. For a one hour use, you can drive a serve for \$4. There are also challenge days. Those are Tuesdays and Thursdays where you can stop by and challenge a friend or foe in a game. Challenges are \$2 per person.

The Snyder Center is also a hub for senior

activities. At various times throughout the week, those age 55 and older can attend free exercise classes.

The stretch and strengthen class is offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 1 and 2:30 p.m. and a Tai' Chi class, for those wanting to improve balance and help prevent falls, can attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m.

If outdoor activities are more your thing, a popular alternative to the traditional gym, then check out Hiller Park.

The nearly 78 acre park is located in West Biloxi off Pass Road, with the entrance just northeast of the Classy Chassis Car Wash. The recreation facility offers an array of activities available nearly any time of day.

The park is open daily from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. and, if you have a passion for basketball, kayaking, tennis, soccer or strolling along the waterside, then this recreation facility can be your total gym.

Studies show that outdoor fitness can

increase the overall enjoyment of working out and extend the frequency and length of time spent exercising.

It is also a free environment where you can, say, take up your favorite pastime of soccer or tennis.

Maybe you want to focus on certain muscle groups like your shoulders or your back. You can give them a good workout by swinging the disc into a metal basket or paddling along the bayou in your kayak. Basketball, soccer and tennis can provide a total body workout with high-intensity intervals and strengthening of the core.

If walking is your thing, Hiller Park has you covered there as well. The park has a one-mile loop walking track that travels throughout the park and along the bayou. You can take a brisk walk on your lunch break or while you are waiting for your child to finish an after-school activity. You can breathe in the fresh air and take in the wonderful sights of nature while burning miles of calories.

So whatever your fitness regimen is, remember the City of Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department is the "fun" department. It has wholesome leisure programs and facilities to help people enjoy themselves, grow physically and emotionally and improve quality of life and wellness.



For more information about the Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department's facilities and programs, visit online at www.biloxi.ms.us.

Keesler reflects on a productive year

By Col. Heather Blackwell and Chief Master Sgt. Dave Pizzuto

As we look to a new year, we reflect on the past and what a tremendous year it has been for Keesler Air Force Base and its host city. With the generous support from Biloxi, your U.S. Air Force has been doing some amazing things in and around the community.

Whether its construction projects, co-hosting a joint airshow, achieving training milestones or our award-winning training instructors incorporating innovative technology into the curriculum, Keesler has been BUSY this year.

We started off 2019 strong with our first-ever joint air show – Thunder Over the Sound: The Keesler and Biloxi Air and Space Show. In preparation for the two-day event, Biloxi city first responders worked side-by-side with their Keesler counterparts to practice disaster response scenarios. The weekend brought topsy-turvy weather, but we were able to host static displays, and ground and aerial performances, culminating the weekend with a thrilling performance by the U.S. Air Force



Thunderbirds along the beautiful Gulf Coast.

The summer brought leadership changes to Keesler as we welcomed Col. Heather Blackwell, the 81st Training Wing commander, and Maj. Gen. Andrea Tullos, commander of 2nd Air Forces.

The Keesler Medical Center's Institute for Defense Robotic Surgical Education program reached a significant milestone, training the 100th team on robotic surgery on July 23. Then, in the fall we celebrated the groundbreaking for a solar panel construction project over the Base Exchange and

Commissary parking lots and saw the continuation of the Division Street Gate project.

Keesler also recently provided airlift and airdrop support for the U.S. Army's 4th Brigade Combat Team, Airborne 25th Infantry Division during Arctic Anvil - a joint, multi-national training exercise.

And lastly, volunteering is a big part of Air Force culture and Keesler members came through with a big impact on the local communities. More than 90 Keesler volunteers participated in the Ocean Springs

Community clean-up day in August. Then in November, hundreds of Keesler Airmen and base leaders marched in the 19th annual Veterans Day parade in D'Iberville. Collectively, base personnel contribute more than 150,000 volunteer hours in and around the Keesler community.

As we begin 2020, all of us at Keesler would like to say a huge THANK YOU to Biloxi for being an amazing community partner. We couldn't be the world's premier training wing without your support.

Col. Heather Blackwell, is the 81st Training Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Dave Pizzuto, is the 81st Training Wing command chief.

Thank You BILOXI FIRST

FOR INSPIRING AND SUPPORTING CREATIVE PROJECTS,
ENHANCING CURRICULUM, AND HELPING TO DEVELOP
THE FULL SCHOLASTIC POTENTIAL OF STUDENTS IN THE
BILOXI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

for 30 years!



The infrastructure work in Biloxi

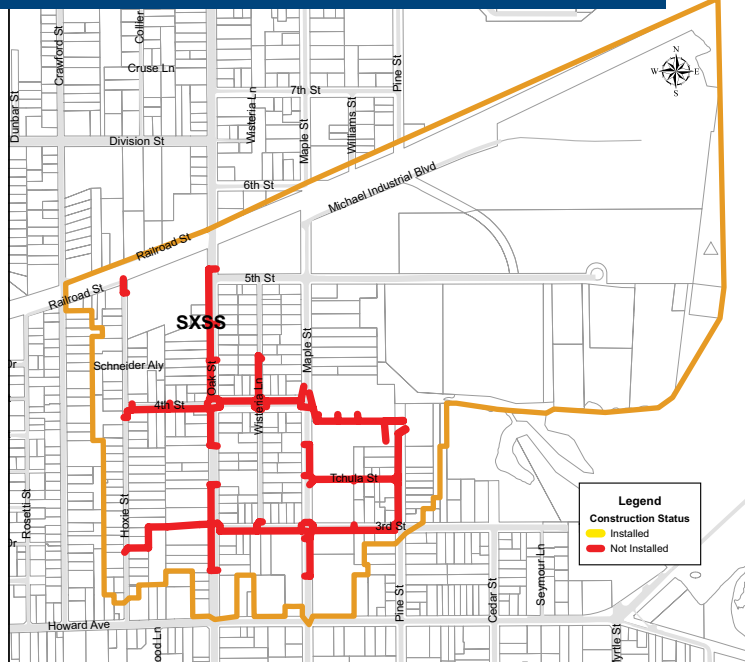
Pages 13 through 16 contain maps that show the status of the city's three major infrastructure projects now underway. The information on these maps is compiled by the city's Engineering Department, based on reports from contractors and inspectors at each site. See detailed maps and video online at biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/

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.

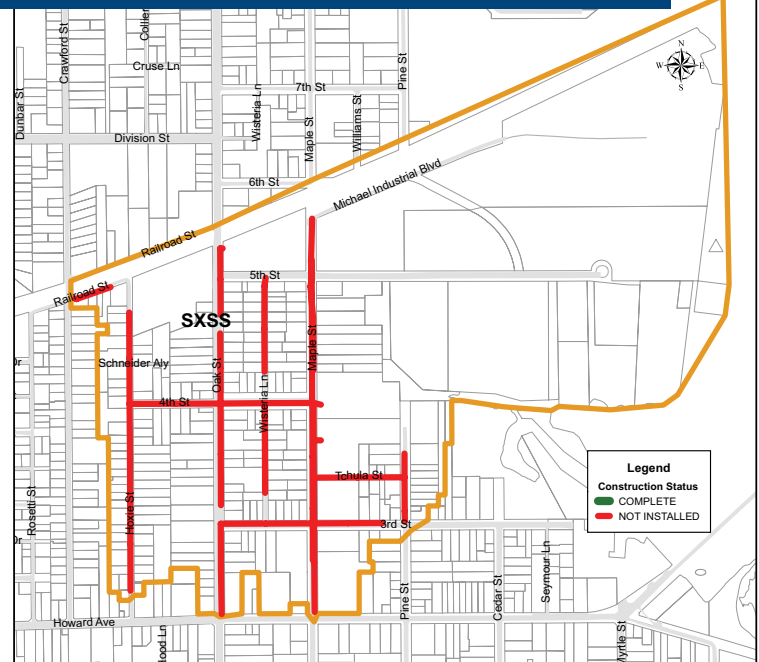
Lane Construction Water

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



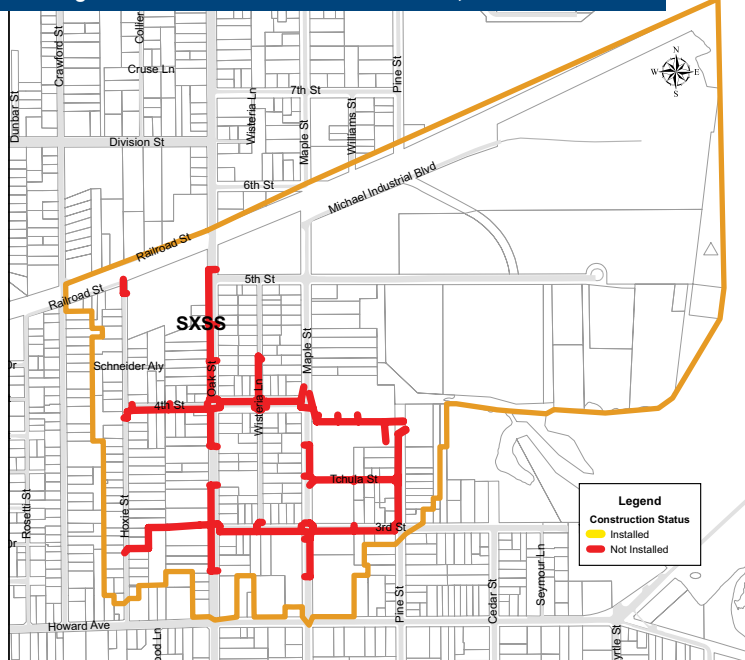
Lane Construction Sewer

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



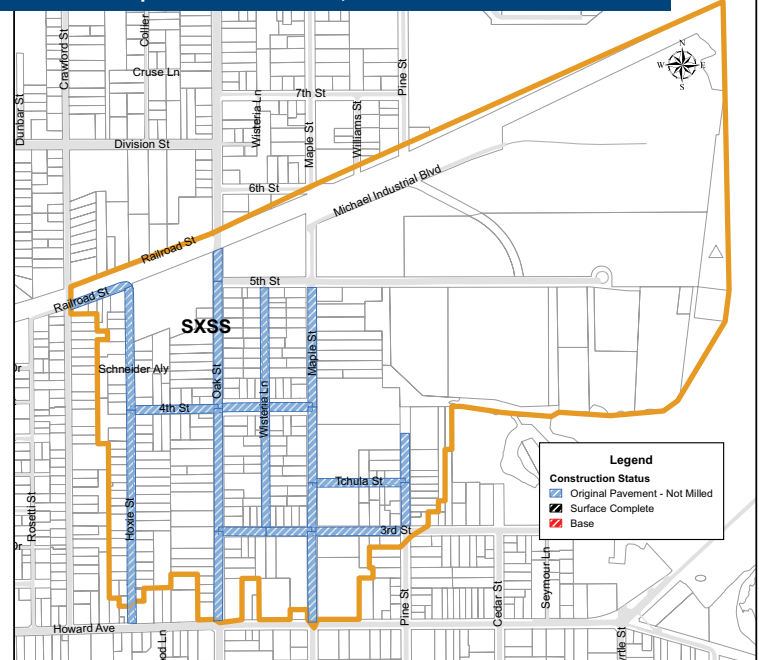
Lane Construction Drainage

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



Lane Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of Dec. 14, 2019



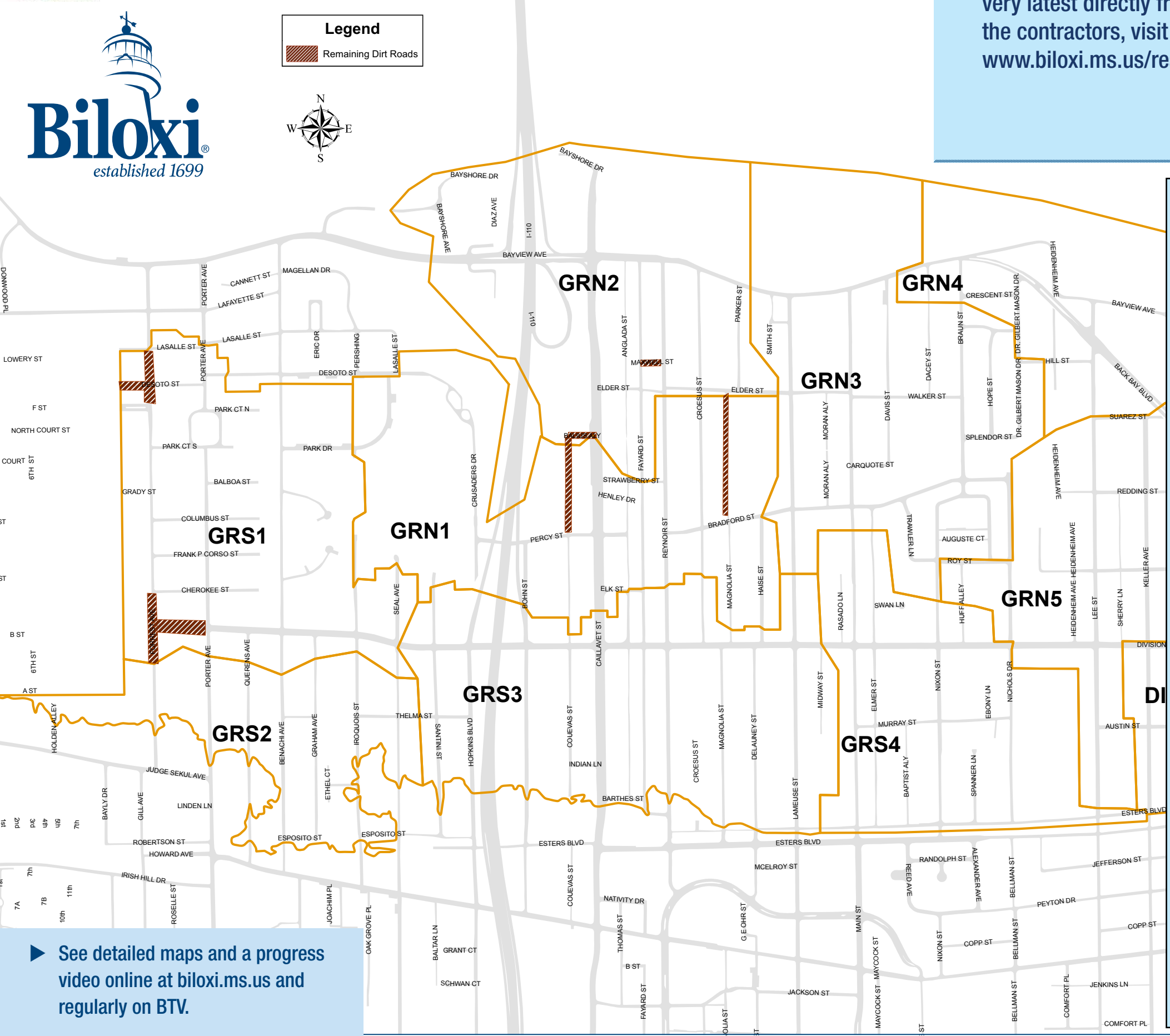
The North Contract: Remaining dirt roads (as of Dec. 13, 2019)



Legend

 Remaining Dirt Roads



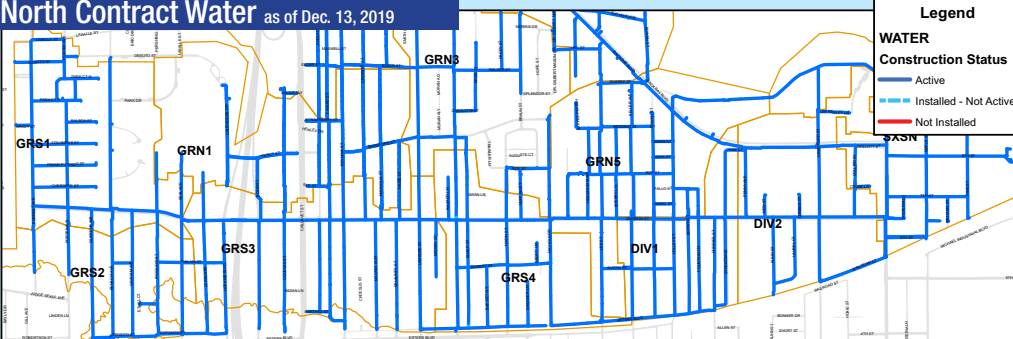


► To see detailed maps of progress and to hear the very latest directly from the contractors, visit www.biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi.

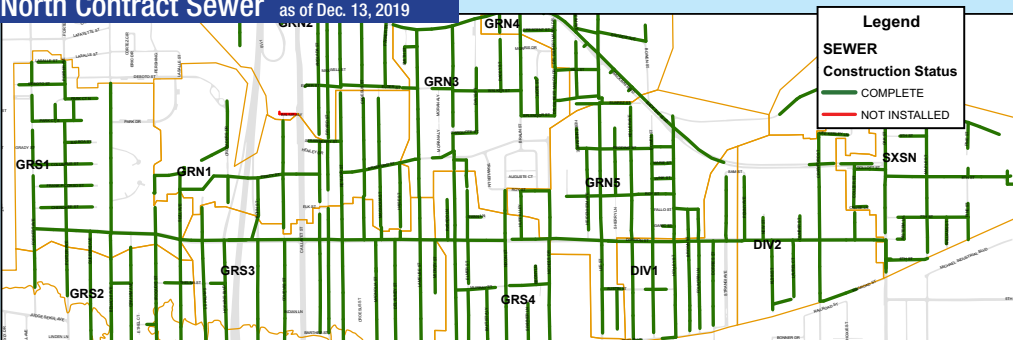


► See detailed maps and a progress video online at biloxi.ms.us and regularly on BTV.

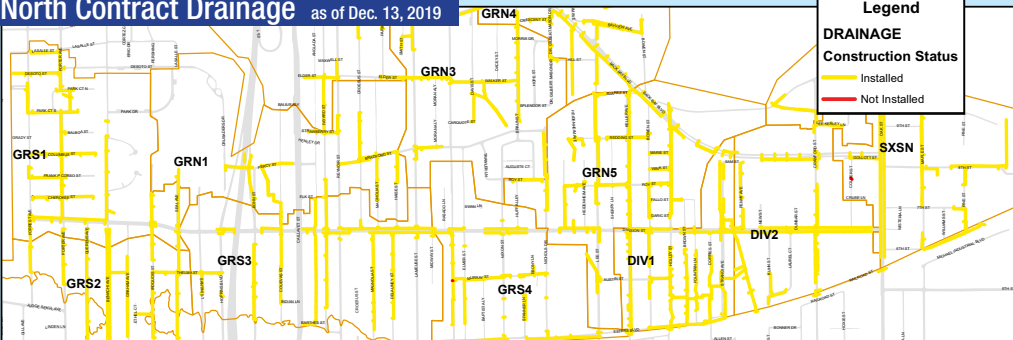
North Contract Water as of Dec. 13, 2019

**Legend**
WATER
Construction Status
Active (Blue line)
Installed - Not Active (Light blue line)
Not Installed (Red line)

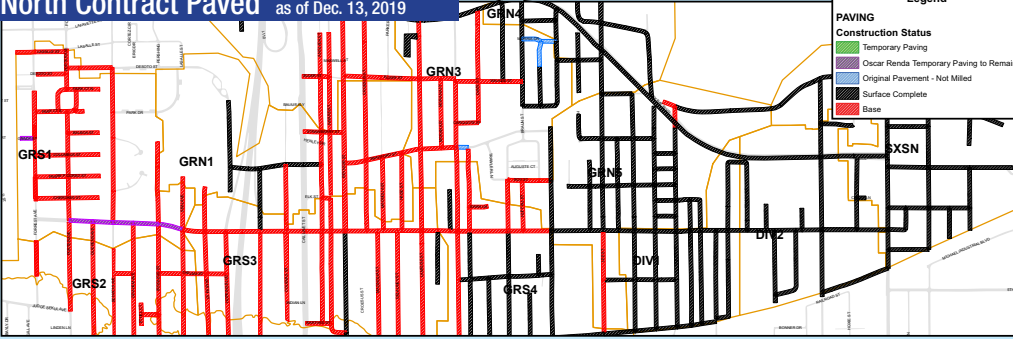
North Contract Sewer as of Dec. 13, 2019

**Legend**
SEWER
Construction Status
COMPLETE (Green line)
NOT INSTALLED (Red line)

North Contract Drainage as of Dec. 13, 2019

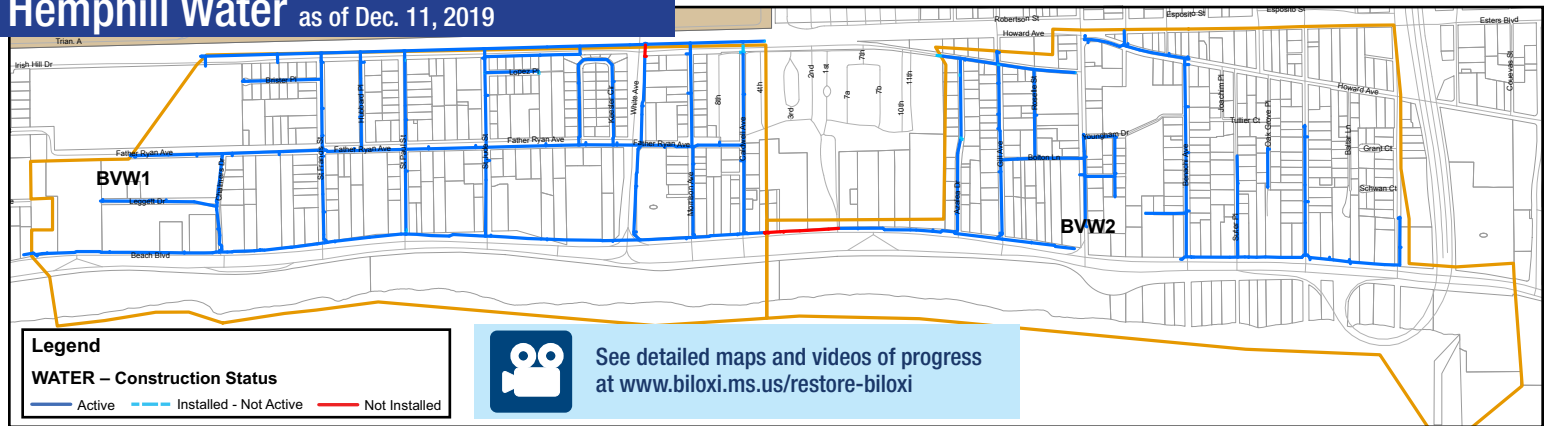
**Legend**
DRAINAGE
Construction Status
Installed (Yellow line)
Not Installed (Red line)

North Contract Paved as of Dec. 13, 2019

**Legend**
PAVING
Construction Status
Temporary Paving (Green line)
Oscar Renda Temporary Paving to Remain (Purple line)
Original Pavement - Not Milled (Blue line)
Surface Complete (Black line)
Base (Grey line)

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.

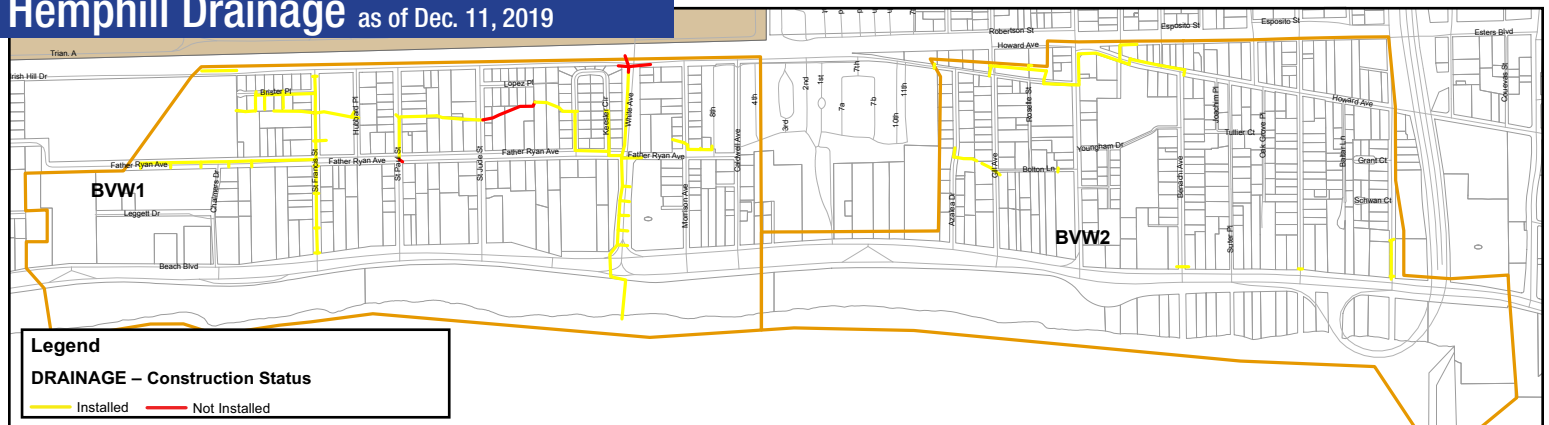
Hemphill Water as of Dec. 11, 2019



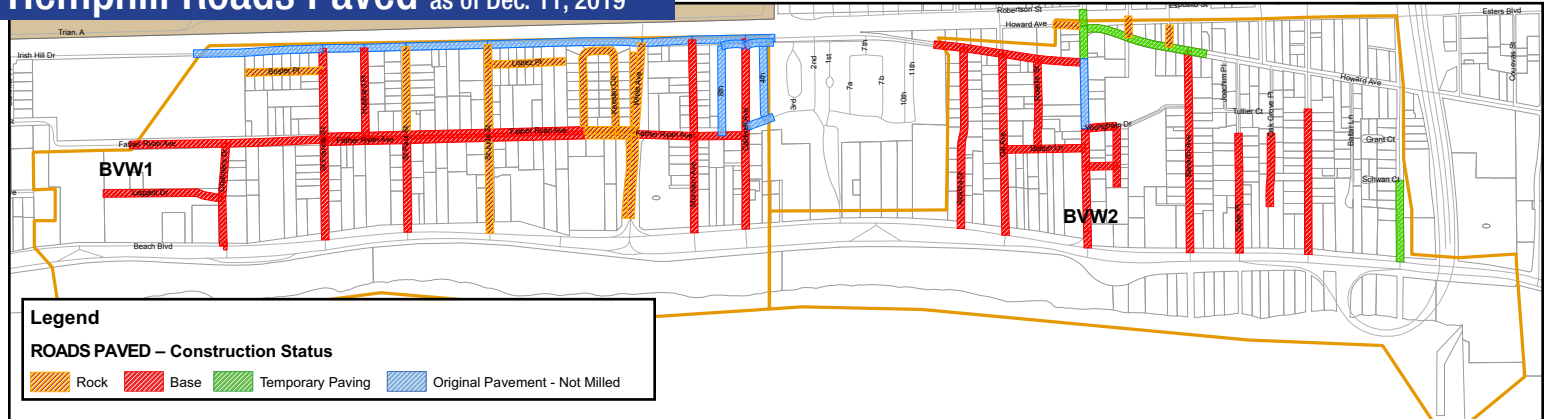
Hemphill Sewer as of Dec. 11, 2019



Hemphill Drainage as of Dec. 11, 2019



Hemphill Roads Paved as of Dec. 11, 2019



Best Bets!

Kick off the Mardi Gras season



On Jan. 5, Biloxi will officially usher in the Mardi Gras season with the Twelfth Night celebration. The Gulf Coast Carnival Association's Royal Court will turn the Christmas lights off at the Biloxi Lighthouse and parade to Biloxi City Hall. The occasion also serves as a reminder of the religious significance of Carnival, often lost on the tens of thousands of revelers at Mardi Gras parades. Twelfth Night, the twelfth day from Christmas, is the night before the Epiphany, the day when the three wise men visited the infant Jesus, foretelling the revelation of God the Son being born as a human. Details: 228-374-3105.



Fire Station 7 dedication

The Biloxi Fire Department invites the public to a dedication ceremony for the city's newest fire station, Station 7, on Saturday, Jan. 11 at 10 a.m. The 13,000-square-foot command station will be the department's first ever training facility. It will serve the areas north of the Bay of Biloxi, located on Popp's Ferry Road east of Cedar Lake, and will replace a trailer the firefighters has been working out of since 2001. The ceremony will include speakers, station tours, and refreshments. The event is free and open to the public. Details: 228-435-6200.



New Year's Eve Oyster Ball Drop, Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum, 115 1st Street. Celebrate the New Year with dancing, heavy hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, party favors and music by Ruffwater. At midnight, the big oyster ball will drop and the factory whistle will blow. Fireworks, donuts and coffee will follow. Admission: \$75 per person (age 21 and older). Details: 228-435-6320

Twelfth Night, Jan. 5, 5 p.m. Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Christmas season officially changes to Mardi Gras season in Biloxi. The Christmas lights will be extinguished on the Biloxi Lighthouse, followed by a parade at 6:30 p.m. to Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Details: 228-314-4747 or email museum@coastalmardigras.com



Biloxi Excel by 5 January Orientation, Jan. 8 & 29, 9:30 a.m. 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

Frosty Kroc Run, 1-Mile, 5K, 10K, Jan. 11, 4:30-8:30 p.m. Race begins at the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino, 151 Beach Blvd., travels the Biloxi Bay Bridge and finishes at the Golden Nugget. 10K travels into Ocean Springs. Fees and details: 228-207-1218 or www.raceentry.com/race-reviews/frosty-kroc-run



Biloxi Fire Station 7 Ribbon Cutting, Jan. 11, 10 a.m. 1672 Popp's Ferry Road. Join the City of Biloxi Fire Department for a dedication ceremony for its newest station and first ever training facility. Ceremony will include station tours and refreshments. Details: 228-435-6200

Coastwide MLK Celebration, Jan. 16-20. Theme: "Don't Just See the Dream, Be the Dream." The celebration includes speakers, a parade, the battle of the bands and more. Details: www.mlkcoastwide.com

Best Bet!



Celebrate MLK

The annual Coastwide MLK Celebration has gained a reputation over the years for having a top-notch lineup of events including the annual MLK parade. The 2020 theme is "Don't Just See the Dream, Be the Dream" and activities include a Power in Pumps event on Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Biloxi Visitors Center; a social justice symposium at the Moss Point High School on Jan. 18; a gospel inspirational featuring Mike Espy at the Greater Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Pascagoula on Jan. 19; and the MLK parade in downtown Biloxi followed by the MLK Battle of the Bands at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum on Jan. 20, MLK Jr. Day. Details: www.mlkcoastwide.com

Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the 20th 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



Bike Biloxi, Jan. 21, 6 p.m. Begins at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. The free, fun-filled ride through downtown ends with refreshments at a downtown restaurant at cyclists' expense. Helmets and lights recommended. Details: 228-435-6339

Main Street Book Club, Jan., 23, 5:30 p.m., Jacked Up Coffee Bar, 999 Howard Ave. Book of the month is "Outlander" and may be purchased at Southern Bound Book Shop, located next door to the coffee bar. Interested in joining the book club? Just stop by the free meeting or call Biloxi Main Street. Details: 228-435-6339

Arsenic and Old Lace, Jan. 24-26 & Jan. 31-Feb. 2, Biloxi Little Theatre, 220 Lee St. Details: 228-432-8543 or www.4BLT.org

Parenting with Love, Safety & Health, Jan. 28, 5 p.m. Mealtime; 5:30-7:30 p.m. Biloxi Family Resource Center, 140 St. John Ave. Biloxi Excel by 5 event open to parents with children ages five and younger. Event educates on the importance of using positive discipline techniques and addresses reasons for misbehavior. Free admission but registration required by Jan. 23. Class limited to 20 parents. Details: Susan Hunt, 228-297-6808, or susan.hunt@biloxischools.net

30th Annual State of the City Address, Jan. 30, doors open at 11 a.m., program begins at 11:30 a.m., Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, Magnolia Ballroom, 875 Beach Blvd. Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich will deliver his annual State of the City presentation during the Biloxi Bay Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon. Tickets: \$50 per person; Reserved table for 10 people: \$500. Reservation deadline is Jan. 23. Details: 228-435-6149 or email info@biloxibayareachamber.org

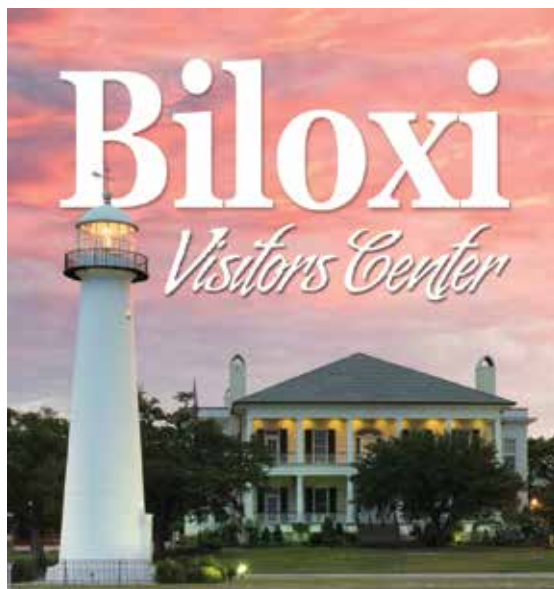
Biloxi Little Theater

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

- **Arsenic and Old Lace,** Jan. 24-26 and Jan. 31-Feb. 2

Center Stage

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



Biloxi Lighthouse and Visitors Center

1050 Beach Blvd., 228-374-3105, www.biloxi.ms.us

Open daily, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Lighthouse tours daily, 8-9:30 a.m., weather permitting

Biloxi Schooners

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

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

Biloxi Shrimping Trip

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

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

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.

Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum

115 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 Art

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

Ship Island Excursion

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

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

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

- **Meeting Night**, Jan. 15, 7 p.m. New members welcome.
- **Steak Nights with Entertainment**, Jan. 4, 11, 18 and 25; Steaks: \$20
- **Charity Bingo**, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. Early bird starts 6:30 p.m.; regular games 7 p.m. Cash prizes, drawing and gifts. Kitchen open until 8:30 p.m.
- **Sunday Bingo**, Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26. Early bird starts 2 p.m.; regular games at 2:30 p.m. Jackpot cash prizes, drawing and gifts. Concession available.
- **Mardi Gras Ball**, Feb. 1. Tickets on sale now. \$15 per person. Party favors, champagne and breakfast included.

Fleur de Lis Society of Biloxi (French Club)

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

- **Dinners every Friday night** in January, 6-8 p.m. Seafood dinners with Karaoke at 7:30 p.m. Call for details.

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 |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| 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 | 1 | 2 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library | 3 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society Herman's Hermits IP Casino Resort & Spa | 4 Musiq Soulchild IP Casino Resort & Spa |
| 5 Twelfth Night Biloxi Lighthouse to Biloxi City Hall | 6 Story Time Woolmarket Library | 7 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi | 8 Biloxi Excel by 5 January Orientation Biloxi Family Resources Center | 9 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library | 10 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society PCA Rodeo Finals MS Coast Coliseum Colt Ford and Parmalee IP Casino Resort & Spa | 11 Frosty Kroc Run Golden Nugge Biloxi Fire Station #7 Ribbon Cutting 1672 Popp's Ferry Rd. PCA Rodeo Finals MS Coast Coliseum Journey Tribute Hard Rock George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic Beau Rivage |
| 12 PCA Rodeo Finals MS Coast Coliseum | 13 Story Time Woolmarket Library | 14 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi | 15 | 16 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library MLK Celebration Coastwide | 17 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society MLK Celebration Coastwide Miranda Lambert MS Coast Coliseum Lewis Black Beau Rivage Gaelic Storm IP Casino Resort & Spa | 18 MLK Celebration Coastwide Biloxi Gun & Knife Show MS Coast Coliseum Tyler Farr Hard Rock Englebert Humpardinck Beau Rivage Arnez J. January IP Casino Resort & Spa |
| 19 MLK Celebration Coastwide Biloxi Gun & Knife Show MS Coast Coliseum | 20 Story Time Woolmarket Library MLK Celebration Coastwide | 21 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi Bike Biloxi Biloxi Visitors Center | 22 | 23 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library Main Street Biloxi Book Club Jacked Up Coffee Bar | 24 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society Arsenic & Old Lace Biloxi Little Theatre Chris Janson IP Casino Resort & Spa | 25 Casino Bridge Run Golden Nugge Arsenic & Old Lace Biloxi Little Theatre Great White & Slaughter Hard Rock |
| 26 Arsenic & Old Lace Biloxi Little Theatre | 27 Story Time Woolmarket Library | 28 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi Parenting with Love, Safety & Health Biloxi Family Resources Center | 29 Biloxi Excel by 5 January Orientation Biloxi Family Resources Center | 30 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library 30th Annual State of the City Address Beau Rivage | 31 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society Arsenic & Old Lace Biloxi Little Theatre | 1 Arsenic & Old Lace Biloxi Little Theatre |



January 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. | Keesler Air Force Base (15 min) |
| 7 a.m. | Special Presentation: State of the City presentations through the years (3 hours) |
| 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. | Station 7, BFD's new presence at Cedar-Popp's (1 hour) |
| 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 travelogue (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: State of the City presentations through the years (3 hours) |
| 9 p.m. | City Council meetings and bonus public affairs programming (3 hours) |
| Midnight | National anthem by Ronny Broussard (2 min) |



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

Inside BTV: A look back at the States of the City

It's the first of the year, which means it's State of the City time, when Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich reports on the city's program of work.

The annual presentation, which will be made Jan. 30 in a Biloxi Bay Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon, will be replayed Jan. 31 at 7 and 8 a.m. and 7 and 8 p.m. on BTV: Biloxi Television.

However, in the weeks leading up to the State of the City, BTV takes a cue from C-SPAN and its annual State of the Union replays. Throughout the month of January, BTV will carry a host of the annual State of the City presentations, dating back as far as 2003.

The annual presentations present a snapshot of the successes, challenges and issues in Biloxi in a given year.

Here's the lineup, which airs morning and evening on the days and times noted:

Jan. 1-4 (Wednesday-Saturday, morning and evening)

- 7:00 **2007: "Biloxi on the rebound,"** Mayor A.J. Holloway discusses post-Katrina challenges. (25 mins)
- 7:30 **2011: "This will be the year,"** construction of Biloxi Visitors Center and Biloxi Civic Center and restoration of historic properties. (30 min)
- 8:00 **2012: "Changing the way people look at Biloxi,"** Mayor Holloway shows the new Visitors Center and other progress. (27 min)
- 8:28 **2013: "A milestone each and every day,"** Mayor Holloway discusses progress, large and small. (28 min)

Week of Sunday, Jan. 5 (morning and evening)

- 7:00 **2014: "We are arriving at a turning point,"** Mayor Holloway discusses MGM Park and more. (16 min prepared video only)
- 7:25 **2015: "A city of contrasts,"** acting Mayor Kenny Glavan welcomes a surprise guest. (34 min)
- 8:10 **2016 "The roads of the future,"** Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich makes his first State of the City address. (46 min)

Week of Sunday, Jan. 12 (morning and evening)

- 7:00 **2017: "Biloxi, proud of it!"** (33 min)
- 7:35 **2018: "Happening Now"** (34 min)
- 8:15 **2019: "On the move"** (32 min)

Week of Sunday, Jan. 19 (morning and evening)

- 7:00 **2007: "Biloxi on the rebound,"** Mayor A.J. Holloway discusses post-Katrina challenges. (25 mins)
- 7:30 **2011: "This will be the year,"** construction of Biloxi Visitors Center and Biloxi Civic Center and restoration of historic properties. (30 min)
- 8:00 **2012: "Changing the way people look at Biloxi,"** Mayor Holloway shows the new Visitors Center and other progress. (27 min)
- 8:28 **2013: "A milestone each and every day,"** Mayor Holloway discusses progress, large and small. (28 min)

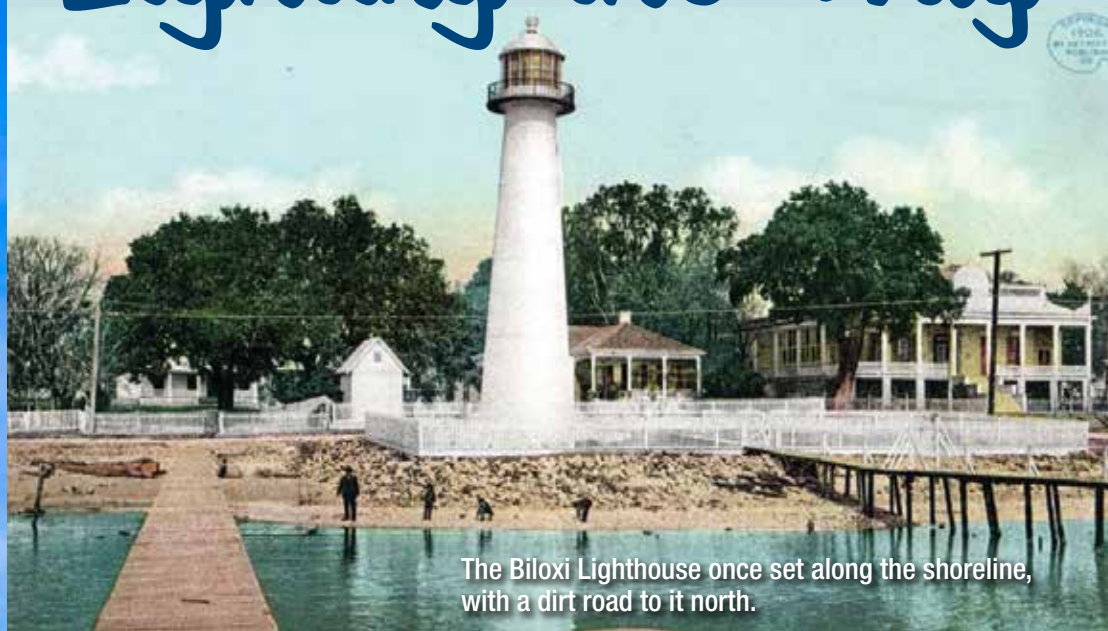
Week of Sunday, Jan. 26 (morning and evening)

- 7:00 **2017: "Biloxi, proud of it!"** (33 min)
- 7:35 **2018: "Happening Now"** (34 min)
- 8:15 **2019: "On the move"** (32 min)

Friday, Jan. 31 (morning and evening)

- 7:00 **The 2020 State of the City presentation** by Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich
- 8:00 **The 2020 State of the City presentation** by Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich

Lighting the Way

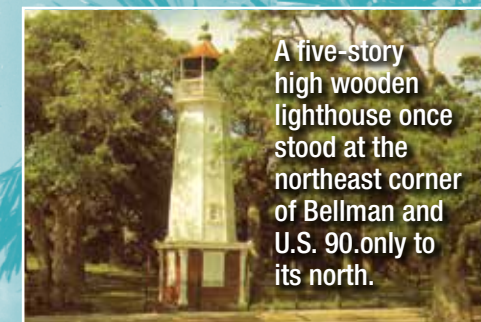


The Biloxi Lighthouse once set along the shoreline, with a dirt road to it north.

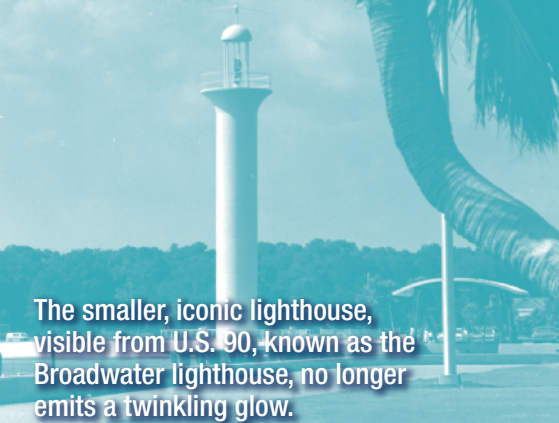


Maria Younghans tended the light on the Biloxi Lighthouse for 53 years.

Aerial view of the Biloxi Lighthouse with a two-way road only to its north.



A five-story high wooden lighthouse once stood at the northeast corner of Bellman and U.S. 90, only to its north.



The smaller, iconic lighthouse, visible from U.S. 90, known as the Broadwater lighthouse, no longer emits a twinkling glow.

When Monsieur d'Iberville voyaged to our shores, he had no spotlights and no fancy GPS on his sailing vessels like the ones today. Guided by the stars at night, the sun shining during the day, and his trusty compass, it must have been difficult to figure out which way was which. No one had built a lighthouse during those early years of Biloxi.

Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra

Can you imagine Monsieur traveling during our "fog season," November – March, along the Mississippi Gulf Coast? He even writes about foggy weather in his famous journals. What a scary

adventure that must have been!

The Biloxi Light

With the growing need for steamboat captains to travel more safely along our shoreline, the construction of the Biloxi Lighthouse was completed in the spring of 1848. In those days, people, supplies, and mail traveled via boat. The U.S. Congress allocated \$12,000 to construct both a

lighthouse as well as a nearby caretaker's residence. What a bargain in today's world!

The towering cast iron structure was built by Murray and Hazelhurst Vulcan Works of Baltimore, Md. and traveled a long journey by schooner to the Biloxi shoreline. Its interior brass lamps and reflectors originated in Boston. The completed interior included a 55-step metal staircase, with bricked walls and four tiny windows positioned at alternate locations.

When this massive structure was built, no electric service was available, and the fuel for its light was provided by lard oil. (Lard is animal fat! Grandma used to fry her yummy friend chicken with lard, back in the day.) The lighthouse was civilian operated from 1848 to 1939, and is notable for its several female light keepers, including Maria Younghans, who tended the light for 53 years. During the lighthouse's early days of operation, Younghans climbed the interior stairs with liquid fuel to keep the mighty light alive. In 1926, electricity was provided and powered the illumination.

During the days of its early existence, our iconic Biloxi Lighthouse was at the water's edge, lined merely by a dirt road.

Through time, the constant blowing of the winds caused a slight tilt in this structure. This problem was corrected

during its most recent revitalization effort after Hurricane Katrina.

Today, the famous Biloxi Lighthouse's electric light still provides a blinking directional signal. I wonder if the International Space Station and Biloxi's Hurricane Hunters can spot our historic lighthouse when voyaging way above Biloxi's peninsula.

Lighthouse trivia

- There is an old Biloxi legend that our beloved lighthouse was painted black to commemorate the assassination of President Lincoln. Our lighthouse was once painted with a black formula, but that was actually tar to protect its cast iron skin from deteriorating, and not associated with Lincoln's untimely death.
- In 1969, this historic monument was transferred to the City of Biloxi.
- It is remembered as the only major lighthouse situated in the middle of a highway.
- In 2010, the U.S. Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp honoring the famous Biloxi Lighthouse.
- The Biloxi Lighthouse is proudly listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Did you ever wonder what you could see from the top of the Biloxi Lighthouse?

For just a few dollars visitors can opt for a guided tour and trek to the top via its original interior winding stairs. It's \$5 per adult and \$2 per child age 12 and younger. Upon entering the metal structure one can see the high water markings for each of the Coast's historic hurricanes.

The City of Biloxi provides everyone world-wide with the ability to see a bird's eye view with the click of an electronic button through Biloxi's web site. <https://biloxi.ms.us/visitor-info/museums/lighthouse/>. You can even see this same view on a large TV screen inside the Biloxi Visitors Center.

Biloxi's famous wooden lighthouse

The Biloxi Lighthouse on Porter Avenue is not the only lighthouse remembered in Biloxi history.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Baldwin Wood owned a magnificent 1880's mansion accompanied by a five-story high wooden lighthouse, once located at the northeast corner of Bellman and U.S. 90. Mr. Wood is renowned as the brilliant engineer who invented the Wood Screw Pump which could alleviate flooding worldwide. He resided at the stately mansion alongside his prized 30-foot gaff-rigged sloop

"Nydia." The renovated vessel is on display at Biloxi's Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum.

This private wooden lighthouse withstood many violent storms, but finally succumbed to the elements during Hurricane Camille in 1969. That lighthouse was never rebuilt.

The Broadwater lighthouse

Biloxi does still have another iconic lighthouse visible from U.S. 90: the lighthouse on the old Broadwater Marina. In its early years, the location was described to be "between Gulfport and Biloxi."

This smaller and newer Biloxi lighthouse withstood the wrath of Hurricane Katrina, but no longer emits its twinkling glow.

The Biloxi Lighthouse remains an icon of the strength and resilience of Biloxi's spirit.

It is probably the most photographed site in Biloxi's history and is currently the emblem for the City of Biloxi.



A fifth-order Fresnel lens, which replaced the array of lamps and reflectors, now illuminates the Biloxi Lighthouse.

Photos courtesy of the Biloxi Public Library.

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

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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To be eligible to win the 2020 Volkswagen Arteon Giveaway, get 1 entry for every 50 Tier Points earned from December 31, 2019 - January 11, 2020. To be eligible to win the 2020 Lincoln MKZ Giveaway, get 1 entry for every 50 Tier Points earned from January 12, 2020 - February 8, 2020. Free Slot Play valid for 30 days for 2020 Volkswagen Arteon and Lincoln MKZ Giveaway. Activate entries by swiping at any Pearl Rewards Kiosk, carding-out at slot machine or closing table rating between 8PM-9:55PM on day of drawing. Color, make and model may vary. Must be actively playing to be eligible to win preliminary Free Slot Play; valid for 7 days. Must be 21 or older to gamble. Scarlet Pearl Casino Resort reserves all rights to cancel or modify any program at any time. See Pearl Rewards Club for promotional rules and details. Gambling problem? Call 1-800-522-4700.