

The state of our city

2020 has always been viewed as a milestone year in Biloxi's modern past. In the '80s, the city and its residents came together to create goals we could achieve by 2020. The same thing was done in the '90s, when a plan called "Vision 2020" was created.

They envisioned all the elements you'd want to see in a good, vibrant community: A low cost of living, a safe community, good schools, good streets and drainage, and, especially in Biloxi, an appreciation for our colorful past and our beautiful surroundings, a peninsula that would offer excellent waterfront access for residents and visitors alike.

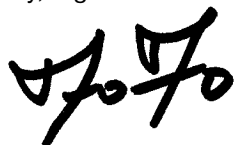
And now, here we are in 2020.

Of course, none of the plans envisioned a \$355 million infrastructure project that would linger far longer than the storm that spawned it. Nobody said anything about a spillway in Louisiana causing the devastation of our seafood and tourism industries. And, of course, those many years ago no one would have fathomed the idea of a Biloxi police officer being ambushed in front of the police station.

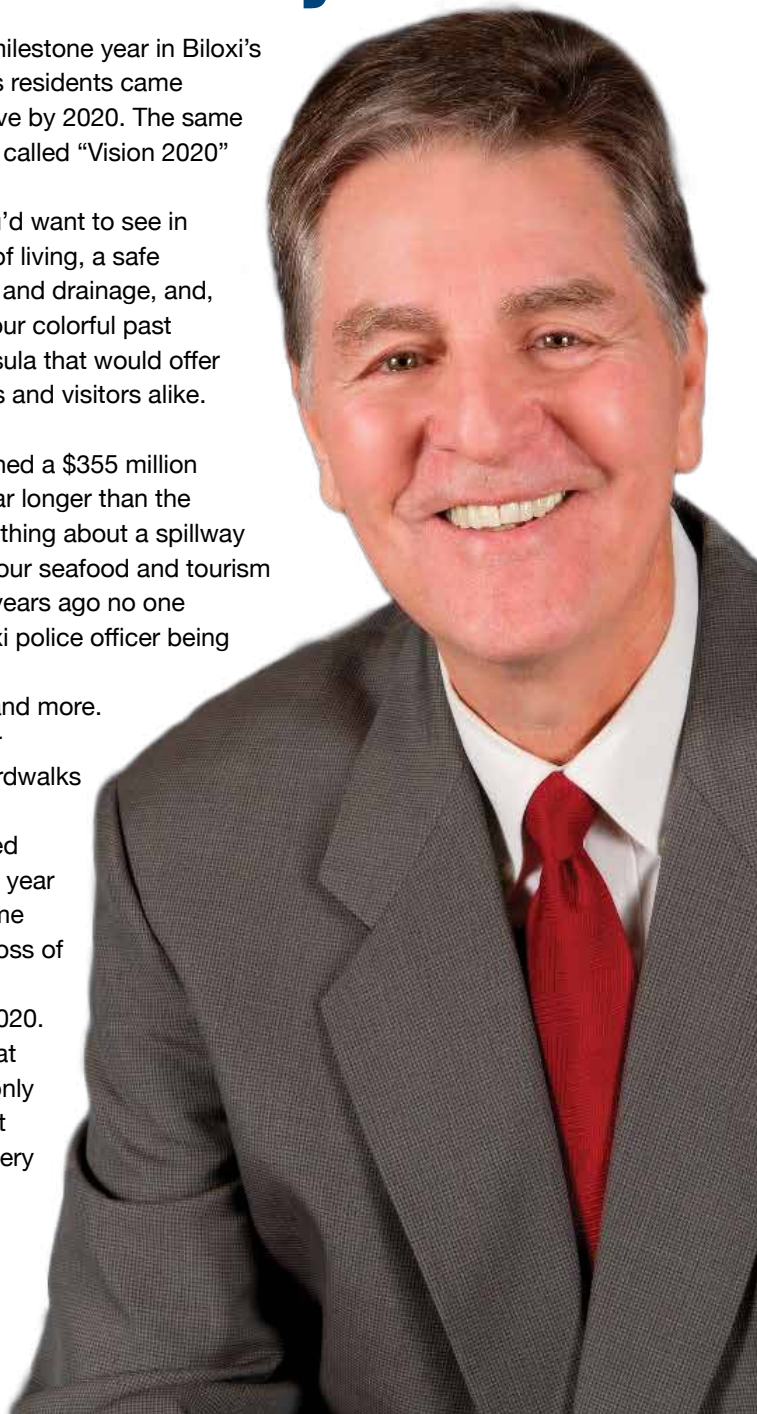
But it all happened in 2019. All that and more.

We saw tremendous progress on our streets and drainage work. We saw boardwalks provide better access to our waterfront, we kept the cost of living low, our A-rated school system saw another tremendous year of classroom achievements, and we came together as a community to mourn the loss of a Biloxi police officer.

It's not about 2020 vision or Vision 2020. It's about a bright future for Biloxi, so that our children and grandchildren will not only appreciate the Biloxi we all love, but that they can experience it. We're doing it every day, together. Now that's a 2020 Vision.



Andrew "FoFo" Gilich, Mayor



ALSO INSIDE This month

Infrastructure progress

Paved roads are the big picture in the North Contract. See all the maps, Pages 13-16.

Ready to roll

See the dates, times and places for Biloxi's four Mardi Gras parades, Page 4.



Humor in uniform

It's not always serious business at Keesler, but it's all about teamwork. Page 6

Throw me a good time

Carnival and Biloxi history are on parade this month. See the calendar, Page 17.



Fleur de February

Learn the lingo of Mardi Gras and relish the history of Biloxi Mardi Gras, Page 22.



Even more inside

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VALENTINE'S DINNER FOR TWO

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He wrote, lived and celebrated our history

There's no doubt we have an unabashed affection for history. It's reflected on these pages each month and certainly on BTV, with a daily, weekly and monthly lineup of stories and programs about the Biloxi of old.

We mine the work of those who came before us, promoting their photographs and their descriptions of the times of the day. They were people such as Tony Ragusin, whose B&W "America's Riviera" video shows the rose-colored early days of Biloxi; or Walter Fountain, who called it like he saw it at the Biloxi Press, or lensman Joe Scholtes, and present-day chroniclers such as Kat Bergeron, Ray Bellande, Murella Powell, Jane Shambra or videographer August Taconi.

Certainly there are more, but prominent among that group would be Edmond Boudreaux, who not only chronicled Biloxi history through the printed word, but brought the story to life with his spot-on portrayals of prominent figures in Biloxi's history. Certainly he was most known for his D'Iberville appearances and garb, but he also immortalized a host of Biloxi's notable figures of the past in the annual cemetery tours.

Edmond, who died in December at age 70, was in his prime each February, with the anniversary of Biloxi's 1699 founding each Feb. 13.

In fact, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Historical and Cultural Exposition will be dedicated to Edmond when it opens at 9 a.m. on Feb. 7 at the Biloxi Visitors Center. The free exposition of history, from various preservation enthusiasts, runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 7 and 8. The annual gathering was a great venue for Edmond, whose period costuming was an attention getter. He was enthusiastic, animated and passionate in his efforts, and he did his homework, as all reputable historians should do.

Said Jane Shambra, the manager of the community archives at the Biloxi Public Library: "In his persistent quest for historical details, Edmond frequented the Biloxi Local History and Genealogy Department where, with pen and tablet at hand, he searched through our many unique resources to finalize the details in his weekly articles for the Biloxi Press and now the Coastal Breeze. Our department's collection of city directories and old maps would always provide supplemental details for his many writings."

Shambra noted that Edmond wore many historical hats throughout his career, which spanned decades of sharing: His weekly "Time Traveler" columns appeared for years in the Press/Breeze, he authored four books about Biloxi's history, and, of course, there were his many cemetery re-enactments and other appearances.

"Edmond Boudreaux will certainly be missed," Shambra said, "but his writings and enthusiasm for Coast history will always be available – forever – in the special collections archives of the Biloxi Library's Local History and Genealogy Department."

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.



Nick L. Shrimp



Edmond
Boudreaux

Btv BTV turns
into ETV:

See "Edmond Boudreaux:
Living History," a special
appreciation, on BTV each
day at 2:05 p.m. throughout
February.

RETURNING SOON

charlotte russe

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Edgewater Mall

History on parade

It's another big month on BTV, the city's municipal TV channel on cable or online.



City Council meeting replays, monthly updates from infrastructure contractors and Biloxi Public Schools, and other Biloxi public affairs programming. And in February you'll find:



SOTC 2020

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich's
State of the City
presentation

7 a.m. and 7 p.m.



Mardi Gras

Twelfth Night:
It's
Carnival time

8 a.m. and 8 p.m.



Black History

A Black History
Month special:
"City Within a City"

8:20 a.m. and 8:20 p.m.



In Memoriam

A video tribute
to historian
Edmond Boudreaux

2:05 each afternoon

Listings on Page 21 • See BTV on Sparklight 56, Uverse 99 or online at biloxi.ms.us/btv

News & notes

biloxi.ms.us •

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Humor in uniform for Keesler Airmen



Base turns laughter into a resilience tool

By Airman 1st Class Spencer Tobler
81st Training Wing Public Affairs

Everyone loves laughter, whether it's used for therapeutic reasons or to lighten the mood in a room. BJ Lange, Air Force Wounded Warrior program comedy coach, turned laughter into a resiliency tool for Airmen with his 'Improv to Improve' class held at Keesler in December.

"Improv to Improve" is an improvisation comedy resiliency class that engages military members in a safe interactive learning environment to combat life stress and build resilience in an unconventional way.

"Col. Blackwell brought me here as a means to find a fun and exciting way to challenge people in a safe setting," Lange said. "Using laughter therapy to connect with one another is an avenue that had not been explored yet."

During the class, Lange had groups of Airmen play various games to learn about each other, step out of their comfort zone and have fun. Theory exercises and games such as 'Zip, Zap, Zow,' Thunderdome, and Kitty Cat Career, all highlighted different professional development tactics and strengthened the attendees' life skills.

"Although I brought BJ out to help work on our communication, he ended up teaching us so much more than that," said Col. Heather Blackwell, 81st Training Wing commander. "He taught us the importance of creating a safe space, being yourself and stepping outside your comfort zone. He taught us the value of laughing and having a little bit of fun, in our uniform."

Even though Lange isn't in the Air Force anymore, he is happy to still be there for his brothers and sisters in arms in a different way.

"Even though I can't put on my uniform right now, I still feel like I'm taking care of my brothers and sisters," Lange said. "The reason why I do this is because it's my heart and soul, it means so much to me and if I can find a way to showcase some benefits to service members through the things that I love doing than why wouldn't I do it?"

The culture Keesler is building puts action behind the concerns of people who voice their opinions.

"The endeavor to create a culture of empowerment and resilience will be ongoing," Blackwell said. "I definitely hope BJ comes out again to help us learn, helps us grow and help us laugh."



2020 Departmental Annual Reports

Administration Department

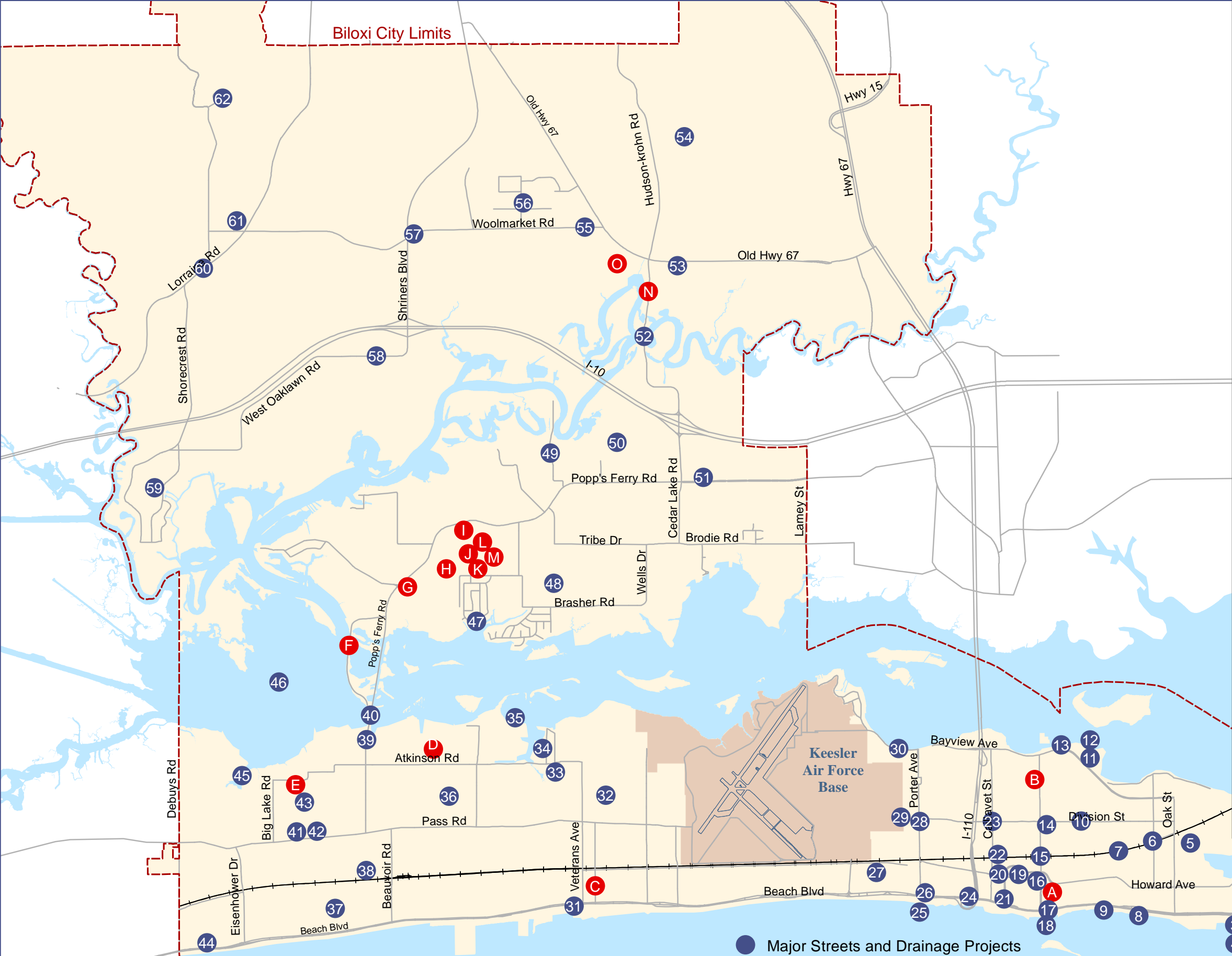
- Bond rating remained at AA-, one of best in the state.
- Projected \$59.4 million in revenue, received \$58 million in revenue; projected \$62.2 million in expenses, had \$58 million in expenses
- Employees 667; saw 20 retirements. Hired 59 permanent and 53 seasonal employees
- Installed community crime cameras at Small Craft Pedestrian Overpass, Small Craft Harbor, Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center, and U.S. Post Office on Main Street
- Constructed and dedicated Gold Star Families Memorial at Guice Park
- Planning and design phase of Fred Haise statue near Biloxi Visitors Center

Community Development

- Issued \$79.93 million in construction permits in 2019, including \$42.96 million commercial and \$36.96 million residential
- Issued 3,512 permits, including 221 for commercial and 770 for residential
- Saw the completion of the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, Biloxi Fire Station 10, Brick and Spoon restaurant, Kay Jewelers and Verizon Wireless south of the Edgewater Mall, Solid Rock Baptist Church, Waffle House on U.S. 90 near the Hilton Inn, Dr. Frigo Orthodontics, Tubb Insurance Agency, The Sugar Factory, CubeSmart Self Storage, 21 pads at Gulf Beach RV Resort RV, Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art Pod W, Knight Abbey at Edgewater Village, Small Craft Harbor Pedestrian Overpass, MGM Pedestrian Overpass, and the Mike Fritz mixed use development on Croesus Street
- Permits issued for major commercial projects: Community Bank Main Street branch, Margaritaville amusement park and parking garage, Biloxi Public Schools Performing Arts Center, Gulf Coast Veterinary Pet Crematorium, J Mart Chevron Convenience Store and Gas Station, 140 unit RV Park on Veterans Avenue, and Camp David RV Park



January 2020 status of major projects



Major streets and drainage projects, cost and status

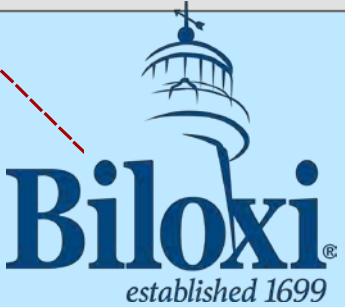
Includes under design, under construction, pending or completed

1	East Biloxi Public Access	\$1.9 million	Complete
2	Point Cadet Boardwalk	\$700,000	Conceptual
3	Point Cadet Marina Electrical Upgrades	\$250,000	Complete
4	Point Cadet Marina Improvements	\$18 million	Conceptual
5	Sixth Street South Infrastructure (SXSS)	\$10.5 million	Under Construction
6	CSX Railroad Closures	\$50,000	Construction Pending
7	East Biloxi Connector Roadway	\$1.1 million	Construction Pending
8	Kuhn Street Boat Ramp Expansion	\$1 million	Conceptual
9	Small Craft to Oak Street Boardwalk	\$3.0 million	Design
10	North Contract (Katrina Infrastructure)	\$129 million	Under Construction
11	Canaan Fishing Dock Reconstruction	\$5 million	Design
12	Canaan Fishing Dock Maintenance	\$250,000	Design
13	Old Brick House Sidewalk & Living Shoreline	\$75,000	Complete
14	John Henry Beck Park Restrooms	\$200,000	Under Construction
15	Main Street Railroad Crossing Upgrades	\$210,000	Design
16	Howard Avenue Project	\$2.2 million	Complete
17	Small Craft Pedestrian Overpass	\$2.4 million	Complete
18	Port Commission Building Roof Repairs	\$175,000	Under Construction
19	Saenger Theater Interior Renovations	\$3 million	Conceptual
20	Saenger Theater Exterior Repairs	\$2 million	Under Construction
21	South Contract Phase 2 (BVE 1 & 2)	\$24 million	Design
22	CSX Passenger Train Platform	\$400,000	Design
23	East Biloxi Recreational Facility	\$500,000	Design
24	Lighthouse Pier Repairs	\$160,000	Complete
24	South Contract Phase 1 (BWV 1 & 2)	\$23.4 million	Under Construction
26	Visitors Center Renovations	\$100,000	Design
27	Cemetery Digital Mapping Phase 2	\$20,000	Complete
28	Keesler Gate Outside Project	\$18.3 million	Design
29	Keesler Gate Inside Project	\$6.2 million	Under Construction
30	Bayview Waterfront Restoration Project	\$2.0 million	Design
31	West Beach Boardwalk Phase 1B	\$2.5 million	Construction Pending
32	Out of Phase Pump Stations	\$4.4 million	Complete
33	Hiller Park Playground Covers	\$20,000	Complete
34	Hiller Park Recreational Trails	\$45,000	Complete
35	Bent Oaks Sediment Removal	\$85,000	Construction Pending
36	Tanglewood Infrastructure Repairs	\$1.0 million	Design
37	Pine Grove Drainage	\$200,000	Complete
38	Popp's Ferry Extension	\$18.3 million	Design
39	Popp's Ferry Bridge From Riverview to Pass Road	\$75.0 million	Design
40	Popp's Ferry Bridge Submarine Cable	\$1.4 million	Under Construction
41	Snyder Center Roof Repairs	\$151,000	Complete
42	Snyder Center Chiller Replacement	\$100,000	Design
43	Churchill Avenue Drainage	\$400,000	Design
44	West Contract (Katrina Infrastructure)	\$33.5 million	Design
45	Goose Point Sediment Removal	\$150,000	Construction Pending
46	Sediment Removal Master Plan	\$75,000	Design
47	Holly Hills Dredging	\$205,000	Complete
48	Malpass Landing Drainage	\$200,000	Design
49	Campbell Drive Drainage	\$10,000	Complete
50	Elzey Street Extension to Medical Park Dr	\$1.0 million	Construction Pending
51	Fire Station 7	\$4.2 million	Complete
52	Cedar Lake Bridge Repairs	\$900,000	Design
53	Fire Station 10	\$2.4 million	Complete
54	Mason Road Waterline	\$500,000	Conceptual
55	Woolmarket Road East Drainage	\$3.5 million	Design
56	Woolmarket Plantation Water	\$1.4 million	Complete
57	Woolmarket Road Sidewalks	\$1.0 million	Design
58	Eagle Point Infrastructure Phase 2 (EPT2)	\$1.5 million	Complete
59	Eagle Point Park	\$525,000	Construction Pending
60	Lorraine Road Waterline	\$200,000	Design
61	Woolmarket City Center Renovations	\$250,000	Under Construction
62	Belle La Vie Parkway	\$1.5 million	Construction Pending

Minor Paving, Drainage, and Improvements, cost and status

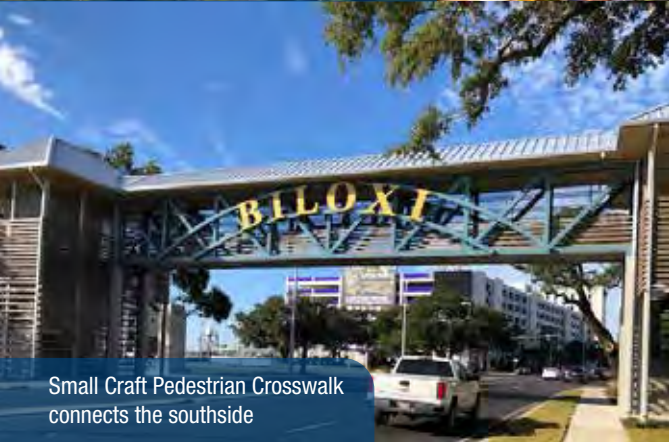
Includes under design, under construction, pending or completed

A	Dukate Street Paving	\$14,000	Complete
B	Moran Alley Paving	\$11,000	Complete
C	McDonnell Avenue Paving	\$107,000	Complete
D	Woodland Park Drive Paving	\$15,000	Complete
E	Pennzoil-McManus Park Walking Trail Paving	\$15,000	Complete
F	Causeway Drive Paving	\$93,000	Complete
G	Baywood Drive Paving	\$54,300	Construction Pending
H	Darwood Drive Paving	\$55,800	Construction Pending
I	Rustwood Drive Paving	\$75,700	Construction Pending
J	Carolwood Drive Paving (West portion)	\$22,200	Construction Pending
K	Trailwood Drive Paving	\$23,100	Construction Pending
L	Carolwood Drive Paving (East portion)	\$19,000	Complete
M	Camp Wilkes Road Paving	\$41,800	Construction Pending
N	Cedar Lake Road Paving	\$78,000	Complete
O	Hattie K Road Paving	\$27,100	Construction Pending

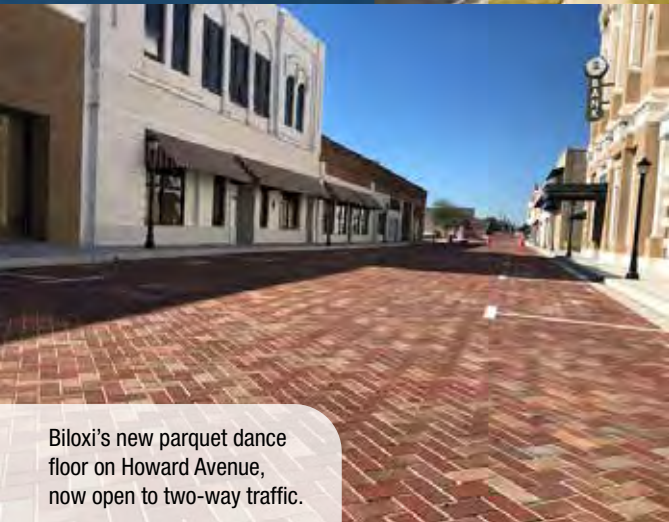




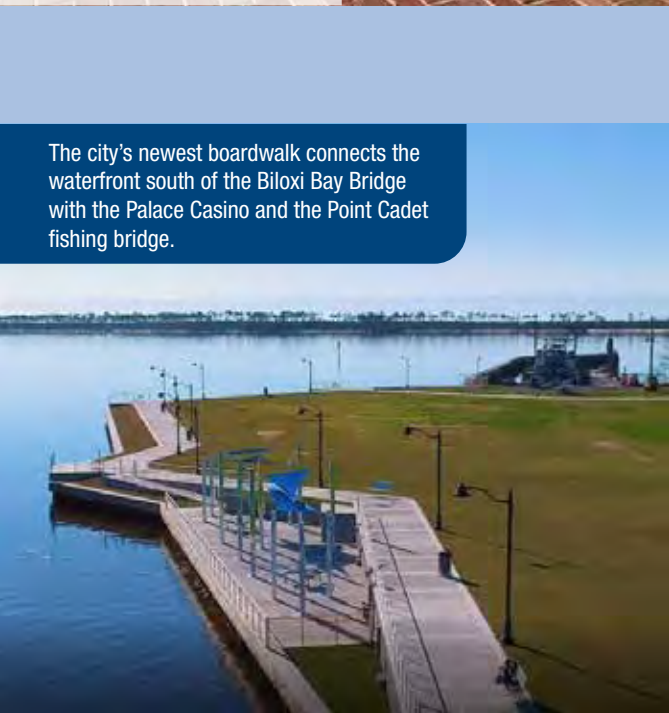
Margaritaville amusement park to be built next to the current hotel and family entertainment center



Small Craft Pedestrian Crosswalk connects the southside



Biloxi's new parquet dance floor on Howard Avenue, now open to two-way traffic.



The city's newest boardwalk connects the waterfront south of the Biloxi Bay Bridge with the Palace Casino and the Point Cadet fishing bridge.

Community Development continued

- Construction continued on the Hotel Legends, The Blake at Biloxi senior living facility, Beach Vista Apartments, three unit retail space on Shriners Boulevard, and Sky Zone trampoline Park.
- Renovations and repairs: bed and breakfast remodel on Rue Magnolia, drive through and swimming pool addition at Flamingo Beach Inn Hotel, expansion to Caterpillar Development Center Daycare in Woolmarket, an addition to Advanced Collision, restrooms at John Henry Beck Park, Saenger Theatre, Biloxi Housing Authority, Virtual Golf at the Beau Rivage, Edgewater Mall, Merit Health hospital pharmacy, V&L CrossFit Gym, Mississippi Music, and second floor level apartments on Howard Avenue.
- Issued 555 new business licenses; 261 Short-term rental
- Planning Commission oversaw 62 cases, conducted public hearing for each and approved five final subdivision plats that created 195 new single family lots.
- Reviewed 59 projects and approved 32 site plans
- Issued 93 residential and 13 commercial tree permits and distributed 300 trees during the annual Arbor Day Run
- Received the designation of "Tree City USA" for the 35th year
- Maintained rating of 4 in building division by the Mississippi State Building Department Rating Bureau
- Maintained "State Best" rating of 5 in the Community Rating System (CRS)
- Biloxi Lighthouse was visited by 2,365 guests
- Biloxi Visitors Center welcomed 121,424 and 277 events
- Biloxi Civic Center hosted 85 public events
- Biloxi Mardi Gras Museum transitioned from a city run operation to a standalone organization, Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum.

Engineering Department

- Managed over 60 projects in concept, design, construction or completion
- Managed \$550,000 of paving with \$250,000 scheduled in 2020
- Completed more than 250 work orders
- Completed projects including Campbell Drive drainage, Biloxi Cemetery digital mapping phase 2, Eagle Point Infrastructure Phase 2, East Biloxi Public Access, Fire Stations 7 and 10, Hiller Park Playground covers, Hiller Park Recreational Trails, Howard Avenue project, Lighthouse Pier repairs, Old Brick House sidewalk and living shoreline, repair of lift stations, Pine Grove drainage, Point Cadet Marina electrical upgrades, Small Craft Pedestrian Overpass, Donal Snyder Center roof repairs and Woolmarket Plantation water project
- Paving completed: Dukate Street, La Bonne Terre concrete repairs, Pennzoil Park Track, Timber Ridge, Thornhill, Lorraine Road, Mason Road, McDonnell Avenue, Cedar Lake Road, Moran Alley, Jim Byrd Road and a portion of Carolwood Drive
- Paving pending: Rustwood, Baywood, Camp Wilkes, Darwood, Trailwood and Carolwood (remaining portion) drives, Hattie K Road and Maycook Street.
- Construction underway: Belle La Vie Parkway, Bent Oaks and Goose Point sediment removal, CSX Railroad closures, Eagle Point Park, East Biloxi Connector Roadway, Ellzey Street extension to Medial Park Drive, Holley Hills dredging, John Henry Beck Park restrooms, Keesler Gate inside project, North Contract, Popp's Ferry Bridge Submarine Cable additional work, Port Commission building roof repairs, Sixth Street Infrastructure, South Contract Phase 1, West Beach Boardwalk Phase 1B, and Woolmarket City Center renovations
- Projects in design phase: Bayview Waterfront Restoration Project, Cedar Lake Bridge repairs, Churchill Drive drainage, CSX Passenger Train Platform, East Biloxi Recreational Facility, Keesler Gate outside project, Lorraine Road Waterline, Main street Railroad Crossing upgrades, Malpass Landing drainage, Popp's Ferry Bridge from Riverview to Pass Road, Popp's Ferry Extension, sediment removal master plan, Small Craft to Oak Street Boardwalk, Donal Snyder Center chiller replacement, South Contract Phase 2, Tanglewood Infrastructure repairs, Biloxi Visitors Center renovations, West Contract, Woolmarket Road East drainage, and Woolmarket Road sidewalks
- Projects in concept phase: Point Cadet Boardwalk, Saenger Theatre interior renovations, Mason Road waterline, Point Cadet Marina upgrades, and Kuhn Street Boat Ramp expansion

Fire Department

- Responded to 7,454 calls for service, including 4,964 for rescue and medical (68.5 percent of overall calls), and 225 fire-related. Other calls include good intent, hazardous condition and false alarm calls
- Opened Fire Station 10 and 7, the department's first ever training facility
- 21 firefighters completed certifications for EMTs, with 12 more in process
- Completed over 15,500 hours of professional development training
- Installed 447 smoke detectors in 117 residences
- Conducted 4,729 fire inspections and 563 certificates of occupancy inspections – 280 short-term rentals
- Reviewed 277 blue prints for approval
- Issued 60 burn permits
- Approved 14 outdoor fireworks displays and three indoor pyrotechnic shows
- Completed another year of the Fire Academy for Kids summer camp
- Completed another year of the R U Ready community outreach event
- Secured more than \$1.7 million in grants
- Hired 15 new recruits
- Department employed 172 firefighters and 5 civilians
- Raised \$5,000 for the purchase and donation of 60 bicycles for the annual Asgard Christmas Toy Run
- Experienced first occupational cancer death, Firefighter III Darrin Endris
- Received Class 3 rating
- Received approval for purchase of two E-One Typhoon pumpers, designed for fire protection and protection of firefighters
- Experienced first documented occupational cancer death, Firefighter III Darrin Endris

Police Department

- Responded to 105,129 calls for service
- Officer-initiated calls represented 62 percent of call volume.
- Calls for service generated 6,963 arrests
- Rescued 763 animals, an increase of 307 from 2018
- Investigations Division resolved 35 percent of all felony crimes, a rate above the national average
- Investigated and resolved two homicides
- Five dual-purpose K9s conducted 324 searches for narcotics and explosives
- K9s and handlers conducted 85 narcotic searches and 239 explosive searches
- Conducted more than 15,500 hours of training
- Bomb Squad answered more than 60 calls for service
- Honor Guard was called to provide representation at 24 details
- Public information division generated over 450 press releases and Facebook posts that resulted in over 250 tips in various cases.
- Department employed 131 sworn officers and 54 civilians
- Six sworn officers retired, six resigned and 12 were hired
- Three dispatchers were hired
- Assisted with several events, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade, Mardi Gras parades, Spring Break, Scrapin' the Coast, Cruisin' the Coast, Mississippi Gulf Coast Marathon, Christmas parades, and governor rally featuring Vice President Michael Pence
- Secured nearly \$180,000 in grants
- Experienced loss of Officer Robert McKeithen, killed in the parking lot of the Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center while on duty



Officer Robert McKeithen

Legal Department

- Assisted in recovery of \$8.8 million of FEMA funds, reversing OIG audit decision
- Implemented grant program for more residential units downtown and worked with county and state leaders for grants for boardwalks and harbors



Biloxi Fire Station 10 opened in November 2019.



Biloxi Firefighters and Jack, receive hours of training every year.



Fire Station 7, the department's first training facility, opened Jan. 11, 2020.



Biloxi police officers responded to over 100,000 calls for service in 2019.



Popp's Ferry Causeway Park is open daily for fishing, kayaking, walking and events at the pavilions.



Community crime cameras were installed at the Small Craft Harbor in 2019.



Jack the Biloxi Fire Dog has his own Facebook page, facebook.com/JacktheBiloxiFireDog.



Public Works crews install sidewalks behind City Hall

Parks & Recreation

- Raised \$10,000 from the Guns & Hoses Pickleball Tournament for the Biloxi Police and Fire departments
- Hosted state Senior Olympics
- Hosted Special Olympics games at Biloxi Natatorium
- Hosted annual Santa's Best swim meet at the Biloxi Natatorium with nearly 650 swimmers
- Aquatics Division continues annual lifeguarding certification classes and year round swimming lessons
- Popp's Ferry Causeway Park open daily for fishing, walking, kayaking and events at pavilions
- Planning stages for the state's first ever first responders garden at Hiller Park
- Continues to host yearly programs, sports and community events, including for special needs and seniors
- 25th year for Challenger Baseball to be celebrated in 2020
- Upcoming renovations and repairs: Circle Park, fence and pool at Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, and pool at Biloxi Natatorium
- Summer Playground Program to change from six to three campsites with weekly fees increasing to \$50 and \$60

Port Division

- Maintains four harbors with a total of 457 slips
- Hosted the Gulf Coast Billfish Classic and Biloxi King Master tournaments that brought in over 200 boats to Point Cadet Marina
- Point Cadet Marina received major electrical upgrades
- In design phase for Sherman V. Canaan Back Bay Fishing Dock improvements

Public Affairs Division

- The city's website had 427,254 sessions in 2019, averaging 8,216 visits a week or 1,170 a day. The site had 266,402 unique visitors in 2019.
- 246 Bmails were sent, an average of 4.7 Bmails each week to an audience of 9,000 subscribers.
- 274 B-Alert text messages about traffic issues or weather were sent to an audience that is 9,189 subscribers, growing by 24 percent in 2019.
- 12 BNews Monthly newsletters were printed and mailed to every home, business, apartment, condo and PO Box in Biloxi, each month, and generated \$122,650 in advertising revenue to offset printing and delivery costs.
- Launched BTV: Biloxi Television, a municipal TV channel carrying council meetings and other Biloxi programming on Sparklight, AT&T Uverse and simultaneously on the city's website.
- Ended year with 36,986 followers on City of Biloxi Facebook page, a 12 percent increase. Other pages: Biloxi Police Department grew from 5,564 likes to 11,933, including more than 2,000 new followers in May, in the wake of the shooting of Officer McKeithen; Biloxi Visitors Center, 5,678 likes; Biloxi Fire Department, 4,705; and Jack, Biloxi Fire Dog, 1,172 in first month.

Public Works Department

- Maintained more than 46 city buildings, MGM Park and the Biloxi Cemetery
- Processed 10,389 work orders totaling more than \$3.8 million in inhouse labor.
- Filled 1,996 potholes
- Mowed 6,111 miles of rights-of-way
- Maintained and repaired 642,759 feet of drainage ditches
- Installed and removed 13,396 barricades and 36,800 four-foot delineator cones for special events
- Picked up 1421 bags of litter and 1293 tires
- Water department completed 774 work orders for water meter installations and repairs; 35 percent increase from 2018
- Maintained 23 water wells, 104 lift stations, and more than 2700 fire hydrants
- Seven employees are certified well operators
- Three employees are certified waste water operators
- Assisted with the 45 tests and maintenance of the Popp's Ferry Bridge, which opened a total of 567 in 2019

The infrastructure work in Biloxi

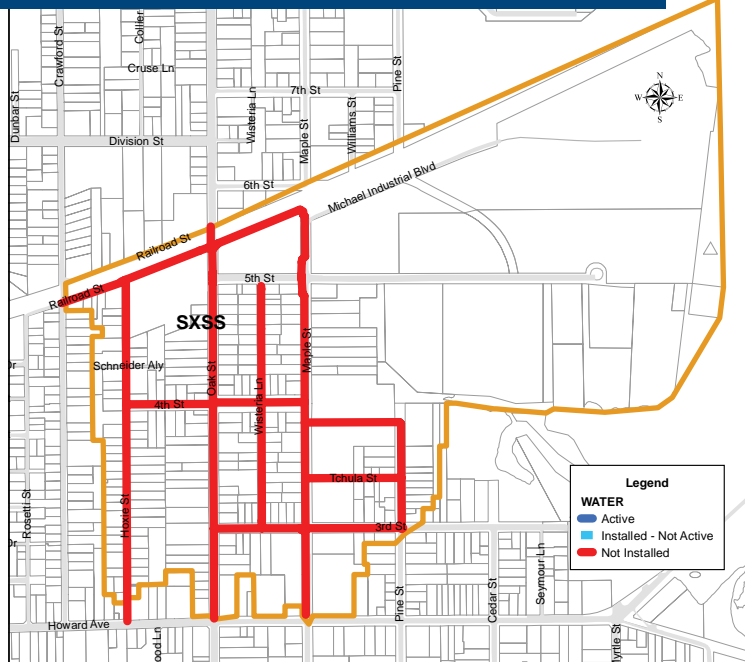
Pages 13 through 16 contain maps that show the status of the city's three major infrastructure projects now underway. The information on these maps is compiled by the city's Engineering Department, based on reports from contractors and inspectors at each site. See detailed maps and video online at biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/.

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.

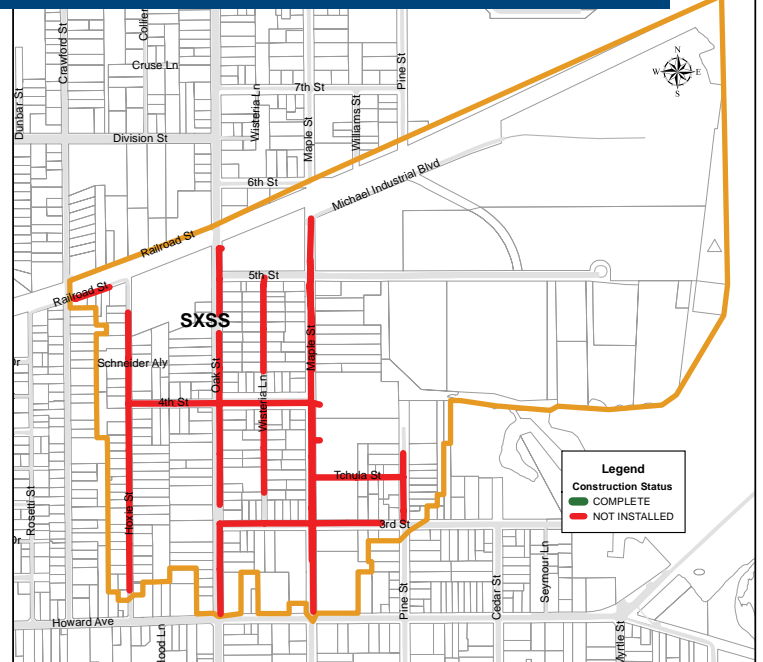
Lane Construction Water

Water Mains to be installed as of Jan. 13, 2020



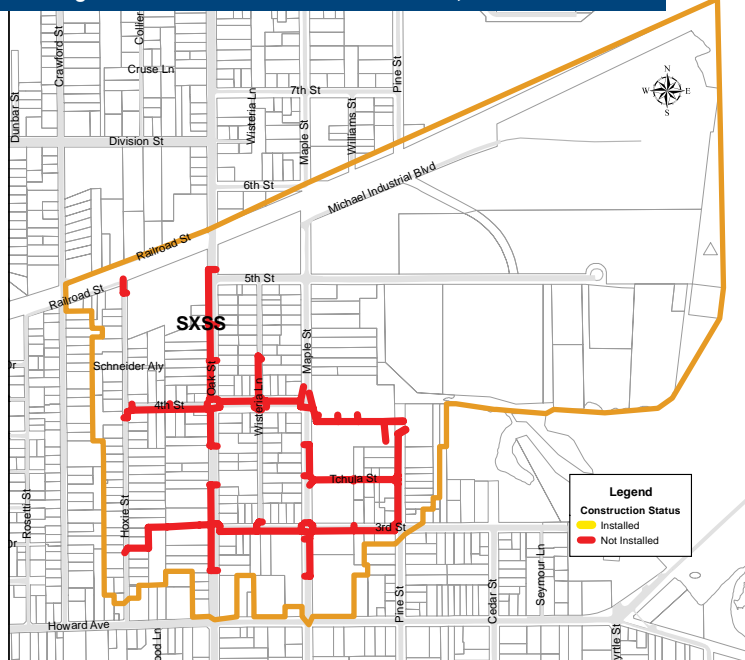
Lane Construction Sewer

Sewer Mains to be installed as of Jan. 13, 2020



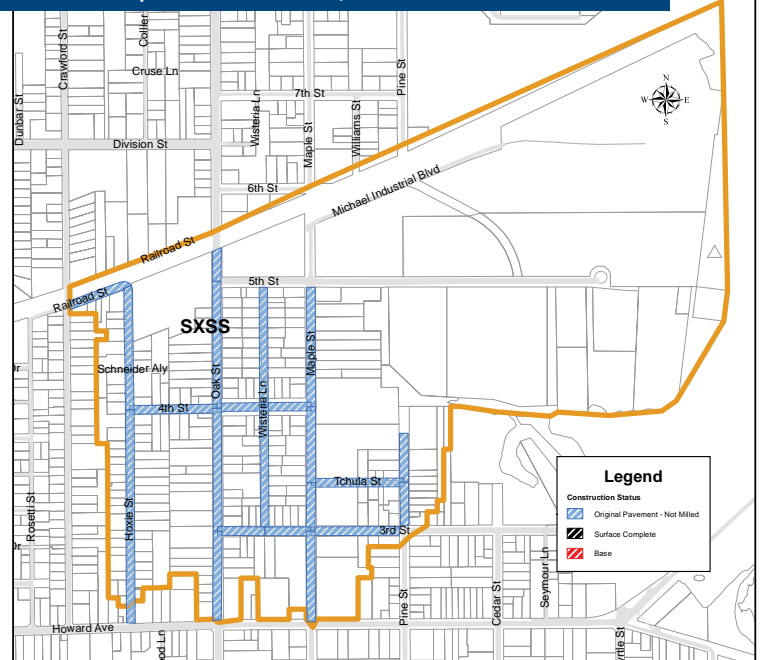
Lane Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of Jan. 13, 2020

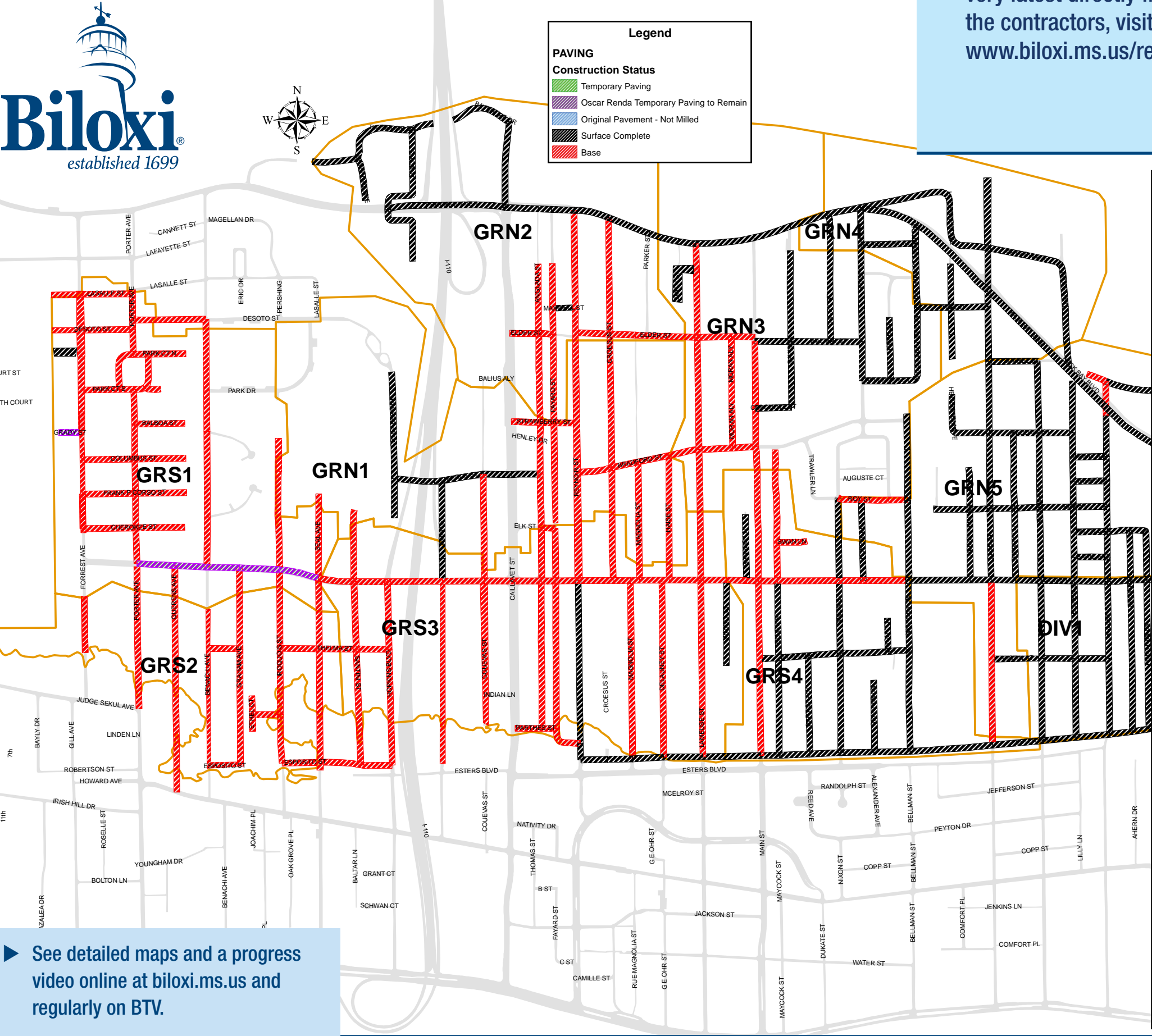


Lane Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of Jan. 13, 2020



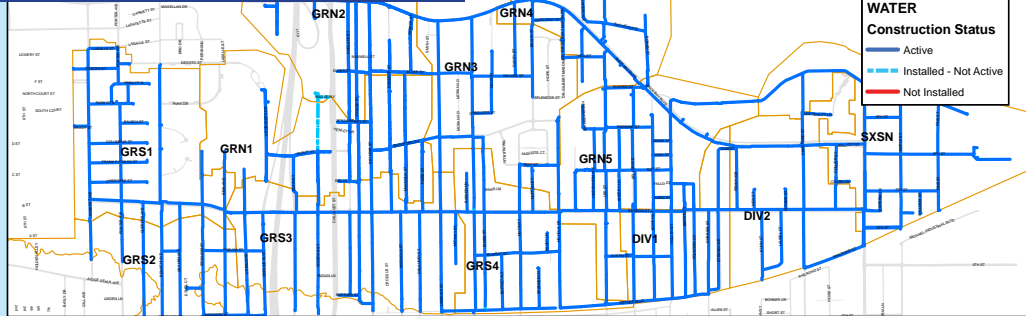
The North Contract: Remaining paved roads (as of Jan. 13, 2020)



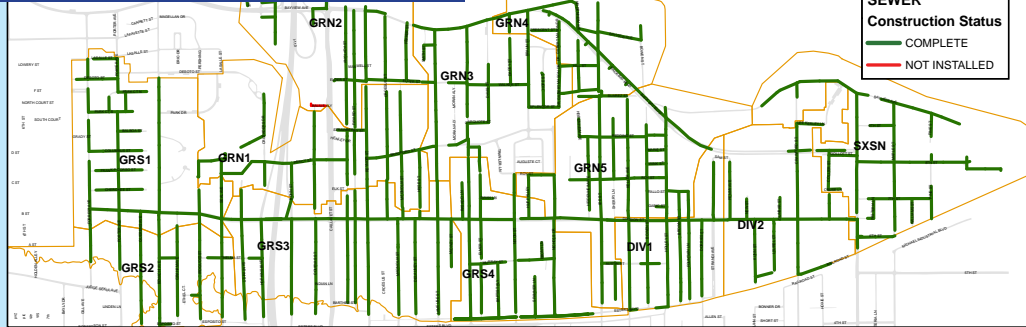
► To see detailed maps of progress and to hear the very latest directly from the contractors, visit www.biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi.



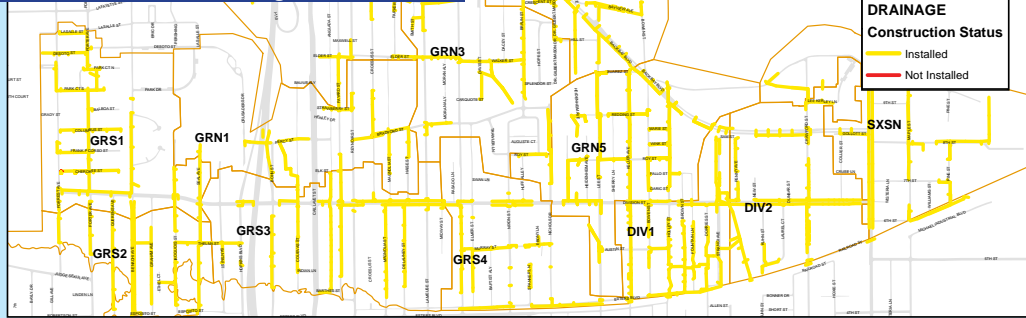
North Contract Water as of Jan. 13, 2020



North Contract Sewer as of Jan. 13, 2020



North Contract Drainage as of Jan. 13, 2020



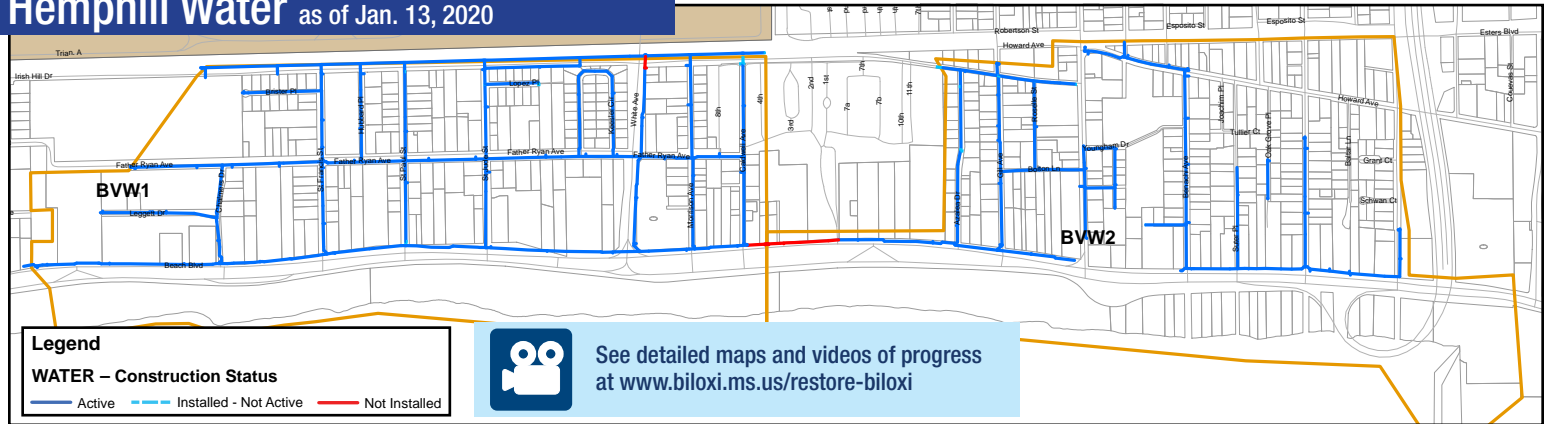
North Contract Dirt as of Jan. 13, 2020



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

Detours and lane closures are becoming more evident south of the CSX Railway, especially on Irish Hill and other thoroughfares, as Hemphill Construction continues to make progress on infrastructure work on six miles of roads between downtown and Seashore Methodist. Here's a look at the status on the \$22.9 million project, which has a deadline of March 2020.

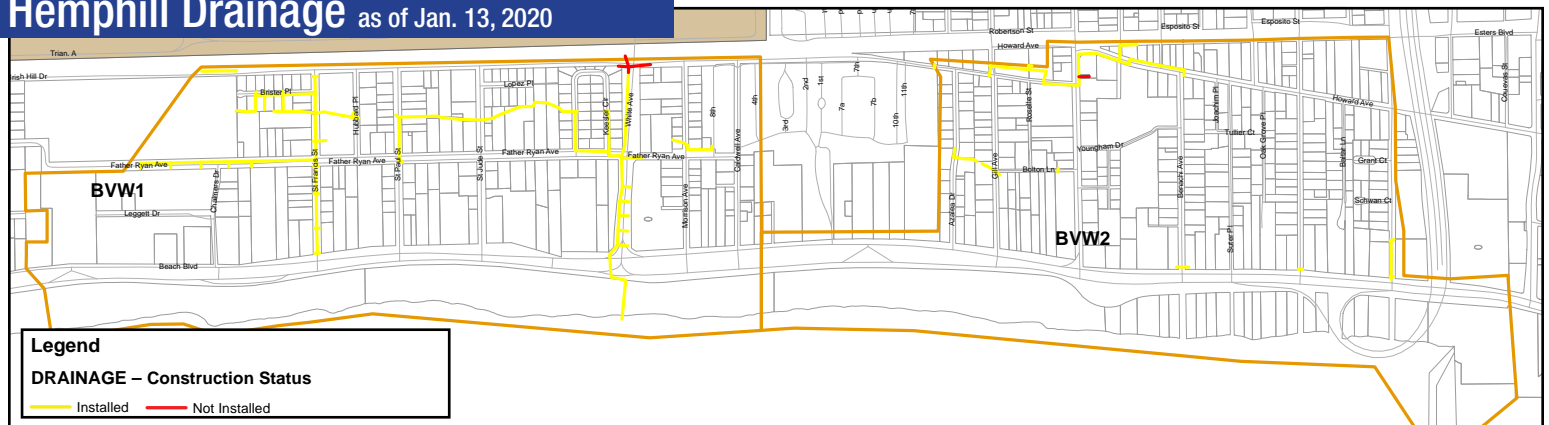
Hemphill Water as of Jan. 13, 2020



Hemphill Sewer as of Jan. 13, 2020



Hemphill Drainage as of Jan. 13, 2020



Hemphill Roads Paved as of Jan. 13, 2020



Best Bets!

Mardi Gras Parades in Biloxi



- Feb. 15:** Biloxi Children's Mardi Gras Walking parade, 10 a.m., Downtown Biloxi
- Feb. 16:** Krewe of Barkloxi Bow Wow parade, Noon, Biloxi Town Green
- Feb. 22:** Second Liners Mardi Gras parade, Noon, Downtown Biloxi
- Feb. 22:** Krewe of Neptune Night parade, 5:30 p.m., Downtown Biloxi
- Feb. 25:** Gulf Coast Carnival Association parade, 1 p.m., Downtown Biloxi



Explore the history, culture of the Coast

Want to know more about the decades of history of the Mississippi Gulf Coast? Well, on Feb. 7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. the Biloxi Visitors Center will be filled with old newspaper clippings and photos, historical displays, books, and more for the annual Gulf Coast Historical and Cultural Exposition. This year's event will be dedicated to the late Edmond Boudreaux who would usually make an appearance at the event and occasionally in colonial gab. The event is free to attend. Details: 228-374-3105.

First Friday, on hiatus for February. Event returns March 6. Details: 228-435-6339

Mississippi Senior Olympics Registration, through March 1. State games open to ages 50 and older and includes various sporting events taking place along the Mississippi Gulf Coast beginning March 20. Details: www.msseiorolymp.org

7th Annual Daddy Daughter Date Night, Feb. 1, 5-7 p.m., Salvation Army Kroc Center MS Gulf Coast, 575 Division St. Dancing and dinner. Tickets: \$20 per couple; \$5 per additional child. Tickets: www.krocmscoast.org

Baseball and Softball Registration, Feb. 1 and 8, 9 a.m.-noon, Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Baseball is open to ages 4-16 (must be 4 by April 30, 2020) and softball is open to ages 5-16 (must be 5 by Jan. 1, 2020). Fees apply. Details: 228-388-2483

Keesler Air Force Base Art and History Exhibits Reception, Feb. 6, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Opening reception for Keesler Air Force Base art and history exhibits. Event will include refreshments and historical and cultural vendors. Free admission. Details: 228-374-3105

Gulf Coast Historical and Cultural Exposition, Feb. 7 and 8, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. The City of Biloxi and Preserve Biloxi event will feature displays and presentations from historical and cultural groups from across the MS Gulf Coast. A preview reception will be held Thursday, Feb. 6 at 5:30 p.m. Free admission. Details: 228-374-3105

Gallery 782, Feb. 7, 5-8 p.m. 773 Jackson St. Special Valentine's reception and art show featuring artwork from all Gallery 782 members, titled "Love is in the Air Special Show." Free admission. Details: 228-436-7782.

City of Biloxi Parks & Recreation Father Daughter Dance, Feb. 7, 6-9 p.m. Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Open to all fathers and daughters. Free admission. Details: 228-388-7170

Anything Goes Art, Feb. 8, 10 a.m.-noon. Biloxi Library, 580 Howard Ave. Create Valentine's crafts with the family. Details: 228-436-3095, Miss Kelly

Friday Morning Serial, Feb. 14 and 28, 8-9 a.m., Gulf Coast Community Design Studio, 769 Howard Ave. Feb. 14 will feature Bill Cork, CEO of Hancock County Port & Harbor Commission. Feb. 28 will feature Angela Singletary health coach and manager of "Purpose by Ang." Group discussion may also be part of the events. Free admission. Details and to confirm attendance: eenglebreton@gccds.msstate.edu, 228-436-4661

8th Annual "Run for the Beads" 1-mile Fun Run/5k, Feb. 15, 7:45 a.m. Registration begins; 8:45 a.m. 1M; 9 a.m. 5K, 140 Lameuse St. Race begins and ends across from Biloxi City Hall followed by a post-race party with drinks and food. Fees apply. Register online: www.gulfcoastcarnivalassociation.com. Details: 5krun@msgcca.org

Best Bet!



Sweetheart Dances

The Salvation Army Kroc Center and the City of Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department will each hold father daughter dances this month. The Kroc Center's event, Daddy Daughter Date Night, will take place at the center on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 5 to 7 p.m. and will include a dinner. Tickets are \$20 per couple and \$5 per additional child and may be purchased at the Kroc Center on Division Street. The Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department's event, Father Daughter Dance, will take place at the Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center on Friday, Feb. 7 from 6 to 9 p.m. The event is free and will include photo ops and refreshments. Call the Parks & Recreation office at 228-388-7170 for more information on their event.

Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the 21st 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

Annual Biloxi Children's Mardi Gras Walking Parade, Feb. 15, 10 a.m., Downtown Biloxi. Open to ages 12 and younger. Themed "Carnaval Du Cirque," the parade travels from under the I-110 on Howard Avenue and ends at Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Registration forms available at Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd and online at www.biloxi.ms.us on the Parks & Recreation page. Late registration and costume and float sign up: 9 to 9:45 a.m. at the parade start. Details, 228-3743105 or visitor@biloxi.ms.us

Annual Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Soldier, Feb. 15, 11 a.m., Beauvoir The Jefferson Davis Home & Presidential Library, 2244 Beach Blvd. Event will celebrate the forth pilgrimage ceremony at Beauvoir to honor the Unknown Confederate soldier. Admission charged. Details: 228-388-4400 x217

4th Annual Krewe of Barkloxi Bow Wow Pawrade, Feb. 16, Noon. registration/check-in; 1 p.m. parade, Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. Details and registration: <https://hssm.org/events/krewe-of-barkloxi-4th-annual-bow-wow-pawrade/> or call 228-822-3802. Additional details: 228-435-6149



Bike Biloxi, Feb. 18, 6 p.m. Ride begins at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd., and travels through downtown. Bicycle ride ends with refreshments at a downtown restaurant at cyclist's expense.

Helmets and lights recommended. Details: 228-435-6339

Special Needs Mardi Gras Ball & Dance, Feb. 21, 6-9 p.m. Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Mardi Gras themed event open to all with physical and mental disabilities. A King, Queen, Grand Duke, and Duchess will be crowned by random drawing. Hors d'oeuvres, door prizes and entertainment. Free admission. Details: 228-388-7170

Second Liners Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 22, Noon. Parade route begins at Nichols Drive and Division Street, travels west on Division Street, south on Caillavet Street, east on Howard Avenue, north on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., north on Main St., east on Esters Blvd. and ends at Doris C. Busch Park, 645 Esters Blvd. Details: 228-435-6346 or 228-365-9070



Krewe of Neptune Night Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 22, 5:30 p.m. Parade route begins at Main Street and Esters Blvd., travels south on Main, west on U.S. 90, north on Lamesue Street, east on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., east on Howard Avenue, north on Caillavet Street and ends at Bayview Avenue. Details: info@kreweofneptune.org

Gulf Coast Carnival Association Coronation Ball, Feb. 24, 8 p.m. Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum and Convention Center, 2350 Beach Blvd. Witness the coronation of King d'Iberville and Queen Ixolib who will rule

over Carnival for 2020! Admission is free but one must pick up a view card from the Biloxi Visitors Center or Biloxi City Hall. Details: 228-432-8806

Gulf Coast Carnival Association Parade, Feb. 25, 1 p.m. Parade route begins at Main Street and MLK Jr. Blvd, travels south on Main Street, west on U.S. 90, north on Lameuse Street, west on MKL Jr. Blvd., south on Reynoir Street, west on U.S. 90, north on Porter Avenue, east on Howard Avenue, and ends at Caillavet Street. Details: 228-432-8806, www.msgcca.org

Mardi Gras 2020 Cleanup Krewe, Feb. 25, 1 p.m., Downtown Biloxi. The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup and Plastic Free Gulf Coast have partnered to hit the streets to help with post parade cleanup. Volunteers needed to join the Cleanup Krewe which follows the parade. Details: amanda.sartain@msstate.edu

Special Needs & Elderly Mardi Gras Parade Seating, Feb. 25, 11 a.m., Biloxi Town Green 710 Beach Blvd. Free seating for the Gulf Coast Carnival Association Mardi Gras Parade. Details: 228-388-7170

Main Street Book Club, Feb. 27, 5:30 p.m., Jacked Up Coffee Bar, 999 Howard Ave. Book of the month is "Thirteen Moons" 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 at 228-435-6339.

Annual Arbor Day Run/Walk/Roll for Disability Awareness, Feb. 29, 8 a.m. Registration; 9 a.m. 5K. Biloxi Town Green 710 Beach Blvd. Register online at www.gulfcoastrunningclub.org. Details: 228-604-4020



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

- **Arsenic and Old Lace**, Feb. 1 & 2

Center Stage

2670 Rue Palafox, 228-388-6258,

centerstagebiloxi.com

- **Other Peoples Monday**, Feb. 6-16

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

- Historical & Ecological Tour, and Sunset Eco Tours

Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum115 1st St., 228-435-6320, www.maritimemuseum.org**Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art**386 Beach Blvd., 228-374-5547, www.georgeohr.org

- **Bubbles & Bonbons: A Galentine's Affair**, Feb. 7, 6-8 p.m. Admission: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door
- Check the website for more events and studio classes at OOMA!

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 Museum1046 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**, Feb. 5 and 19. New members welcome
- **Mardi Gras Ball**, Feb. 1, 7 p.m. Tickets: \$15 per person
- **Steak Night with Entertainment**, Feb. 8, 22, and 29; Steaks: \$20
- **Charity Bingo**, Feb. 7, 14, 21, and 28. Early bird begins at 6:30 p.m. Regular games begin at 7 p.m. Cash prizes, drawing and gifts. Kitchen open until 8:30 p.m.
- **Sunday Bingo**, Feb., 2, 9, 16, and 29. Early bird begins at 2 p.m. Regular games begins at 2:30 p.m. Jackpot cash prizes, drawing and gifts. Concession available.

Fleur de Lis Society of Biloxi (French Club)

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

- **Dinners every Friday night in February**, 6-8 p.m. 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
26	27 Story Time Woolmarket Library	28 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	29	30 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library	31 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society	1 Arsenic & Old Lace Biloxi Little Theatre Daddy Daughter Date Night Kroc Center Baseball & Softball Registration Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center Avant IP Casino Resort & Spa The Sylistics– Hard Rock Boxing Championships Beau Rivage
2 Arsenic & Old Lace Biloxi Little Theatre	3 Story Time Woolmarket Library	4 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	5	6 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library KAFB Art & History Exhibits Reception Biloxi Visitors Center	7 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society Gulf Coast Historical and Cultural Exposition Biloxi Visitors Center Biloxi Boat Show MS Coast Coliseum Reception and Art Show Gallery 782 Father Daughter Dance Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center Foreigner – IP Casino	8 Baseball & Softball Registration Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center Anything Goes Art Biloxi Public Library Biloxi Boat Show MS Coast Coliseum Foreigner IP Casino Resort & Spa Deon Cole Beau Rivage
9 Biloxi Boat Show MS Coast Coliseum	10 Story Time Woolmarket Library	11 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	12	13 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library	14 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society Friday Morning Serial Gulf Coast Community Design Studio Clay Walker IP Casino Resort & Spa	15 Run for the Beads Biloxi City Hall Children's Walking Parade Downtown Biloxi Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Soldier Beauvoir Monster Jam MS Coast Coliseum Smokey Robinson Beau Rivage
16 Krewe of Barkloxi Bow Wow Parade Biloxi Town Green Monster Jam MS Coast Coliseum	17 Story Time Woolmarket Library	18 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi Bike Biloxi Biloxi Visitors Center	19	20 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library	21 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society Special Needs Mardi Gras Ball & Dance Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center Night Ranger Hard Rock Gordon Lightfoot IP Casino Resort & Spa	22 Second Liners Mardi Gras Parade Downtown Biloxi Krewe of Neptune Night Mardi Gras Parade Downtown Biloxi Oak Ridge Boys IP Casino Resort & Spa
23	24 Story Time Woolmarket Library Gulf Coast Carnival Association Coronation Ball MS Coast Coliseum	25  Gulf Coast Carnival Association Parade (w/ special seating) Downtown Biloxi Mardi Gras 2020 Cleanup Krewe Downtown Biloxi	26	27 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library Main Street Book Club Jacked Up Coffee Bar	28 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society The O'Jays IP Casino Resort & Spa Fab Four: The Ultimate Tribute Hard Rock Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story Beau Rivage	29 Arbor Day Run/Walk/Roll for Disability Awareness Biloxi Town Green Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story Beau Rivage

BTV February 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)
7:00 a.m.	Special Presentation: 2020 Vision: The State of the City 2020 (1 hr)
8:00 a.m.	Special Presentation: Twelfth Night: It's Carnival time (16 min)
8:20 a.m.	Special Presentation: City Within a City (20 min)
8:45 a.m.	The History of Biloxi (13 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.	Station 7 dedication (33 minutes)
1:05 p.m.	Special Presentation: 2020 Vision: The State of the City 2020 (1 hr)
2:05 p.m.	Special Presentation: Edmond Boudreaux: Living History (54 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)
7:00 p.m.	Special Presentation: 2020 Vision: The State of the City 2020 (1 hr)
8:00 p.m.	Special Presentation: Twelfth Night: It's Carnival time (16 min)
8:20 p.m.	Special Presentation: City Within a City (20 min)
8:45 p.m.	The History of Biloxi (13 min)
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: History on parade this month

February 13 marks the 321st anniversary of the explorer Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville setting foot on the shores of present-day Biloxi, and history is front and center this month on BTV, with new and old programs dotting the programming schedule.

August Taconi, the longtime photographer and videographer of Biloxi events, dipped into his archives for a trio of gems airing on BTV this month:

- "Twelfth Night" is a 16-minute program that uses the backdrop of the recent Twelfth Night ceremony to tell the story of Mardi Gras. The program airs daily at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. in February.
- "City Within a City" is a 20-minute documentary where African-American community leaders – Bishop James Black, Gwendolyn Beck, Rip Daniels, Vernon Jackson, Smiley Lee Albert and Alice May Dickey – tell the challenges facing Biloxi's minority community in the '60s. Taconi originally lensed the program as part of an Ohr-O'Keefe exhibition in 2013, but BTV is premiering a version that has been embellished with photos from the day. See "City Within a City," all during Black History Month, at 8:20 a.m. and 8:20 p.m.
- "Edmond Boudreaux: Living History" is a tribute to the well-known local history authority who died in December. Taconi has compiled a series of Boudreaux's re-enactments from the annual cemetery tour. See the 54-minute program each afternoon at 2:05.



Rip Daniels is among the Biloxians discussing the '60s in "City Within a City," a BTV Black History Month special.

State of the City: A vision

Of course the big production on BTV this month is Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich's State of the City address.

The hour-long presentation – an overview of the city's short-term and long-term goals and objectives – features new aerial footage of key sites around the city as well as a host of video extras added by longtime State of the City videographer Renny Sherman.

See the 2020 State of the City each day at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. and at 1:05 each afternoon.

The soundness of the City Council

A new sound system now installed in the City Council meeting room at City Hall is expected to improve acoustics in the high-ceilinged room for those attending meetings and improve audio for those watching replays of council meetings on BTV or on the city's YouTube channel.

YouTube has an archive of meetings on demand at any time, or you can see the most recent council meeting on BTV at the top of a three-hour block that begins each day at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. and each afternoon at 3. Recent meetings fill out the three-hour block.

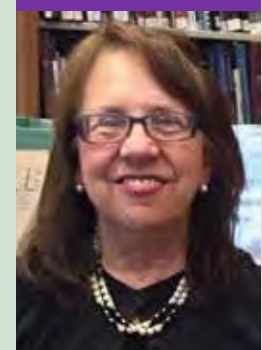
City Hall in
Mardi Gras
colors.

Fleur de February!

If Monsieur Lemoyne D'Iberville had a sweetheart back home in France when he landed on our shores, it would almost be impossible to send her Valentine greetings.

Sending her fancy things or roses would have been a three month voyage, and

Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra

Gras, where he and his crew disembarked their "floats" (sailing vessels) and celebrated the arrival of the Lenten season.

In the mid-20th century, home-made Valentines would be mailed to family members throughout the nation. And in the 1940's a stamp cost only three cents at the Biloxi Post Office, located then in the beautiful marble building on Lameuse Street.

Today the building is the Biloxi City Hall. Construction began on the building in

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A portrait of two costumed children who were honored in the Possum Neck Children's Parade.



1984 Neptune Kings ride atop an elaborate float in front of Biloxi City Hall.

Remembering a Possum Neck Mardi Gras

You won't find Possum Neck on a current Biloxi map. This area of East Biloxi is remembered as a historic neighborhood full of childhood memories and included Claiborne, Dorries, and Pearl Streets. During the years of the Great Depression and World War II, economics would not support the traditional, grand Mardi Gras celebrations. With the assistance, dedication and hard work of parents, a children's Krewe was formed, and the Claiborne Street Carnival revived Biloxi's Mardi Gras spirit.

Decorated wagons and bicycles were transformed into floats, and old clothes were recycled into colorful costumes. The mascot leading the parade was reported to be a live possum.

This annual project of family fun inspired the Biloxi Lions Club to establish a special award of excellence to the Possum Neck Kids who, in 1938, provided an amazing 21-unit parade.

Preserving the Past

This year marks the celebration of the reopening of the Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum. Located on Biloxi's historic Howard Avenue, it exhibits authentic royal attire and majestic crowns, while also teaching residents and visitors all about our fantastic Mardi Gras history.



Biloxi's first Queen of Mardi Gras, Queen Ixolilb in 1908.



Hundreds line Howard Avenue in a 1950s Mardi Gras parade featuring a Barq's float.

Mardi Gras Lingo

The season of Mardi Gras has inspired the addition of many local terms and phrases. Can you guess what they mean?

Laissez les bon temps rouler ~

Let the Good Times Roll

Mardi Gras ~

Fat Tuesday. Indulge today before midnight when the Lenten season of fasting and abstinence begins on Ash Wednesday. Did you know that Mardi Gras fell on Valentine's Day in 1956 and 1961, and will do so again in 2040?

Lundi Gras ~

Fat Monday, the day before Mardi Gras

Den ~

a huge warehouse where parade floats are stored, repaired, and constructed

Krewe ~

the members of a carnival organization who formulate a themed parade and usually hold a ball


King Cake ~

a circular woven pastry, resembling the taste of a cinnamon roll, and often stuffed with creams and fruit. They are usually topped with icing in the traditional Mardi Gras colors of gold, purple, and green and contain a surprise plastic baby doll.* Tradition has established that whoever receives the piece with the baby doll is crowned "king" and is obliged to buy the next cake. [*Years ago, beans and miniature porcelain dolls were planted in these cakes.]

Doublouns ~

shiny, colorful metallic coins thrown from floats. (Grandma told me that these special lightweight coins reminded her of what the old pirates buried all along the Biloxi shoreline.)

Photos courtesy of the Biloxi Public Library.



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