

We cover all of Biloxi!

BNews Monthly

FEBRUARY 2020

A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi

Biloxi
established 1899

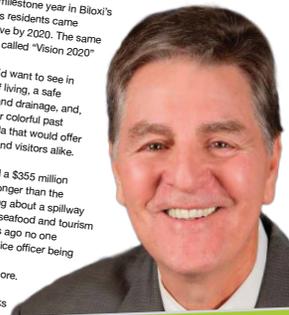
The state of our city

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 storm that spanned it. Nobody saw anything about a spillover 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...



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 Kessler, but it's all about teamwork. Page 6

Throw me a good time

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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 Kessler gate at Meadows Drive. (The unpaved section at Division Street is part of the new Kessler gate, and a block-long section of Magnolia is a gas company issue.) Now, workers from Oscar Rendis 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.

ALSO INSIDE This month

In command
A huge new fire station is coming to Cedar-Popp's, and you're invited to see it. Page 3

Woolmarket City Center

The center of it all
The library is a success, and now the Market...

Let's paint the Town Green

St. Paddy's parade, Grillin' on the Green usher in Spring

By Laurie Rosetti

"Spring! Nature's way of saying 'Let's Party!'"

The late, great (and somewhat Irish) Robin Williams may have been visiting here when he came up with that one because Biloxians herald in springtime each year with a great Green party in a great green location, Biloxi's Town Green.

For 41 years, the Hibernia Marching Society has put the Blarney in Biloxi during its beloved St. Patrick's Day Parade. Southern barbecue and music joined the festivities in 2006 when Grillin' on the Green became an essential player in the daylong celebration. The whole shebang kicks off with the Gulf Coast Running Club's Irish Derby 5K run. This year's revelry takes place on Saturday, March 14; 5K run begins at 9 a.m., festival hours 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. with parade at 2 p.m.

When delving into the long, storied history of the Hibernia Marching Society, the name of Dr. John O'Keefe emerges.

In 1978, through a Sun Herald article, Dr. O'Keefe extended an invitation to the first HMS planning meeting to all who were Irish or "wanted to be Irish," now magnanimous!

Before this first official meeting, several "unofficial" meetings took place at Mary Mahoney's Old French House Restaurant, where plans for a society and a parade were volleyed about. In '78, the crux of this organization was clarified: "the purpose of the Society is to promote interest in Irish Heritage and to develop a great appreciation for Irish Culture. Allied with these objectives is the desire to experience good fun and good fellowship among members of the Society who are Irish by birth, marriage or desire."

This year's parade captain, Jacob O'Keefe, assumes the duty for getting this 30-plus unit show on the road, literally. The parade lines up and begins at the Biloxi Yacht Club, meanders through downtown Biloxi, traveling northward on Lameuse Street to Biloxi City Hall, ultimately reaching Esters

Boulevard where it disbands.

This year's Grand Marshal, Chuck Kelly, and Colleen, Susan Cain Hinson, will fulfill their roles as official Hibernia Marching Society ambassadors when the streets of Biloxi once again turn green in celebration of Irish heritage. For more details on the parade, check out the official webpage at www.hiberniamarchingociety.com.

Getting your green on (so to speak) can work up quite an appetite! Enter Biloxi Main Street's barbecue competition, 'Grillin' On The Green, in its 14th year.

This free admission, food competition, arts and crafts festival, and music event begins the spring festival season on the Gulf Coast.

"Our grill team captains tell us each year that this is their favorite of the Gulf Coast barbecue competitions," says Kay Miller, Biloxi Main Street's executive director.

It's easy to see why, with over \$6,000 dollars in cash and prizes up for grabs, and thousands of parade-

goers clamoring for the sizzling, grilled offerings, the barbecue aficionados just can't wait to get those grills smokin' hot.

Teams compete for five places in chicken, ribs and brisket and sell their delectables to the public. The ravenous parade lovers can find everything from pulled pork nachos to KC-style ribs to whole briskets, ready to take home for suppertime. The excitement builds all the way to the presentation of trophies, cash and the naming of the Grand Champion, which all takes place immediately following the parade.

This year's musical lineup is sure to set the perfect party atmosphere: Rhythm and Rain - 10 a.m., Unfazed Show Band - noon, and Ty Taylor and the Kinfolk - 3 p.m. More than a hundred artisans and retailers fill the Town Green space for those who love to browse and buy! The Kids' Zone will keep the young'uns happy and busy.

For details, call Biloxi Main Street at 228-435-6339. Follow Biloxi Main Street on Facebook too.



Rhythm & Rain - 10 a.m.



Unfazed Show Band - Noon



Ty Taylor and the Kinfolk - 3 p.m.



BTV

Get the inside story on the annual St. Paddy's parade and Grillin' on the Green in a BTV special airing daily at 7:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day Parade Saturday, March 14 2 p.m.

► For more info, visit biloxi.ms.us and hiberniamarchingociety.com



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If you wanted to send a postcard to every home, business, apartment and PO box in Biloxi, it would cost you **more than \$4,000** in postage alone, **plus printing**. We know because we've been doing it every month for close to two years now, and we can do it for you, too. We'll include you in our 24-page, full-color newsletter that stays in homes and businesses all month long.

New advertisers, put your message in every home, business apartment and PO box in Biloxi for as little as \$500 a month, if you come aboard for three months in BNews Monthly. No postage fees, no printing, no design. We handle it all. We also can discuss putting you online and in our popular Bmails, with sponsorship opportunities on BTV, the city's municipal television channel.

So, do you want to reach all of Biloxi? We do it regularly with our popular monthly newsletter, and we'd be glad to include your business or event.

Call Vincent Creel at 228-435-6368 or Cecilia Dobbs Walton at 228-435-6336 or email online@biloxi.ms.us

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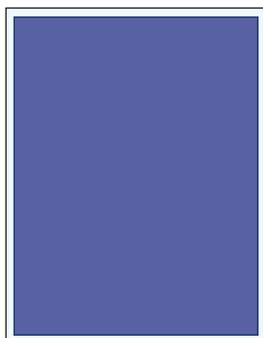
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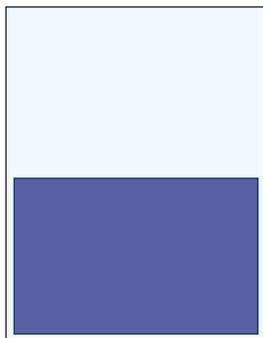


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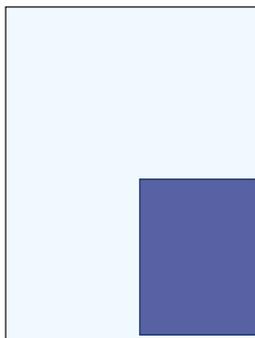


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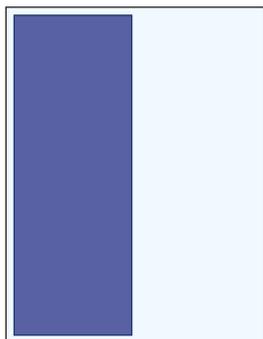
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FREQUENCY DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE!

BNews Monthly is a publication of the City of Biloxi Public Affairs Office. Each month this full-color newsletter and calendar of events is mailed by the U.S. Postal Service to every home, business, apartment, condominium and P.O. box in Biloxi (totaling about 24,000 in all). Copies also are distributed at high traffic City of Biloxi facilities, and it is also available on the city website. Tile ads for qualified advertisers also are included in the city's popular Bmail news service.

February 2020

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