

This, too, shall pass, but not just yet

For the most part, it flies in the face of our DNA, this notion of “social distancing,” with no handshaking, no embracing, no sitting next to each other at a Shuckers game. Hell, there’s not even a Shuckers game.

For Biloxi, a city known for its warm welcomes to nearly six million visitors who enjoy a host of amenities and a year-long calendar of special events, this type of behavior is more akin to something you’d expect to find in a cold, big city.

But welcome to the world of the moment, a time when we must be vigilant against the threat of an unseen menace, a perpetrator that shows itself a week or two after the damage has been done, after untold encounters, a simple handshake or opening the door for someone, could expose you and your family to a vaccine-less virus that is spreading exponentially.

We must heed the advice: No groups of more than 10. If you’re sick, stay home. If someone in your household is sick, stay home. Wash hands frequently.

It will be unnerving. It will be an anxious time, and it will be costly in economic terms. Lest we forget, it

CDC Recommendations

Social distancing

Best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. Avoid gatherings of more than 10.

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

Know the signs & symptoms

Symptoms that may appear 2-14 days after exposure: Fever, cough, shortness of breath.

Stay home when you are sick

- Call your health care provider’s office in advance of a visit
- Limit movement in the community, limit visitors

Protect yourself & family

Implement steps to prevent illness: regular hand washing, respiratory etiquette, clean frequently touched surfaces.

Also inside

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could also be deadly.

For residents of Biloxi, there is assurance in this latest of unprecedented times in which we find ourselves.

Biloxi has a history of enduring and prevailing in each challenge it has faced, and, of course, there have been many, from the storms of the old days, before they even had names, to the days of Betsy, Camille, Katrina, or man-made disasters, whether it’s BP or Bonnet Carre or whatever other catastrophe is in the offing.

The key has been to have a plan. Have contingencies. To think about what could happen and what you will do. And most importantly, follow the advice, suggestions and requests from local authorities.

Today, the advice and guidance are the messages that have carried us

through each crisis: Have that plan for yourself, your family and your business. Lean forward, pay attention and heed the advice from the authorities.

This, too, shall pass. Just not yet.

About this issue

This abbreviated issue does not include the monthly Community Calendar because of coronavirus-prompted restrictions. Information is accurate as of March 20.



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Eat on the run

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City Hall, then and now

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Now more than ever, **B** connected

The City of Biloxi has developed a robust communications plan over the years, and now is the time for you to use all of it.

See a live stream from the Lighthouse, City Council meeting or other city event.

See the same agenda and all supporting documents used by the Mayor and City Council.

Find anything and everything on the city website. Just name it.

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Current Biloxi conditions, detailed forecast, advisories and real-time radar from the National Weather Service.

Agendas for Planning, Architectural and Historical Review and Development Review, plus info on permits, land use and zoning.

Use Crime mapping to alert you to what's happening in your city and in your neighborhood.

The latest on COVID-19 from the state and federal health authorities.

See an overview of all city public improvement projects throughout the city, by name, cost and status.

Yes, infrastructure work is continuing. See a monthly video update and detailed maps.

Use the tools

B-Alert

Get info-on-the-go to your cell phone. Text BILOXI to 888777.

Bmail

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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





Nick L. Shrimp

With this, we're all 'in the arena'

"I think this could really be a bad thing," A.J. Holloway said one weekend afternoon, while glancing at TV reports in his living room.

Hurricane Ivan, with Category 4 winds, was churning in the Gulf and some thought it was poised to follow the path of Hurricane Camille, which, at that time, was the standard by which all storms were measured.

USA Today and the national media were sniffing around Biloxi, looking for a story. And they found one. Screamed the banner headline on a full-page story: "Flattened in '69, Biloxi again at risk. Bustling city of Mississippi's coast, rebuilt after Camille, has much to lose."

Things were great that year, 2004, and it was a great story. We'd finally come back from Camille, and with so much at stake and so many people on the waterfront, the mayor thought that the powers-that-be needed to announce that casinos were going to close because of the storm.

Mused Holloway that day back in his living room: "I could go on TV and say that it's not my call but I think they need to close and they need to close now. And then if the storm goes somewhere else, everybody's going say, 'That A.J. Holloway is a real a-----.'"

"Mayor, I hate to tell you," an observer said, "but some people already think that."

He smiled and nodded.

Such is a peek at the pressure leaders face in the public arena. They actually make decisions on a daily basis. But this is not a matter of whether a Stop sign ought to be placed on a street corner, or dealing with downtown parking.

No, this is a little more than that. Lives and livelihoods stand in the balance.

It's in times of pending peril – perhaps a calamity that is not obvious to all – where public policy and public safety collide with economic development and routines. The former, you would think, would always trump the latter.

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.



**'Biloxi has a long history of preparing and recovering.
We are no different today.'**

"FoFo" Gilich, like other leaders across the country, is making decisions, sometimes difficult, sometimes obvious and sometimes not so obvious. And now, armed by the Biloxi City Council with a state of emergency declaration and its attendant authority, he's expected to make the decisions.

"All you can do is make the best decision based on the best information you have at the time," Gilich said. "I'm not going to use the word catastrophic when you look at where we are today. It's challenging. This does not scare me. There is no reason to be scared. There is reason to be concerned. This is the time to pay attention and be prepared. Think about it. Biloxi has a long history of preparing and recovering. We are no different today."

Added the mayor: "And what the public ought to know – what the public needs to know – is that we are always going to make decisions on the information we have, the best advice we're getting, and we're going to be sensible and practical."

"If we do the things we need to be doing, in a best-case scenario we might crush this thing in a matter of weeks and get back to business."

"But right now that business is being prepared. And staying vigilant."

Public leaders are in a position to make decisions, sometimes popular and sometimes not so popular.

A football coach from his days at Ole Miss made A.J. Holloway and his teammates memorize a famous quote from a famous leader. A.J. Holloway, surprisingly, recalled it

verbatim decades later in the mayor's office.

President Theodore Roosevelt, who'd seen his share of second guessing, had a message for the cynics:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

And, oh, what of that dilemma A.J. Holloway faced years ago? He applied enough behind-the-scenes pressure that the powers-that-be made the decision to close the casinos. And the storm? It jogged eastward and leveled the Gulf Shores and Orange Beach areas of Alabama.

Sure the storm went elsewhere. The resulting damage – scores of high-rise, waterfront condos had to be demolished because of compromised foundations – was but a harbinger of what could have happened – and what did happen a year later.

Decisions are not so easy.



Links to Reliable Sources of COVID19 Information:



Global Medical Response COVID19 Single Source of Truth Page
<https://www.globalmedicalresponse.com/covid19info>



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Page
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hotline/publications-for-remedy.html>

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First responders develop new protocols

Two-thirds of the 7,000 calls to the Biloxi Fire Department in a typical year are medical emergencies, and the threat of the coronavirus means 911 dispatchers will be asking more questions as they roll first responders to calls for help.

"It's really a matter of protecting our first responders and making sure we don't do anything that might spread the threat of this virus," said Biloxi Fire Chief Joe Boney. "Our dispatchers are asking questions about a person's current conditions, whether they have a fever, if they have recently traveled, etcetera, to make sure we

have a good read on the situation."

AMR, the local contracted ambulance service, "is taking the lead on cases that could be virus-related," Boney said. "Our firefighters will certainly be there, and certainly will take action if a person is in distress."

Added Biloxi Police Chief John Miller: "The public needs to know that when you dial 911 someone is going to be there for help. You're going to have Biloxi Police, Biloxi Fire and AMR, just as you always have. Our people are just going to be more sensitive to the issues."

Keesler seeks to limit base traffic

Keesler Air Force Base is asking retirees and veterans to limit travel to the base for essential medical appointment only. "Keeping our training pipeline open is essential to the success of our Air Force," said Col. Heather Blackwell, commander of the 81st Training Wing. "Stopping the spread of this virus will enable us to continue to execute our mission."

City eyes impact of casino closings

"We're evaluating every aspect of our city finances," Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich said hours after casino resorts in Biloxi and across the state closed to minimize the threat of spreading the coronavirus.

The city's annual budget – about \$66 million for operations and another \$18 million for water and sewer services – had projected almost \$20 million in gaming tax revenue from the city's nine casinos in the current fiscal year.

"We're certainly aware of the need to deliver services that people expect," Gilich said, "and we're also aware of the need to have people to deliver those services."

"It's a fluid health and economic situation, and as we move forward we're making the best decisions based on the best information we have."

The casino resort industry, which employs between 8,000 and 10,000 people in Biloxi, plays a huge role in

The Mississippi Gaming Commission closed casinos on Monday, March 16 at midnight, until further notice. Also closed were hotels and restaurants on each property.

attracting nearly six million people to the city each year. The Mississippi Gaming Commission on March 16 ordered all casinos to close by midnight and remain closed until further notice. The commission's emergency order said the threat of COVID-19 will be evaluated daily to determine a re-open date.

In addition to the closure of casinos, the city was considering the impact of closing the local schools on city departments, where many workers have children in school.

"We're working through the issues," said Chief Administrative Officer Mike Leonard. "Our departments, particularly first responders, are continuing to do the jobs they are expected to do."

But, Leonard added: "The loss of casino gaming tax and sales tax revenue means Biloxi must make adjustments to balance the 2020 budget. That will impact all city departments."

News & notes

Going Viral

- **City facilities:** All non-emergency city facilities are essentially closed to walk-in traffic. Communicate by phone or email. Visit biloxi.ms.us or see Frequently Called Numbers on Page 17.
- **City sports:** All City of Biloxi athletic games and practices scheduled for April have been canceled.
- **City council:** All Biloxi City Council meetings are recorded and posted on the city's YouTube channel as well as BTV within hours of the meetings being concluded. So you can see the meeting without attending.
- **Fire academy:** The Biloxi Fire Department's Fire Academy for Kids has been canceled for this year.
- **Summer Camp:** The Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department's Summer Playground Program, aka summer camp, has also been canceled for this year.



Show Your Care by Carrying Out.

- **Eats:** Downtown businesses are offering carry out as part of their efforts in helping stop the spread of COVID-19. Best bet is to call and pick up at the curb.



Centers for Disease Control: What you need to know

CDC is responding to a pandemic of respiratory disease spreading from person-to-person caused by a novel (new) coronavirus. The disease has been named “coronavirus disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID-19”). This situation poses a serious public health risk. The federal government is working closely with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners, as well as public health partners, to respond to this situation. COVID-19 can cause mild to severe illness; most severe illness occurs in older adults.

Situation in U.S.

- CDC and state and local public health laboratories are testing for the virus that causes COVID-19.
- All 50 states have reported cases of COVID-19 to CDC.
- U.S. COVID-19 cases include:
 - Imported cases in travelers
 - Cases among close contacts of a known case
 - Community-acquired cases where the source of the infection is unknown.
- Three U.S. states are experiencing sustained community spread.

CDC Recommends

- Everyone can do their part to help us respond to this emerging public health threat:
 - Older people and people with severe chronic conditions should take special precautions because they are at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness.
 - If you are a healthcare provider, use your judgment to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested. Factors to consider in addition to clinical symptoms may include:
 - Does the patient have recent travel from an affected area?
 - Has the patient been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 or with patients with pneumonia of unknown cause?
 - Does the patient reside in an area where there has been community spread of COVID-19?
 - If you are a healthcare provider or a public health responder caring for a COVID-19 patient, please take care of yourself and follow recommended infection control procedures.
 - If you are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 and develop symptoms of COVID-19, call your healthcare provider and tell them about your symptoms and your exposure. They will decide whether you need to be tested. Keep in mind that there is no treatment for COVID-19 and people who are mildly ill are able to isolate at home.
 - If you are a resident in a community where there is ongoing spread of COVID-19 and you develop COVID-19 symptoms, call your healthcare provider and tell them about your symptoms. They will decide whether you need to be tested. Keep in mind that there is no treatment for COVID-19 and people who are mildly ill are able to isolate at home.
- For people who are ill with COVID-19, but are not sick enough to be hospitalized, please follow CDC guidance on how to reduce the risk of spreading your illness to others. People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 are able to isolate at home during their illness.
- If you have been in China or another affected area or have been exposed to someone sick with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, you will face some limitations on your movement and activity. Please follow instructions during this time. Your cooperation is integral to the ongoing public health response to try to slow spread of this virus.

COVID-19 Emergence

COVID-19 is caused by a coronavirus. Coronaviruses

are a large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people such as with MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV, and now with this new virus (named SARS-CoV-2).

The SARS-CoV-2 virus is a betacoronavirus, like MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV. All three of these viruses have their origins in bats. The sequences from U.S. patients are similar to the one that China initially posted, suggesting a likely single, recent emergence of this virus from an animal reservoir.

Early on, many of the patients at the epicenter of the outbreak in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China had some link to a large seafood and live animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. Later, a growing number of patients reportedly did not have exposure to animal markets, indicating person-to-person spread. Person-to-person spread was subsequently reported outside Hubei and in countries outside China, including in the United States. Some international destinations now have ongoing community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19, as do some parts of the United States. Community spread means some people have been infected and it is not known how or where they became exposed.

Severity

The complete clinical picture with regard to COVID-19 is not fully known. Reported illnesses have ranged from very mild (including some with no reported symptoms) to severe, including illness resulting in death. While information so far suggests that most COVID-19 illness is mild, a report external icon of China suggests serious illness occurs in 16% of cases. Older people and people of all ages with severe chronic medical conditions — like heart disease, lung disease and diabetes, for example — seem to be at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness. A CDC Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report that looked at severity of disease among COVID-19 cases in the United States by age group found that 80% of deaths were among adults 65 years and older with the highest percentage of severe outcomes occurring in people 85 years and older.

COVID-19 Pandemic

A pandemic is a global outbreak of disease. Pandemics happen when a new virus emerges to infect people and can spread between people sustainably. Because there is little to no pre-existing immunity against the new virus, it spreads worldwide.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is infecting people and spreading easily from person-to-person. Cases have been detected in most countries worldwide and community spread is being detected in a growing number of countries. On March 11, the COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a pandemic by the WHO.

This is the first pandemic known to be caused by the emergence of a new coronavirus. In the past century, there have been four pandemics caused by the emergence of novel influenza viruses. As a result, most research and guidance around pandemics is specific to influenza, but the same premises can be applied to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Pandemics of respiratory disease follow a certain progression outlined in a “Pandemic Intervals Framework.” Pandemics begin with an investigation phase, followed by recognition, initiation, and acceleration phases. The peak of illnesses occurs at the end of the acceleration phase, which is followed by a deceleration phase, during which there is a decrease in illnesses. Different countries can be in different phases of the pandemic at any point in time and different parts of the same country can also be in different phases of

a pandemic.

There are ongoing investigations to learn more. This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.

Risk Assessment

Risk depends on characteristics of the virus, including how well it spreads between people; the severity of resulting illness; and the medical or other measures available to control the impact of the virus (for example, vaccines or medications that can treat the illness) and the relative success of these. In the absence of vaccine or treatment medications, nonpharmaceutical interventions become the most important response strategy. These are community interventions that can reduce the impact of disease.

The risk from COVID-19 to Americans can be broken down into risk of exposure versus risk of serious illness and death.

Risk of exposure:

- The immediate risk of being exposed to this virus is still low for most Americans, but as the outbreak expands, that risk will increase. Cases of COVID-19 and instances of community spread are being reported in a growing number of states.
- People in places where ongoing community spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 has been reported are at elevated risk of exposure, with the level of risk dependent on the location.
- Healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Close contacts of persons with COVID-19 also are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Travelers returning from affected international locations where community spread is occurring also are at elevated risk of exposure, with level of risk dependent on where they traveled.

Risk of Severe Illness:

Early information out of China, where COVID-19 first started, shows that some people are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. This includes:

- Older adults, with risk increasing by age.
- People who have serious chronic medical conditions like:
 - Heart disease
 - Diabetes
 - Lung disease

What May Happen

Widespread transmission of COVID-19 could translate into large numbers of people needing medical care at the same time. Schools, childcare centers, and workplaces, may experience more absenteeism. Mass gatherings may be sparsely attended or postponed. Public health and healthcare systems may become overloaded, with elevated rates of hospitalizations and deaths. Other critical infrastructure, such as law enforcement, emergency medical services, and sectors of the transportation industry may also be affected. Healthcare providers and hospitals may be overwhelmed. At this time, there is no vaccine to protect against COVID-19 and no medications approved to treat it. Nonpharmaceutical interventions will be the most important response strategy to try to delay the spread of the virus and reduce the impact of disease.

CDC Response

Global efforts at this time are focused concurrently on lessening the spread and impact of this virus. The federal government is working closely with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners, as well as public health partners, to respond to this public health threat.



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Biloxi Police: Here's how you can help

By Maj. Christopher DeBack
Biloxi Police Department



As the nation struggles with current events and the response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Biloxi Police Department reminds everyone to stay vigilant. Be mindful of social distancing and repetitive hygiene to aid in cutting down on cross contamination.

We have taken steps to help minimize exposure to all, but at the same time provide a high level of protection to life and property. Part of that includes the increased issuance of sanitizing supplies and protective equipment to all of our officers.

Step outside: Another part is our response to calls for service. We encourage all to call for assistance when needed. In response and to assist with social distancing, we ask that you meet the responding officer outside. Certainly there will be situations or times when that is impractical.

To further cut down on the spread of the virus, we have officers stationed at the police department to take certain non-emergency reports via phone. We are committed on providing the same great service and resolving every issue possible.

Beware of scams: One crime we usually see a rise in during any crisis is frauds. Usually the suspect will call, send an email or communicate in some other way insisting they work for some government organization or other agency dedicated to aid. Through whatever form of communication they usually ask for personal information to include, but not limited to, Social Security Numbers, Dates of Births, whole names and/ or banking information.

If you receive a call like this, don't provide any information. There are not any organizations that are going to call offering money or some other product or service to assist you that doesn't already have the information they need. Anytime you, a family member or friend receives one of these communications, you are encouraged to make a report through your local law enforcement agency.

As a community, we are all in this together. Your health and safety is our main priority.

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“Only those who will
risk going too far
can possibly find
out how far it is
possible to go.”

– T.S. Eliot

Fifty years ago, three men embraced risk not realizing how far they would go. This month, we commemorate the Apollo 13 flight and celebrate the adventurous spirit of Fred Haise, a Biloxi native and Apollo 13 Lunar Module Pilot. His experience illuminates the opportunities in STEM education and inspires future generations of explorers to reach for the stars.



Mississippi
Power



A love letter to Biloxi

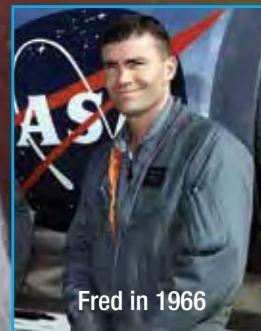
We asked Fred Haise to write a message for the people of Biloxi and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, about growing up in Biloxi, the fame he achieved and how he feels about the pending 50th anniversary of Apollo 13. We told him 400 words. We regret that. It's a great read.

Hometown hero recalls the simple life before he took off

Growing up in Biloxi gave me a great start on my career ahead in the Marine Corps, as a NASA Test Pilot and Astronaut, and as an Aerospace Executive.

Life was simple and safe with lots of friends. I ran to school at Gorenflo Elementary and either brought a brown bag or ran home for lunch. I was allowed to stay after school playing with friends until dusk, climbing trees or hunting for tadpoles in the drainage creek running through the south end of the school yard.

I moved up to a bicycle in junior and high school and started work at 12 years old as a "paper boy" for the Biloxi Gulfport Daily Herald. I had Route 16, which covered from Main to Croesus Street and from Howard Avenue to the Beach Boulevard with about 170 customers. The newspaper owner, Mr. E.P. Wilkes, gave me my first lessons in responsibility for running my own little business with about 170 customers, to earn about \$17 a week. Mr. Wilkes was also my Boy Scout leader and scouting provided a lot of those character traits that stood me well on Apollo 13.



Fred in 1966

I spent lots of time in the water swimming, fishing, crabbing, and floundering. With my Dad and I casting a net, we enjoyed many mullet dinners. My Dad and I also enjoyed fishing in the Pascagoula River and even ventured in our wood skiff with a 5 horsepower outboard to Horn Island.



Fred today

I got interested in journalism though being the Sports Editor of the Biloxi High Tide and went on through two years at Perkinston Junior College to be Sports Editor and Editor of the Bulldog Barks. But the Korean War made a drastic turn in my aspirations when I became a Naval Aviator. From when I first flew I knew that my future was going to be in aviation... Space hadn't arrived yet.

My subsequent paths involved a lot of moves over the next 45 years that took me away from the Mississippi Coast. But I always came back at every opportunity to visit with my family. My Mother and sister Brenda Johnston still live on Haise Street, which used to be Church Street.

I feel very blessed and humbled by the honors my hometown is planning for me at this 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 13 mission. It's a mission that Mississippi played a role in our success, with the rocket engine testing at Stennis Space Center and more than a dozen Mississippi State grads who served in Mission Control.

Fred

Mississippi
Power
presents

See Fred in cyberspace

Unveiling of the Launch Pad
Saturday, April 11, 2020



BTV

• See "Fred Haise: From Biloxi to the Moon," a BTV

documentary by August Taconi, daily in April, at 8 a.m., 8 p.m. and 2 p.m.

• See "Apollo 13: The Inside Story," with Fred Haise, a BTV documentary by August Taconi, daily in April, at 7 a.m. 7 p.m. and 1 p.m.

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Wow! Can you believe this was just weeks ago?

By Garrett Greene
Biloxi Shuckers



March brought a first for the Biloxi Shuckers, partnering with the Mississippi State Bulldogs and putting on the two-day Hancock Whitney Classic on March 10 and 11 at MGM Park. And based on the turnout and the play on the field, the first ever Hancock Whitney Classic was a massive success.

With the No.17 Bulldogs taking on No. 3 Texas Tech, Mississippi State snapped the Red Raiders 12-game winning streak with a thrilling 6-3 victory on Tuesday, March 10 in front of a crowd of over 5,700 fans. But that only set the stage for night two on the Coast.

In an impressive encore, over 6,000 fans came out to the ballpark on Wednesday night to see the Bulldogs win a second straight game over the Red Raiders, including a seventh-inning rally that scored two runs, putting the Diamond Dogs in front for good. Cowbells rang, 'Maroon and White' chats echoed through the stands, and the house was still packed as SEC Pitcher of the Week Spenser Price locked down his second consecutive save to win it for the Bulldogs. All told, just over 11,700 fans took in the action at MGM Park.

Mississippi State is set

to return to the Coast for two more games in 2021. Their opponents and any other games that might be played have not been announced yet, but the Shuckers are looking forward to another electric environment when State comes back to Biloxi.

Since the conclusion of the Hancock Whitney Classic, the beginning of the Minor League season has been delayed. At the time of writing, no date has been set for the official start of the season. Even with the uncertainty for the start of the season, there are flexible ticket options for fans to ensure their spot

at Shuckers games during the season.

The first one is, you guessed it, a 'Flex Plan,' which includes 20 undated vouchers. This means fans can bring 19 friends to one game, come to 20 games on their own or anything in between. And undated means vouchers can be redeemed at any point throughout the season.

There are also memberships to Shuck Nation, which include fully exchangeable tickets. Full Season Shuck Nation plans are available, along with Half Shell plans for 35 games. Similar to the Shuckers flex plans, if fans want to purchase a Half Shell membership and bring 34 friends to one game, they can do it!

The Shuckers know that there are questions about the status of individual game tickets and the start of the season and promise to do everything to keep the public informed to the best of our ability. The health and safety of our fans, staff and the entire Mississippi Coast is of the utmost importance to the Shuckers, and of course we will follow the lead of Minor League Baseball for when it is safe to begin playing games at MGM Park.

Stay tuned to biloxishuckers.com and the Shuckers social media channels for updates about the impending start of the 2020 season. We'll be ready to welcome you when the time comes!

The infrastructure work in Biloxi

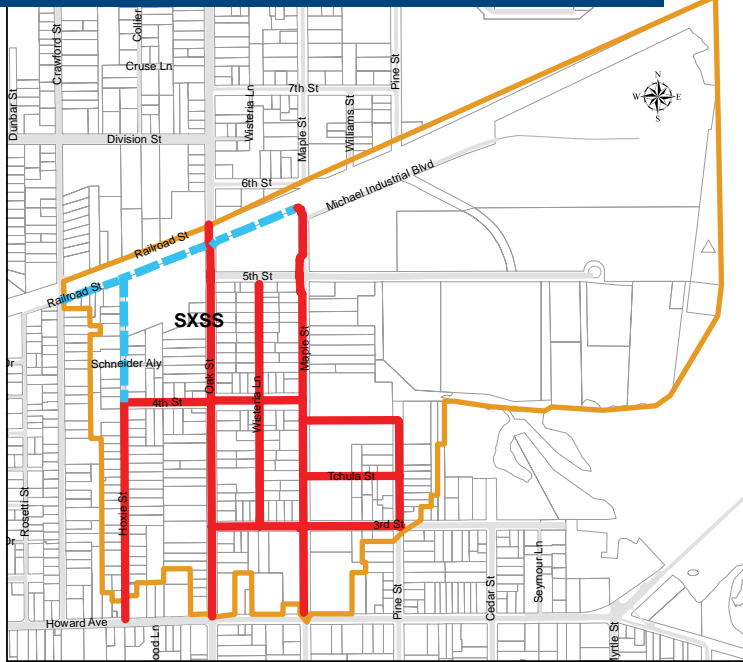
Pages 13 through 16 contain maps that show the status of the city's three major infrastructure projects now underway. The information on these maps is compiled by the city's Engineering Department, based on reports from contractors and inspectors at each site. See detailed maps and video online at biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/.

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.

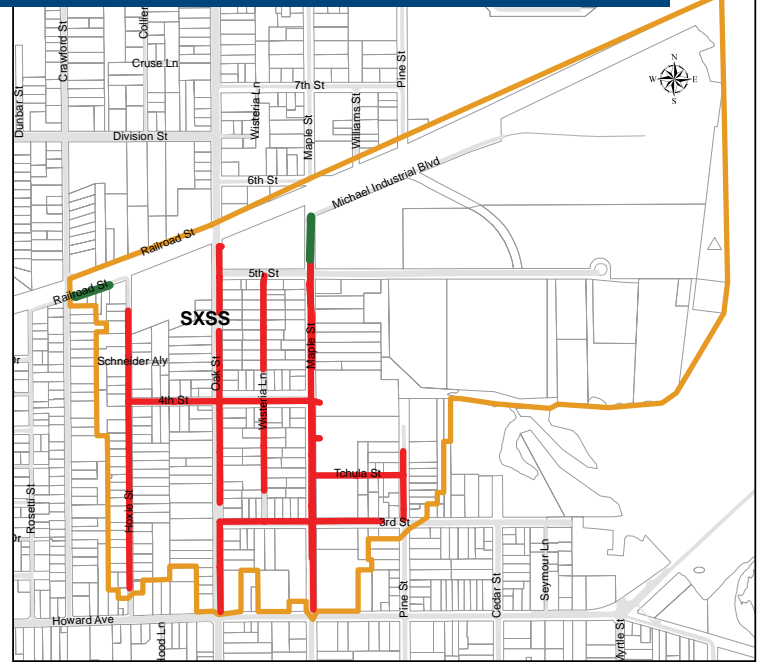
Lane Construction Water

Water Mains to be installed as of March 12, 2020



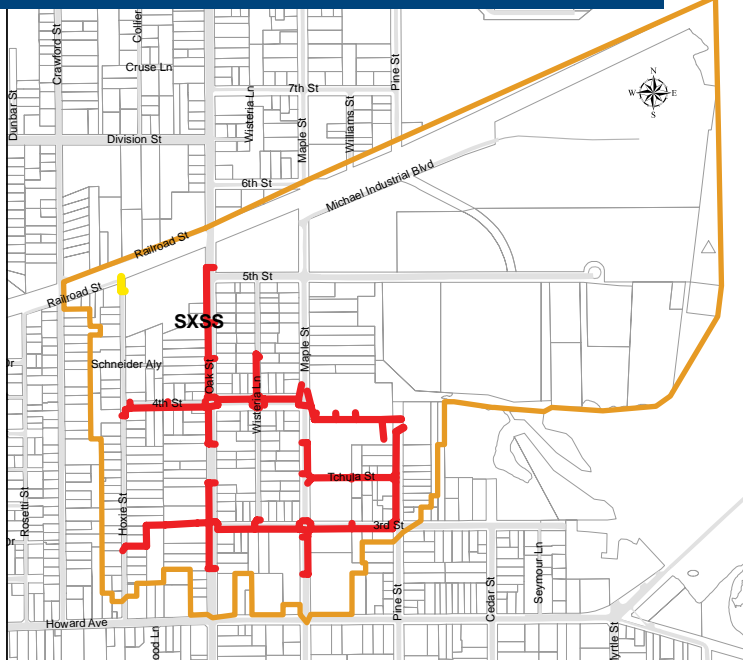
Lane Construction Sewer

Sewer Mains to be installed as of March 12, 2020



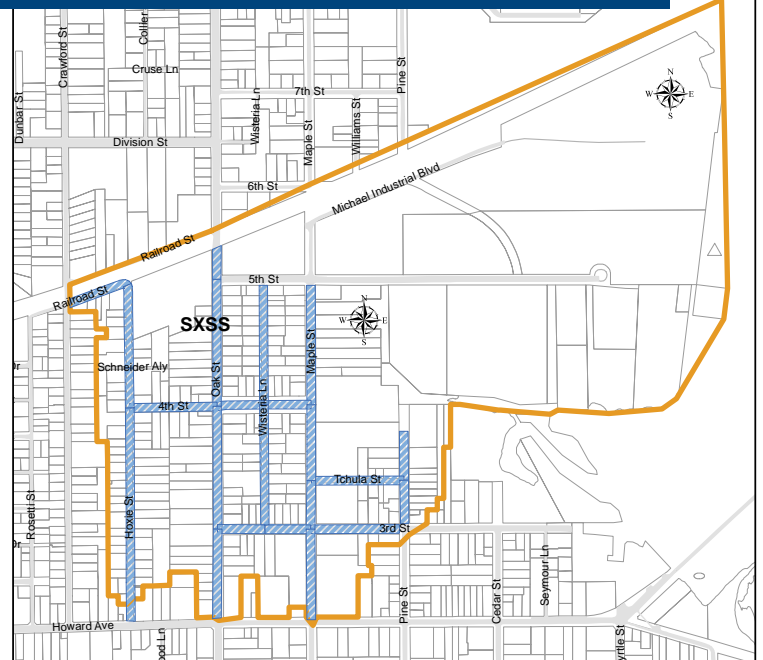
Lane Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of March 12, 2020

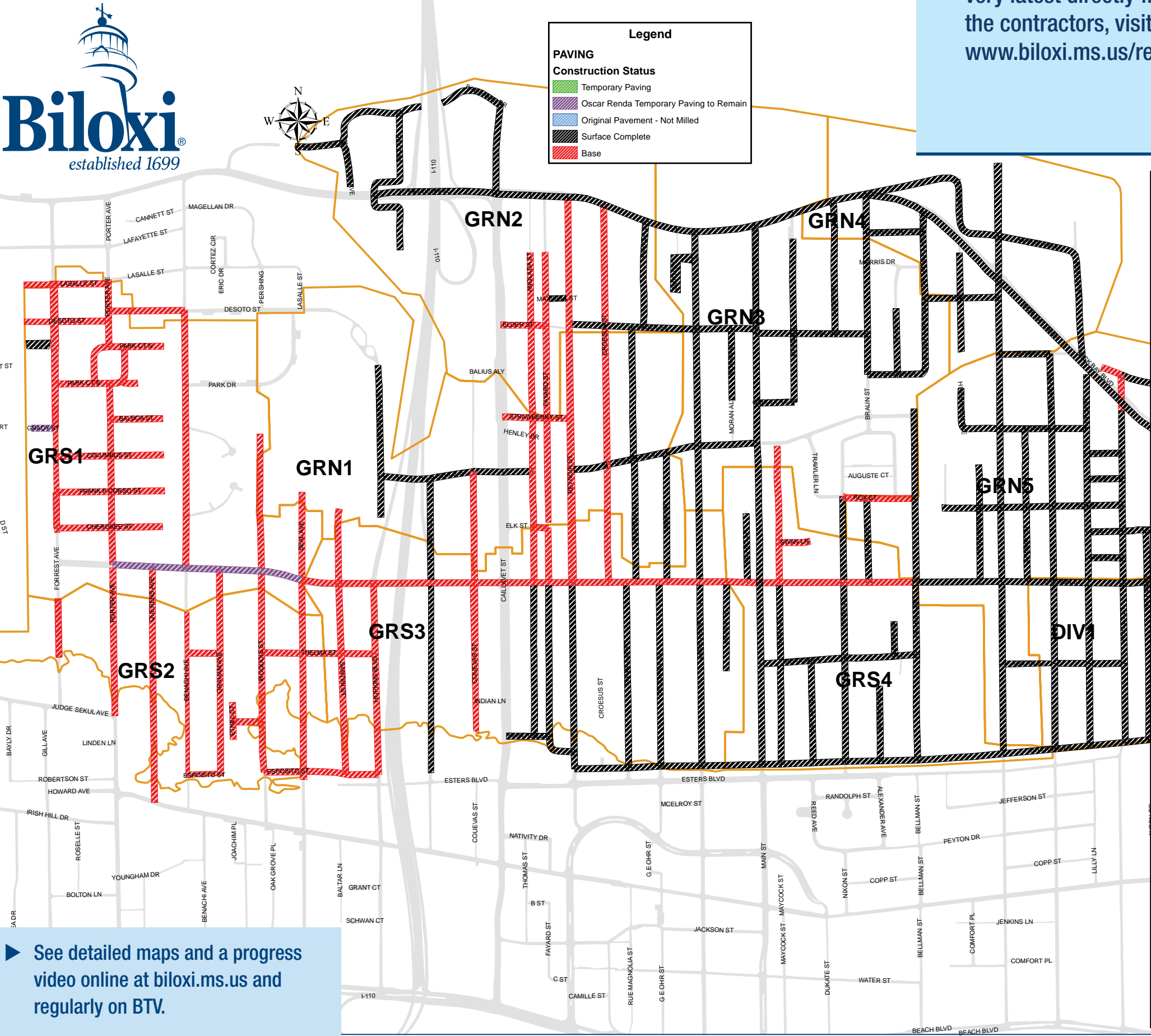


Lane Construction Pavement

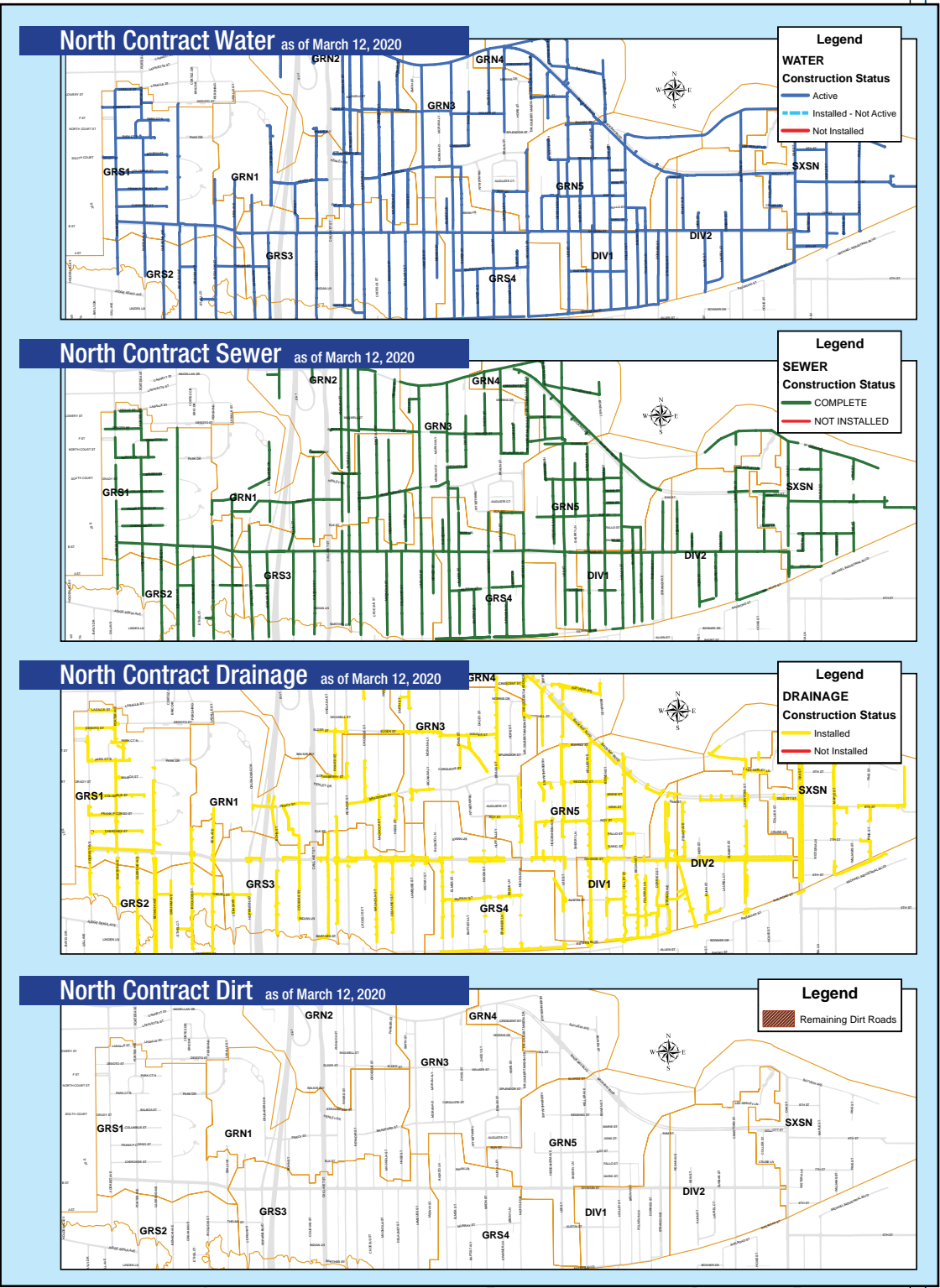
Roads to be paved as of March 12, 2020



The North Contract: Remaining paved roads (as of March 12, 2020)



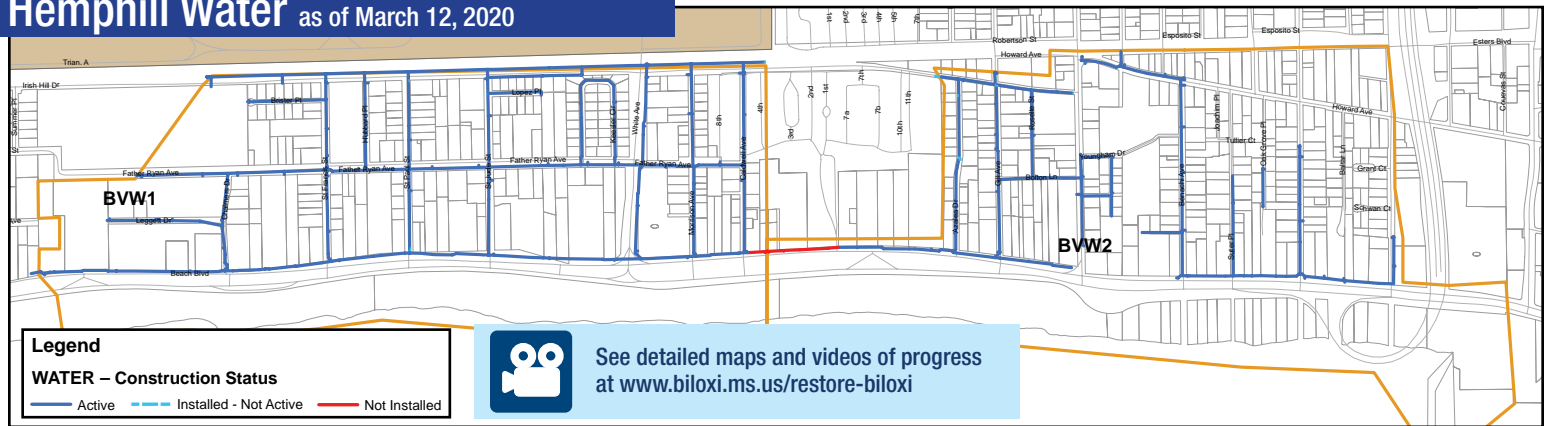
► To see detailed maps of progress and to hear the very latest directly from the contractors, visit www.biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi.



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

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 June 2020.

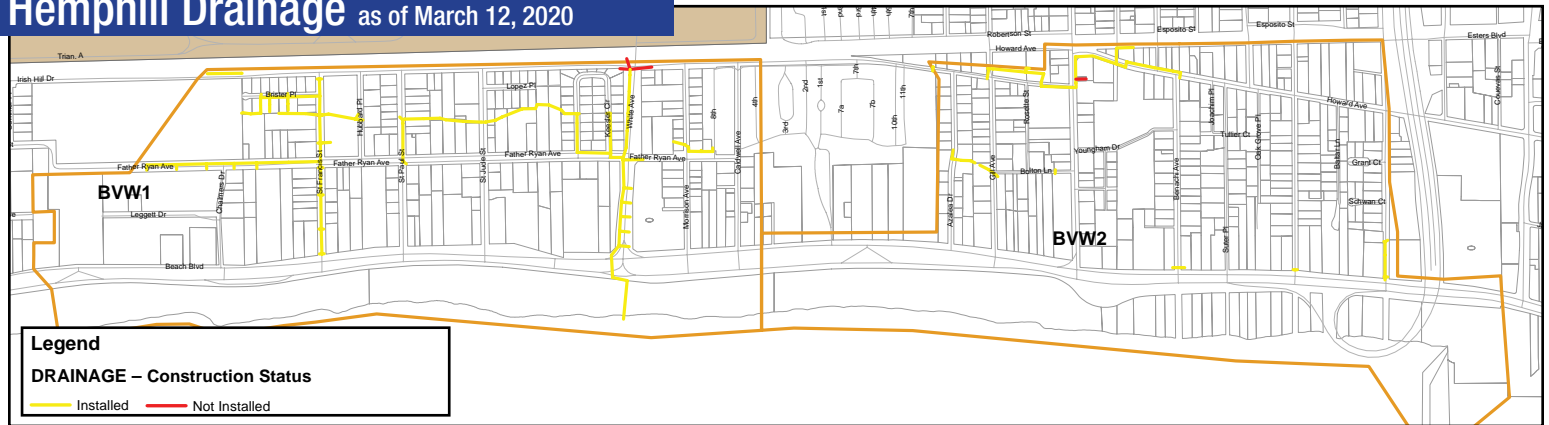
Hemphill Water as of March 12, 2020



Hemphill Sewer as of March 12, 2020



Hemphill Drainage as of March 12, 2020



Hemphill Roads Paved as of March 12, 2020



BTV April 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: "Apollo 13, the inside story"
8 a.m.	Special presentation: "Fred Haise: From Biloxi to the moon"
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.	Special Presentation: Making Space for Fred Haise (30 min)
1 p.m.	Special presentation: "Apollo 13, the inside story"
2 p.m.	Special presentation: "Fred Haise: From Biloxi to the moon"
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.	Keesler Air Force Base (15 min)
7 p.m.	Special presentation: "Apollo 13, the inside story"
8 p.m.	Special presentation: "Fred Haise: From Biloxi to the moon"
9 p.m.	City Council meetings and bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)
Midnight	National anthem by Ronny Broussard (2 min)



You can view individual programs on the city's YouTube channel. Go to the city website at biloxi.ms.us and click on the YouTube logo at top right.

City Council meetings now also streaming live

BTV: Biloxi Television and the city's YouTube channel are adapting to the changing times.

Replays of City Council meetings continue to air on BTV each day at 9 a.m., 9 p.m. and 3 p.m., but the meetings also will now stream live on the city's YouTube channel, accessible on the city's website.

"We're having to severely limit the number of people who can come to a City Council meeting," Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich said. "Over the past months, we've had the replays of the meetings online usually within an hour or so after the meeting, and now we're going the extra step, having them online as they are happening."

BTV also now features coronavirus-related information in a crawl across the bottom of the TV screen (or computer screen if watching online). Additionally, the daily program schedule may be pre-empted from time to time with available programming.

Scheduling updates and the BTV stream are available online at biloxi.ms.us/btv. You can also watch BTV in Biloxi on Sparklight 56 or on Uverse 99 (follow the prompts).

Fred Haise: 'USA, we have a problem'

Work continues on the Fred Haise statue, parts of which are scheduled to be unveiled on April 11 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Apollo 13. But, alas, the ceremony is limited to family.

However, BTV viewers have a chance to meet Fred Haise, the Biloxi native who went to the moon and back aboard Apollo 13, in videographer August Taconi's latest effort, "Fred Haise: From Biloxi to the Moon." The program will air daily in April at 8 a.m., 8 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Taconi recently conducted an in-depth interview with Haise and is compiling an hour-long documentary.

"Fred tells the whole story," Taconi said: "from being born at the old Biloxi Hospital, through his family, through his high school and college days, and eventually getting into NASA, Apollo 13 and the Space Shuttle. It's a remarkable story, and it's all in Fred's words."

Taconi also delved into his archives from another chestnut: In the aftermath of the movie "Apollo 13," Fred answered questions from the audience after a showing of the movie for a Saenger Theatre audience.

The Fred Q&A will air each day in April at 7 a.m., 7 p.m. and 1 p.m.

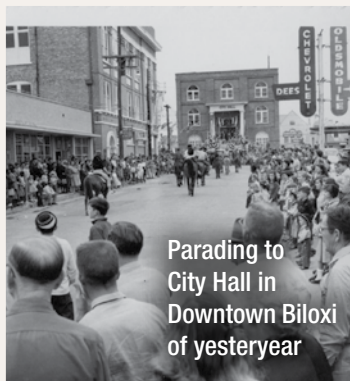
Frequently Called Numbers

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
- Citizen services (streets, lights) 435-6271
- City Council 435-6257
- City Court 435-6125
- Code Enforcement 435-0841
- 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



Biloxi City Hall
in the center
of Main Street



Parading to
City Hall in
Downtown Biloxi
of yesteryear



Construction
on the second
story, Aug. 1906



Construction of the massive
second floor balcony, Oct. 1906



The columns and third floor
take shape, May. 1907



June 1903, operating as a federal
building and post office



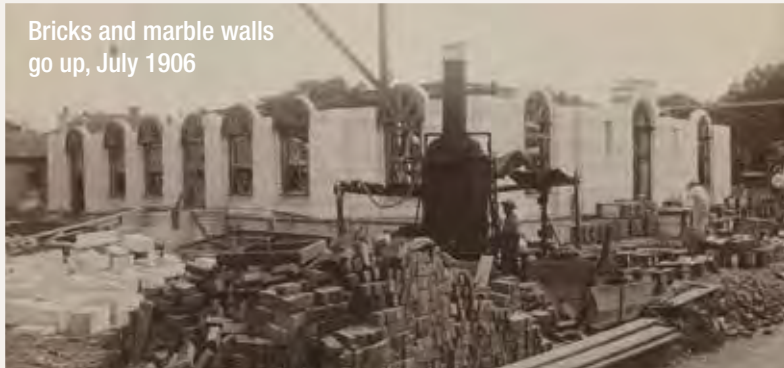
The beginning of construction on the
federal building, early 1900s



Workers frame the footing, Aug. 1905



The frame work, Feb. 1906



Bricks and marble walls
go up, July 1906

Biloxi's City Halls: How it all evolved

In the early days of Biloxi, way before it was a city, Monsieur d'Iberville saw no permanent brick or stone structures in this area. Instead there were simple A-frame wooden structures, thatched with palmetto leaves and local vegetation.

In time, Biloxi's structures became more stable. And once it became a city or township in the 1800s, a city headquarters or city hall was needed.

The Red Brick City Hall

The first Biloxi City Hall was located in the middle of the street at the corner of Howard Avenue, formerly Pass Christian Street, and Main Street. It was a three story red brick structure.

Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra

In 1894, the original cost of the building was estimated to be about \$15,000. After much ado, which added time and costs, the building was completed by local contractors John Harkess & Son and John Eistetter, utilizing local labor.

The dedication was scheduled for April 21, 1896. The unique City Hall had many additional features such as a market place, police and fire departments, courtrooms, a justice of the peace, a jail, and even a butcher! Free water from its deep artesian well was offered for those who brought their own jugs.

Decades later and after years of deterioration, the building was taken down after a new City Hall building was chosen or built. In fact, bricks from that building can

be seen in the fencing around the Old Biloxi Cemetery.

Want to see that building in a 1950's film? Check out the City of Biloxi's YouTube video "Social Change in a Democracy" by visiting on the city website, www.biloxi.ms.us, and clicking on the YouTube icon at the top right.

Today's City Hall

Our present-day stately three-story marble City Hall was originally constructed in the early 1900s as a Federal Building to house a U. S. Post Office, federal courts, and Customs House.

Geographically located at the southeast corner of Lameuse and Jackson streets on land purchased from William Armstrong in 1902, the building's construction contract was signed February 1, 1905. Photographs in the Biloxi Local History archives show construction underway on April 1, 1905. By March 31, 1908 the much-needed post office moved in.

The structure took longer than anticipated to complete. More than 1,200 tons of marble was imported for the exterior construction and there were delays in the construction. Those delays were attributed to a yellow fever epidemic, hurricanes, supply issues, and problems with subcontractors.

Despite the issues, the planned \$125,000 building was completed for \$99,146 and on June 30, 1908 the federal superintendent of its construction, Mr. Victor DeProsse, gave a completely satisfactory report (much like today's formal Certificate of Occupancy).

The building was dedicated in August of 1908 in a ceremony that was said to be one of the greatest occasions ever celebrated in the city. News sources predicted that the building would stand strong for a thousand years and would withstand not only the wrath of storms, but also the impact of earthquakes.

In the early 1950s, plans where in the works to demolish the structure to make way for a larger federal building. However, with some convincing from Anthony "Tony" Ragusin that the building would be great for a city hall and a land swap from the Biloxi School Board for a new location for the U.S. Post Office on Main Street, the federal building became Biloxi City Hall.

On April 2, 1960, the building was dedicated as City Hall and within four years modern conveniences such as air conditioning and an elevator was installed. And in 1978, the building was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich and his administration staff as well as the City Council clerks occupy the building. Biloxi City Hall is also the place for city council meetings.

Biloxi City Hall Trivia

City Hall's Special Marker

Next time you visit City Hall, take a look at the medallion embedded in the cement flooring at the northern end of its porch. There lies a "benchmark" Number T189 planted by the National Geodetic Survey marking the latitude and longitude of this location. These can be utilized in surveying projects. There are few in Biloxi. The next nearest one is located on the side of The People's Bank building at the corner of Lameuse and Howard.

Peephole rumors

Former postal workers have told us the interesting stories of special peepholes imbedded in the walls of our present City Hall when it was utilized as a Post Office. Before the days of security cameras postal inspectors had the ability to peep unnoticed through these hidden holes in the walls enabling them to watch the workers to be sure they were doing their jobs efficiently and honestly.



Biloxi's Greatest Recycling Project



J.A. "Tony"
Creel

Decades ago, and before Earth Day and recycling ideas were born, Biloxi participated in a great recycling project.

August 1966 saw the leveling of the Old City Hall which was situated in the middle of the roadway at the intersection of Main Street and Howard Avenue. J.A. "Tony" Creel, a Commissioner for Biloxi, was a visionary and recognized the importance of preserving

both the history and monetary value of Biloxi structures.

When the Old City Hall was dismantled, not demolished, Mr. Creel ordered that bricks from that building be salvaged and reused. Thus, approximately 125,000 bricks were carefully carted off to other construction projects. Many relics from that historic building still live on today. The most recognized project was the construction of the brick cemetery wall along Irish Hill Drive.

Other bricks traveled to become a part of the Bay Vista Fire Station, the West Biloxi City Barn, the Lions Club cabin at Camp Wilkes, and catch basins.

So, the next time you pass that red brick fencing by the Old Biloxi Cemetery, think about Mr. Creel's brick project which is still a part of Biloxi's amazing history.

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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