



C'mon, Biloxi, come to your Census

Census 2020, the once-a-decade snapshot of the United States, is falling short in Biloxi, and city leaders are asking for help.

"Right now, 58.1 percent of the people in Biloxi have responded, and we need to do better," Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich said. "At least 41.9 percent of the people in Biloxi who were mailed postcards have not responded, and, to be honest, there could be even more people living in Biloxi than that."

"It's critical that we get an accurate count."

Census responses, which are kept confidential by federal law, are used to produce statistics about how many people live in what areas and who they are by age, sex, race and ethnicity.

When those statistics are combined with other data, federal, state and local policymakers are better armed to make decisions about how to allocate billions of dollars in federal funds for critical public services such as hospitals, schools, road repairs and emergency response services for the next 10 years.

Here's how to respond:

Online: Go to 2020census.gov. All you need is your address. If you don't have online access, ask a friend for help. Ask friends if they need help.

By phone: English, 844-330-2020; Spanish, 844-468-2020; or Vietnamese, 844-461-2020.

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Biloxi masks up as cases increase

Facemasks, which have been recommended by the city going back to May, became mandatory for the public and workers at city buildings in Biloxi and at most businesses throughout the city.



The mandate from Gov. Tate Reeves in mid-July was the result of a continuing spike in cases statewide – with a one-day high of 1031 new cases on July 10 – and was part of a plan that put tighter restrictions on 13 counties, including Harrison and Jackson counties.

In Harrison County, by mid-July, the daily average has climbed from 5.5 cases a day to 35.29 cases a day, by the mayor's count.

Ahead of the Fourth of July holiday, Biloxi gave away 27,000 faces masks in four hours as part of the city's "Mask up, Biloxi" campaign.

"As great as that turnout was," the mayor observed, "people need to make masks part of their regular routine. It's the safe thing to do, and it's part of what we all need to do: social distance, do business by phone or online as much as you can, and just be careful."

► For more, click on the COVID link at biloxi.ms.us

Artful greetings from Biloxi



Cali Rob and "Greetings from Biloxi"

Series of murals highlights Biloxi's past, colorfully

A new series of murals, primarily in downtown but branching out, highlights Biloxi's past, in a colorful manner.

It's all part of the Main Street Biloxi Public Art Project, a volunteer- and artist-driven project that has seen a dozen colorful murals, one as wide as 60 feet, applied to exterior walls of downtown fixtures.

To name a few, there's George Ohr on side of Mary Mahoney's, "Gulf Coast Strong" outside Jacked Up coffee shop, "Hurricane Camille"

outside the Seafood Museum, and "Greetings from Biloxi" on Ohr Street, just south of Howard Avenue. None of the eye-striking murals has an explanation attached. They're just there as eye candy, maybe spark conversation, say the organizers.

Throughout the month of August on BTV, you can meet the artists who created the murals and learn their inspiration, in a 20-minute documentary. See the special it each day at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. and each afternoon at 1:30.

► More on the murals project, Pages 8-9

► Online "Story Map" of murals project, online at biloxi.ms.us/murals.

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