

## Coronavirus still impacting lives, livelihoods

Stopping alcohol sales at 11 nightly in all bars and restaurants in Biloxi and across the state was the latest measure introduced to curb the spread of the coronavirus, and by mid-August, Biloxi and Harrison County were averaging three dozen new cases a day.

The city's limiting of alcohol in bars and restaurants was in line with a statewide executive order issued by Gov. Tate Reeves.

The city continues to ask residents and employees in businesses

to wear  
facemasks.  
During August,

Councilmember Felix Gines quarantined himself for two weeks after contracting the virus, and as many as a dozen city employees were out on any given day due to coronavirus-related issues.

"I know that people are tired of this entire ordeal," Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich said, "but the fact is, if we can just get a few weeks where we really reduce the number of new cases, we'll be on our way to curbing this thing. We just have to be vigilant in our efforts and

understand that  
we continue  
to be in a  
pandemic."

► **Nick L. Shrimp:** Bars and restaurants and 'gaming floors,' Page 2

► **Back in the Day bonus:** How Biloxi dealt with the Spanish Flu, Page 12



## Viral construction

COVID-19 has not had a major impact on construction citywide, as evidenced by this major drainage project in Woolmarket, one of two dozen projects underway right now. Inside this month, see the big picture.

- Q&A with City Engineer, Page 7
- Overview of work, Pages 8-9
- The infrastructure maps, Pages 13-18

## Opportunity is knocking; it's the Census. Respond, Biloxi!

Right now, you have the opportunity to answer the Census either online or by phone. However, in a few weeks, opportunity will be knocking in a different manner – on your door.

For Biloxi, a city that is lagging behind the national average, 40 percent of the known residents have not yet responded to Census 2020, which could jeopardize the city's share of state and federal funds allocated to a wide array of community programs and public improvement projects across the country.

"We can't seem to break 60 percent," Biloxi Chief

Administrative Officer Mike Leonard said in an email in August to City Council members. "Results show the national average for responses right now is 63.5 percent, and the average in Biloxi is 59.62 percent."

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich and other city leaders are asking residents to respond now.

Online: Go to 2020census.gov. All you need is your address.

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

## ALSO INSIDE This month

### City finances

The mayor and council are saving what they can now to be ready for FY 21, Page 4



### School daze

- The report from Biloxi Public Schools, Page 4
- Looking at schools 'Back in the Day,' Page 22

### Keesler's screen time

The coronavirus has given airmen more pursuits, Page 10



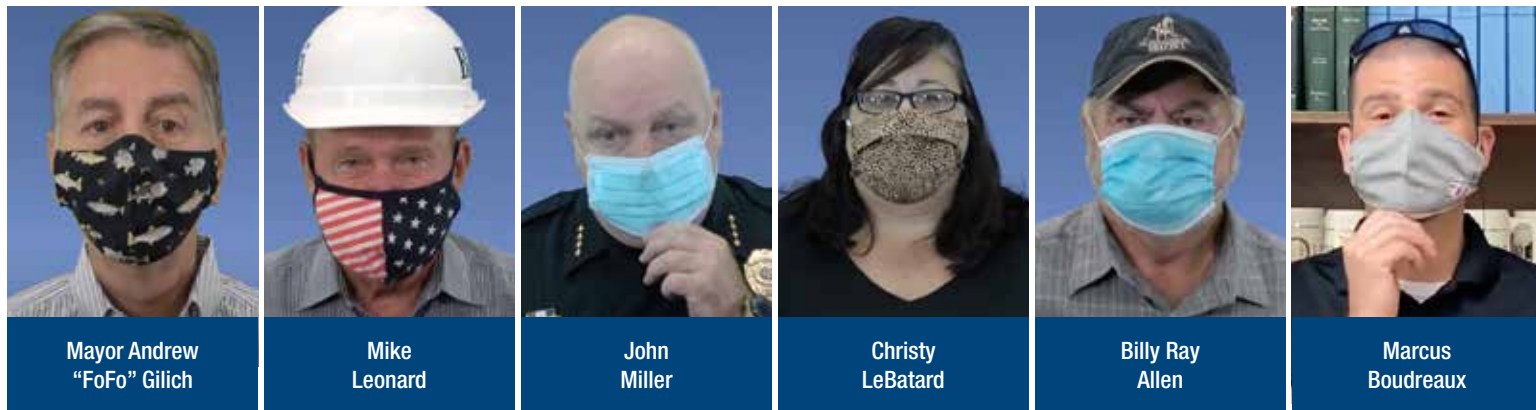
### Fire it up

The Biloxi Fire Department has a couple of lean and 'green' trucks on the way, Page 11

### Even more inside

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Mayor Andrew  
"FoFo" Gilich

Mike  
Leonard

John  
Miller

Christy  
LeBatard

Billy Ray  
Allen

Marcus  
Boudreaux



# Face it. We're here

It was a scene that evoked a memory of when President Richard Nixon made a late-night, impromptu visit to chat with Vietnam protestors at the Lincoln Memorial.

There was "FoFo" Gilich arriving at City Hall one day a few weeks ago, pausing for a few minutes in front of City Hall to chat with a handful of young people carrying signs to protest the decision to end alcohol sales at 11 nightly in bars and restaurants.

The mayor, with satchel in hand as he approached the seated demonstrators, said good morning and explained the need for the closing. As longtime reporter Mike Lacy said, they weren't having any of it. And the reviews online were less than favorable.

"They said on Facebook that you gave dumb answers," someone said to Hizzoner later in the day.

The normally animated mayor shrugged off the poor review. For a moment anyway. Retorted he: "Did you ever think the questions were dumb?"

It's the latest push back of the coronavirus pandemic. Add it to the list: "Why do I have to wear a mask?" "The numbers are wrong." "This is just government overreach."

Why, even a logical acquaintance weighed in: "I'm curious, does something magically happen at 10:59 and things turn unsafe at 11 o'clock?"

Uneasy it is, to navigate this coronavirus landscape into the next day, the next week and or the next month. But the fact is, it's been



Corey  
Christy

Chevis  
Swetman

Arreal  
Bishop

Some Guy  
From Gulfport

Father Dennis  
Carver

Jeff  
O'Keefe

Keith  
Crosby

Serena  
Gilich

since mid-March, and data and trends become apparent.

The governor, like any effective leader, bases his actions on the best-available information and advice at the time of his decision.

It ain't always well-received, especially in an age where harsh review is immediate. And immediacy typically trumps accuracy on social media, which, of course, is a medium that has been elevated to a status, albeit dubious of news medium of the moment.

In larger context, to that silent majority, one that is generally silent and prudent, may pause to wonder about this "unfairness" of the 11 p.m. last call order.

The fact is, no one is singling out bars and restaurants in Biloxi. This is actually a statewide mandate. The reason it's causing such consternation in some quarters in Biloxi is because Biloxi has more casinos than any city in the southeast. The Biloxi economy is a bit

more active at night; there's a whole other world – and economy – in the midnight hour.

But, to be sure, casinos are not bars or restaurants. It's actually about the "gaming floor," not casinos, because bars or restaurants, whether on casino property or not, also are expected to have last call at 11.

The governor was specific. He wants bars to look more like restaurants. Seated service only. And he wants bars and restaurants to stop selling at 11 p.m. To the city, it was a ruse for local operators to use wristbands or tickets to avoid the 11 o'clock mandate, in a pandemic, no less.

A gaming floor, for sure, is not nearly as intimate as the confines of a bar or restaurant, especially under today's protocols. You don't have, as Hizzoner said, "that nose-to-nose environment as you do in a bar."

C'mon, vaccine.

► See the video at [biloxi.ms.us/maskup](https://biloxi.ms.us/maskup)

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.

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# Edgewater Mall



# Biloxi schools: 'Smiles behind the masks'

"The students and staff throughout the district have exceeded my high expectations," says Superintendent Marcus Boudreaux, whose Biloxi Public Schools opened Aug. 5.

Today, the district's eight schools – Biloxi High, Biloxi Junior High, Biloxi Upper Elementary and five other elementary schools – have nearly 6,000 students, including 1,700 distance learning. Enrollment last year: 6,200 students.

"We are adapting to our 'new normal' and carrying on with the business of providing quality instruction for the children of Biloxi," Boudreaux adds. "Thanks to careful planning and dedicated staff, our traditional classroom and distance learning plans have been implemented smoothly. I appreciate

the outstanding cooperation of our students and parents during this time."

Opening day had 5,300 students including 1,400 distance learners, and those in-school students "were greeted with excited teachers with big smiles behind their masks," recalls schools spokesperson Jennifer Pyron. "Thank you to the public for slowing down for students. Please continue to use caution around

bus stops and watch for students at all times. We're looking forward to a great (and unique) 2020-21 school year in the Indian Nation!"

Biloxi is awaiting 3,000 new Chromebooks to augment its existing supply. "As you can imagine, tablets are a hot commodity these days," Pyron says. "However, we currently have plenty to cover our distance learners."



► Online: Visit Biloxi Public Schools at [biloxischools.net](http://biloxischools.net)



Mayor Gilich makes a point to council as Keith Anderson (left) and John Miller (right) look on.

## Mayor, council continue FY 2021 budget talks

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich and members of the Biloxi City Council are expected to have a Fiscal Year 2021 municipal budget in place by mid-September, ahead of the Oct. 1 beginning of the fiscal year.

The city leaders have been discussing the spending plan since mid-July. A key factor, says Chief Administrative Officer Mike Leonard, will be how much money the city saves between now and mid-September to offset a nearly \$5 million reduction in revenue caused by the coronavirus shutdown.

"As the mayor has said repeatedly, 'We put the brakes on spending where we could,'"

Leonard said. "I compare it to a horse race. You have two horses: revenue and expenditures. Right now, the expenditures horse is in the lead, but the revenue horse is catching up."

The early numbers from the budget talks: \$63.8 million in projected operating revenue, which is off 5 percent from FY 2020 and expenditures of \$62.6 million, off 4 percent from the previous year.

A public hearing is scheduled for Sept. 1

and the City Council will vote on the new budget Sept. 15.

The city operates on a fiscal year that runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

► Online: See city financial info at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us)  
► YouTube: See an archive of City Council meetings  
► BTv: See replays at 9 a.m., 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. daily.

## News & notes

### 2020 STORM SEASON

**The status:** Biloxi hasn't seen a serious threat in the 2020 Hurricane Season, but make no mistake, the season is off to a record start: Nine named storms since June 1, "the most ever recorded since the satellite era began in 1966," according to NOAA.

**What to expect:** NOAA predicts that 10 to 16 more storms will be named by the end of the season on Nov. 1. No word on how many would make it from the Atlantic into the Gulf of Mexico – or even make landfall.

**How to prepare:** Here's the advice from the authorities:

- Have a plan.
- Gather supplies and make a storm kit.
- Trim back dead or weak branches from trees.
- Check on flood insurance.
- Develop an emergency communications plan in case family members are separated during a disaster.
- Know your evacuation zone and route. Plan for alternate routes and travel time.
- Make arrangements for pets. Contact your local humane society for more info on shelters that accept pets.
- For details to make sure you are prepared before, during and after a storm, go to the city's website, [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us), and click on the Storm and Flood Preparedness tab on the home page.
- Hear more from Biloxi Emergency Manager Nick Geiser on the city's YouTube Channel. Visit online and click on R U Ready library.



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# BILOXI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In the Biloxi School District, we are proud of the ways our teachers and students have embraced today's challenges.



*"So much of what we do in classrooms is driven by student responses and reactions. So far, it's been our goal to figure out new and innovative ways of how to light up their faces, encourage questions and answers, and provide positive reinforcement from a distance. We have been working on how to continue to build connections and facilitate interactive learning with all the technology at our fingertips. Teachers are stepping up to the plate and students are embracing the challenge!"*

Olivia Geiser  
Elementary Instructional Coach



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[biloxischools.net](https://biloxischools.net)



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# The roads to the future

## Taking stock of major roadwork in Biloxi

One of the changes Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich made shortly after he became mayor was to move the Engineering Division from the Public Works Department and elevate Engineering into a full-fledged city department.

“With the amount of improvements that we wanted to make and the work we have underway or on the drawing board, it’s important that we cut out another layer of bureaucracy,” Gilich said. “And today we can see the progress.”

Plans for nearly every major street, drainage or construction project in the city, even those only dreamed about, go through the city’s Engineering Department, headed by Christy LeBatard.

LeBatard, a Professional Engineer, had worked in the city’s Engineering Division for 17 years before being named head of the department in 2015.

Today, her 17-member department of engineers and other staff, has a hand in examining more than \$80 million in public improvement projects, plus the \$355 million in infrastructure work.

Here’s the word on what’s happening today, outside of the infrastructure work.



Christy LeBatard

**There are long-term and short-term projects underway right now. Speak to what people are seeing under construction right now and what’s coming up in the next few months.**

Right now we have an \$80 million capital projects budget with over 45 projects either in design or construction phases. Of those, 20 projects are in active construction either just breaking ground or nearing completion.

One of the largest active projects (other than the Katrina infrastructure work) is the Keesler “Inside the Gate” project combined with the “Outside the Gate” project. The inside the gate project is a \$6.2 million construction contract that includes a round-about at Forrest Avenue with a four-lane boulevard going into the base all the way to Larcher Boulevard.

This will become the new main gate for Keesler once the federal government completes all the necessary buildings. In conjunction with that project, the city has out to bid the outside the gate project, which will transform Division Street from the Forrest Avenue round-about to I-110 into a four-lane boulevard with a divided median.

This project is expected to cost approximately \$17.2 million when you include the cost of right-of-way acquisition and design. You can expect to see construction start on Division Street sometime in early 2021.

This is a project that we are especially proud of because this new gate has been talked about for my entire career and we’re finally making it happen!

There are many other projects that aren’t quite as big but are just as important such as reconstruction of Point Cadet Marina West to a floating dock system; new beach boardwalks connecting Oak Street to the Small Craft Harbor, and, in West Biloxi, replacement of water lines in the Tanglewood subdivision, extension of Medical Park Drive to Ellzey Place, and Bayview Avenue Boardwalk just to name a few.

**There also seem to be a host of long-term projects, such as the**

**Popp’s Ferry Bridge and extending Popp’s Ferry Road all the way to 90. Where are we on those?**

The Popp’s Ferry Bridge and the Popp’s Ferry Extension projects are only two phases of Mayor Gilich’s long-term plan for the Biloxi Beach Connector Road, which will connect U.S. 90 to Woolmarket. The Popp’s Ferry Extension Project (from U.S. 90 to Pass Road)

is almost complete with purchasing of right-of-way and still is short on funding. We’ve applied for various grants to cover the shortfall and are keeping our fingers crossed that one of those grants is approved so we can begin construction.

The Popp’s Ferry Bridge is the second component of this project and it is still moving forward even though I know it doesn’t seem like it. We’ve actually completed the Environmental Assessment phase of the project and are finalizing the right-of-way plans as we speak. We have to work with MDOT to obtain approval of the right of way prior to beginning property acquisition. But I don’t want Popp’s Ferry homeowners to get excited yet; we’re still a long way from purchasing property. With a project of this size and scope, approvals

alone can sometimes take years.

And the third and final phase of this long-term plan will be the extension of Popp’s Ferry Road north to the Woolmarket I-10 exit, which involves another bridge. Once that phase is completed, Mayor Gilich’s dream of a Biloxi Beach Connector Road will be realized!

**In addition to the city’s public improvement projects, there seems to have been an increase in private contractors installing fiber optics and other private utilities on major streets and in neighborhoods. What’s up with that?**

In early 2018, we started tracking private utility installations in the city rights-of-way. To date, we have issued more than 300 permits resulting in almost 230 miles of private utility installations, the majority of which is new fiber optic lines by C Spire but also include other fiber optics, gas, telephone, power, and cable.

**What is your response to people of Woolmarket who wonder if they are getting their fair share of streets and drainage work? What is going on in Woolmarket right now in terms of streets and drainage and what’s in the offing?**

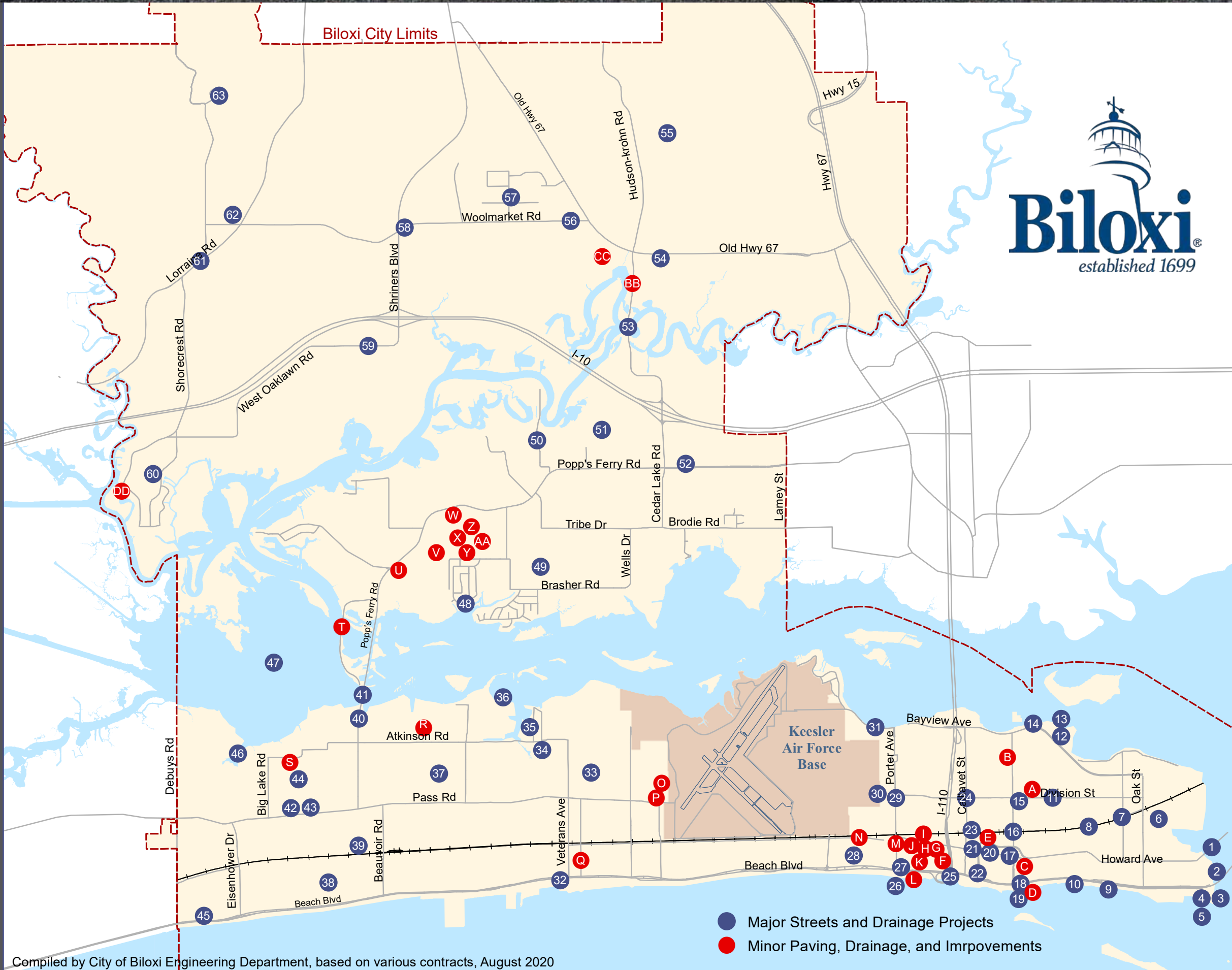
Recently completed in Woolmarket are new water and sewer lines in the Woolmarket Plantation Subdivision north of Woolmarket Road; those utilities cost approximately \$4.7 million to install. The city also installed sewer lines on the west side of Woolmarket Road from Lorraine Road almost to Shorecrest Road for a cost of \$2.4 million.

In the works now we have a \$1 million project for new sidewalks in Woolmarket, which will extend sidewalks along Lorraine Road and Woolmarket Road to provide better pedestrian connectivity and a safer walking route to Woolmarket Elementary.

Eagle Point Park is also under construction. It is a \$500,000 project that adds a walking track and a soccer field where an old sewer lagoon used to be. The city is anticipating additional tidelands funding in the future to add a pavilion, restroom, basketball court and possibly a pickleball court.

► See a detailed look at projects citywide, Pages 8-9

August 2020 status of major projects



| Major streets and drainage projects, cost and status            |   |                |                      |
|---|---|----------------|----------------------|
| Includes under design, under construction, pending or completed |   |                |                      |
| 1   | Hwy 90 Fish Bridge Lights                       | \$170,000      | Under Construction   |
| 2   | East Biloxi Public Access                       | \$1.9 million  | Complete             |
| 3   | Point Cadet Boardwalk                           | \$700,000      | Complete             |
| 4   | Point Cadet Marina Electrical Upgrades          | \$250,000      | Complete             |
| 5   | Point Cadet Marina Improvements                 | \$18 million   | Design               |
| 6   | Sixth Street South Infrastructure (SXSS)        | \$10.5 million | Under Construction   |
| 7   | CSX Railroad Closures                           | \$50,000       | Construction Pending |
| 8   | East Biloxi Connector Roadway                   | \$1.1 million  | Under Construction   |
| 9   | Kuhn Street Boat Ramp Expansion                 | \$1 million    | Design               |
| 10  | Small Craft to Oak Street Boardwalk             | \$3.0 million  | Design               |
| 11  | North Contract (Katrina Infrastructure)         | \$129 million  | Under Construction   |
| 12  | Canaan Fishing Dock Reconstruction              | \$5 million    | Design               |
| 13  | Canaan Fishing Dock Maintenance                 | \$250,000      | Design               |
| 14  | Old Brick House Sidewalk & Living Shoreline     | \$75,000       | Complete             |
| 15  | John Henry Beck Park Restrooms                  | \$200,000      | Complete             |
| 16  | Main Street Railroad Crossing Upgrades          | \$210,000      | Design               |
| 17  | Howard Avenue Project                           | \$2.2 million  | Complete             |
| 18  | Small Craft Pedestrian Overpass                 | \$2.4 million  | Complete             |
| 19  | Port Commission Building Roof Repairs           | \$175,000      | Under Construction   |
| 20  | Saenger Theater Interior Renovations            | \$3 million    | Conceptual           |
| 21  | Saenger Theater Exterior Repairs                | \$2 million    | Under Construction   |
| 22  | South Contract Phase 2 (BVE 1 & 2)              | \$24 million   | Design               |
| 23  | CSX Passenger Train Platform                    | \$400,000      | Design               |
| 24  | East Biloxi Recreational Facility               | \$500,000      | Design               |
| 25  | Lighthouse Pier Repairs                         | \$160,000      | Complete             |
| 26  | South Contract Phase 1 (BWV 1 & 2)              | \$23.4 million | Under Construction   |
| 27  | Visitors Center Renovations                     | \$100,000      | Design               |
| 28  | Cemetery Digital Mapping Phase 2                | \$20,000       | Complete             |
| 29  | Keesler Gate Outside Project                    | \$18.3 million | Design               |
| 30  | Keesler Gate Inside Project                     | \$6.2 million  | Under Construction   |
| 31  | Bayview Waterfront Restoration Project          | \$2.0 million  | Design               |
| 32  | West Beach Boardwalk Phase 1B                   | \$2.5 million  | Under Construction   |
| 33  | Out of Phase Pump Stations                      | \$4.4 million  | Complete             |
| 34  | Hiller Park Playground Covers                   | \$20,000       | Complete             |
| 35  | Hiller Park Recreational Trails                 | \$45,000       | Complete             |
| 36  | Bent Oaks Sediment Removal                      | \$85,000       | Construction Pending |
| 37  | Tanglewood Infrastructure Repairs               | \$1.0 million  | Design               |
| 38  | Pine Grove Drainage                             | \$200,000      | Complete             |
| 39  | Popp's Ferry Extension                          | \$18.3 million | Design               |
| 40  | Popp's Ferry Bridge From Riverview to Pass Road | \$75.0 million | Design               |
| 41  | Popp's Ferry Bridge Submarine Cable             | \$1.4 million  | Complete             |
| 42  | Snyder Center Roof Repairs                      | \$151,000      | Complete             |
| 43  | Snyder Center Chiller Replacement               | \$100,000      | Complete             |
| 44  | Churchill Avenue Drainage                       | \$400,000      | Design               |
| 45  | West Contract (Katrina Infrastructure)          | \$33.5 million | Design               |
| 46  | Goose Point Sediment Removal                    | \$150,000      | Construction Pending |
| 47  | Sediment Removal Master Plan                    | \$75,000       | Design               |
| 48  | Holly Hills Dredging                            | \$205,000      | Complete             |
| 49  | Malpass Landing Drainage                        | \$200,000      | Design               |
| 50  | Campbell Drive Drainage                         | \$10,000       | Complete             |
| 51  | Elizey Street Extension to Medical Park Dr      | \$1.0 million  | Under Construction   |
| 52  | Fire Station 7                                  | \$4.2 million  | Complete             |
| 53  | Cedar Lake Bridge Repairs                       | \$900,000      | Design               |
| 54  | Fire Station 10                                 | \$2.4 million  | Complete             |
| 55  | Mason Road Waterline                            | \$500,000      | Conceptual           |
| 56  | Woolmarket Road East Drainage                   | \$3.5 million  | Design               |
| 57  | Woolmarket Plantation Water                     | \$1.4 million  | Complete             |
| 58  | Woolmarket Road Sidewalks                       | \$1.0 million  | Design               |
| 59  | Eagle Point Infrastructure Phase 2 (EPT2)       | \$1.5 million  | Complete             |
| 60  | Eagle Point Park                                | \$525,000      | Under Construction   |
| 61  | Lorraine Road Waterline                         | \$200,000      | Construction Pending |
| 62  | Woolmarket City Center Renovations              | \$250,000      | Complete             |
| 63  | Belle La Vie Parkway                            | \$1.5 million  | Under Construction   |
| Minor Paving, Drainage, and Improvements, cost and status       |   |                |                      |
| Includes under design, under construction, pending or completed |   |                |                      |
| A   | Huff Alley Paving                               | \$1,200        | Complete             |
| B   | Moran Alley Paving                              | \$11,000       | Complete             |
| C   | Dukate Street Paving                            | \$14,000       | Complete             |
| D   | Small Craft Harbor Parking Lot Paving           | \$42,300       | Complete             |
| E   | MLK/Saenger Parking Lot Paving                  | \$90,200       | Complete             |
| F   | Baltar lane Paving                              | \$14,500       | Complete             |
| G   | Seal Avenue Paving                              | \$17,400       | Complete             |
| H   | Oak Grove Place Paving                          | \$4,800        | Complete             |
| I   | Iroquois Street Paving                          | \$8,100        | Complete             |
| J   | Joachim Place Paving                            | \$7,400        | Complete             |
| K   | Suter Place Paving                              | \$8,600        | Complete             |
| L   | Lighthouse Parking Lot Statue Base              | \$10,700       | Complete             |
| M   | Porter Avenue Paving                            | \$16,700       | Complete             |
| N   | Irish Hill Paving                               | \$23,000       | Complete             |
| O   | Lewis Avenue Paving                             | \$18,400       | Complete             |
| P   | Savant Street Paving                            | \$9,700        | Complete             |
| Q   | McDonnell Avenue Paving                         | \$107,000      | Complete             |
| R   | Woodland Park Drive Paving                      | \$15,000       | Complete             |
| S   | Pennzoil-McManus Park Walking Trail Paving      | \$15,000       | Complete             |
| T   | Causeway Drive Paving                           | \$93,000       | Complete             |
| U   | Baywood Drive Paving                            | \$90,800       | Complete             |
| V   | Darwood Drive Paving                            | \$6,200        | Complete             |
| W   | Rustwood Drive Paving                           | \$89,500       | Complete             |
| X   | Carolwood Drive Paving (West portion)           | \$22,200       | Complete             |
| Y   | Trailwood Drive Paving                          | \$19,100       | Complete             |
| Z   | Carolwood Drive Paving (East portion)           | \$19,000       | Complete             |
| AA  | Camp Wilkes Road Paving                         | \$40,000       | Complete             |
| BB  | Cedar Lake Road Paving                          | \$78,000       | Complete             |
| CC  | Hattie K Road Paving                            | \$18,500       | Complete             |
| DD  | Webb Lane Paving                                | \$2,100        | Complete             |





# City seeks proposals for building, former clinic

The City of Biloxi, which saved several homes on Division Street and gave new life to the former Magnolia Hotel, is seeking potential interest in a storied location on Lameuse Street.

The two-story concrete block and brick veneer structure, at 282 Lameuse Street, just south of Division, was constructed in 1974 by local contractor and civic leader Lloyd T. Moon.

He used the site as his construction company headquarters for nearly three decades before selling the building in 2003 to the city, which would use it to house Coastal Family Health Clinic.

## Need more info?

Online: Click on the bids button and visit the plans room at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us).

Questions? Call 228-435-6252

edition of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," a program that aired nationally on ABC. Coastal Family Health operated in the building until 2013.

The building, now vacant, offers about 3,000-square feet of space. The purchase price, the city's public notice says, will be one of four factors. Others include bidder's plan for developing the property and timeline.

The city was recently able to sell and relocate old Division Street houses to expand rights-of-way needed for the new Keesler gateway, and the city recently sold the dormant Magnolia Hotel to a developer who has plans to locate a new restaurant in the former home of the Mardi Gras Museum.



Keesler students gaming, masking up and social distancing in the Fishbowl.

## Students get their game on

By Airman 1st Class Seth Haddix, 81st Training Wing Public Affairs

Keesler Air Force Base is home to an average of more than 2,700 students a day, training in an array of career fields and instructing not only members of the Air Force but those in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and civilian federal agencies. But how do all those students associate and connect with one another during a pandemic? They play in the Fishbowl, with safety precautions of course.

"Gaming is a great way to build relationships and connect people," said Chaplain (Capt.) R. Shaughn Casey, 81st Training Group chaplain. "Establishing

positive and healthy relationships within our Airmen is important. They understand each other and what they are all going through. From interacting with students from different squadrons or even different branches, the Fishbowl helps them create new friendships and gives them a place to not feel alone."

To maintain the 81st Training Wing's priority of training and developing premier war-fighters, technical training students are secluded to the training area to stay safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Fishbowl, inside the Levitow Training Support Facility, is an area dedicated to providing

students an area to enjoy and connect with one another, which includes a game room.

"The Airmen are stuck in their room with only themselves and their thoughts," said Casey. "Being alone creates a skewed perspective and everything can become overwhelming. The Fishbowl allows them to relate with other students that are experiencing the same thing. Friendships are very valuable and it reminds them that they are not alone."

Multiplayer games such as Super Smash Bros., Mario Kart and more are available to play, as well as virtual reality. Airmen are required to wear a face mask, bring their own equipment and sanitize items after use.

"The Fishbowl is the place for

Airmen to relax with their fellow wingmen," said Airman 1st Class Christian Johnston, 335th Training Squadron student. "It encourages the students to get out of their dorms and enjoy their technical training experience with each other."

The Fishbowl was initially created to boost morale for students but has become an avenue for resiliency during a difficult time.

"The Airmen have built this together," said Casey. "They have developed this community through problem solving and teamwork. Building relationships and problem-solving prepares the

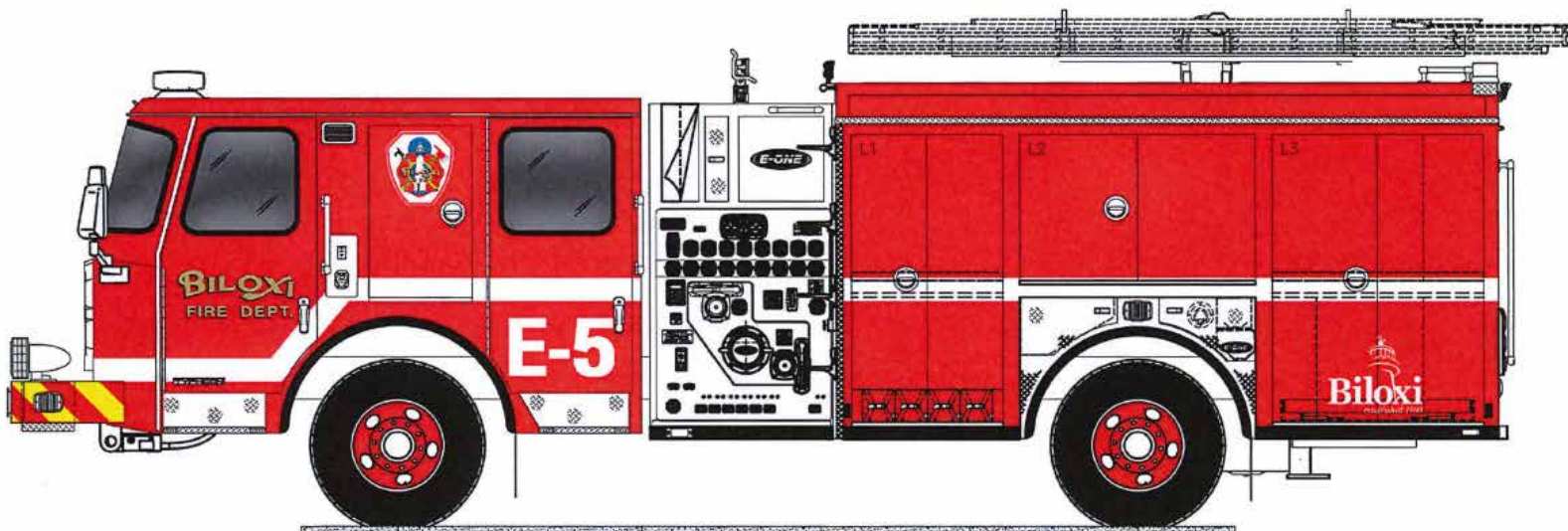
Airmen to withstand the challenges that lie ahead of them.



The Levitow Training Support Facility in 2018 during an Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team routine.

[www.keesler.af.mil](http://www.keesler.af.mil)





# New fire trucks are lean and 'green'

Two new fire trucks will be joining the Biloxi Fire Department fleet in a couple of months, and although they'll be red on the outside, they're actually "green trucks."

The trucks, at a half-million dollars each and scheduled to go in service downtown and in West Biloxi in November, are part of the fire service effort to diminish the chances of firefighters contracting cancer from continued exposure to carcinogens.

"Green trucks" is a term that refers to the efforts to reduce carcinogens intake to the firefighters," Fire Chief Joe Boney said. "The trucks are designed and built around that concept. We have special compartments to put their turnout gear and their air packs. The cab is designed with no fabrics that could absorb carcinogens. On the pump panel there's a warm-water hose to decontaminate the firefighters."

The new fire trucks, which will be at Stations 1 (Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center) and Station 5 (Bay Vista), are smaller and shorter than previous Biloxi fire trucks, with more focus on firefighter safety.

"They're only 30 feet long instead of 34," Boney said. "They are lower to the ground for ergonomics, to allow firefighters to access equipment without having to climb onto the truck. Slips, trips and falls account for most of our injuries. These trucks also will allow us to maneuver neighborhood streets better and more safely."

When the fire trucks are constructed over the next couple of months and arrive in Biloxi in late November, it will end a process that began a year ago, when Boney appointed an apparatus committee of firefighters to suggest improvements that could be built into the design of the new truck.

Members of the apparatus committee: Firefighters John David Parker, Justin Lopez, John Massey, Cory Mooney and Jerry Worzella.

"We feel it's important to hear from the



## Follow the progress

Right now, they look like something out of the Terminator sci-fi movies: Elements of metal and aluminum (top left) being formed, cut and pieced together in a factory, and given an outer coating (top right), to match the designs (right).

The new rides of the Biloxi Fire Department aren't expected on the streets of Biloxi until late November, but you can see construction progress online now.

Check in regularly on the two Biloxi trucks at [e-oneinprocess.com](http://e-oneinprocess.com). To see the Biloxi trucks, enter 143684 or 143685.



firefighters about what we want to see in a new fire truck," Boney said. "The majority of the year-long process in the delivery of a new fire truck is tied up in the design.

"You have to remember that it's not like buying a new car," Boney said. "There's no show room where you just pick one off the display room floor.

"These trucks are built to our specifications, and the manufacturer has to make sure that every outlet and discharge device is right where it needs to be. Only about 60 to 90 days is in the actual construction."

Right now, Boney and others in the Biloxi Fire Department follow progress, in part, through photos posted regularly by Ocala-based E-One, a firm that bills itself as a leading manufacturer of firefighting vehicles. In fact, you can watch the trucks being built at [e-oneinprocess.com](http://e-oneinprocess.com).

The two new trucks join the existing BFD fleet

of 14 pumpers and four aerials.

Besides being shorter than existing trucks, other frills will be absent, Boney said: No aluminum wheels, and red roofs (most are painted white).

However, the trucks will be equipped with two types of sirens: A typical electronic siren used by most emergency vehicles and a siren that emits a mechanical, wind-up sound, whose waves better penetrate the sealed compartments of today's modern vehicles.

No bells, either. "Bells are expensive," the chief said with a laugh. "They serve no purpose except for looks. That's what we're trying to get away from. These trucks are designed and built with the mindset of it being a work truck. However, we do have a truck with a bell. It's a truck currently in Station 4, and we make sure that it's in every parade we have."



# My, oh my!

## There's no masking the flu parallels from a hundred years ago

Over a century ago, Biloxians dealt with a virus that spread worldwide, causing new rules, changes in daily lifestyles, and even the wearing of face masks. Sound familiar?

It was in 1918 and 1919, during the "Spanish Flu" or the "1918 influenza." You may remember a story from the May issue of BNews Monthly, titled "Peeking into Biloxi's Past: The Years of the Spanish Flu." We've delved back into the archives again to learn more about the impact on everyday life in Biloxi – and the parallels today.

October 1918 seems to be the height of the issuing of safety steps that changed the daily lives of Biloxians. The city's Mayor and Board of Alderman, in an effort to ensure public health and well-being, instructed citizens to carefully read and comply with important new rules caused by the outbreak.

Masks were a MUST. Following the guidelines of the United States Public Health Service, the public and all workers in businesses were required to wear masks. In fact, the American Red Cross pleaded with the public to assist with mask making. In those days, masks were made of gauze, the same material as bandages.

Of course, those masks, which were extremely porous, were not as efficient as those of today. There were even reports of folks then cutting holes in their masks to fit cigarettes and cigars!

Today, fancy electric sewing machines have been turning the midnight oil producing masks of all types. Modern fabric choices go far beyond gauze. Today's fashion designs have even added beads, embroidery, sequins, and fancy ribbons as a means of attracting wearers, enticing sales and complying with health regulations.

Besides the need for masks back in 1918, there was also a call for volunteer nurses and aides to help with caring for the ill.

The public was constantly reminded about social distancing and wearing masks. Guidelines were issued locally by the Red Cross, which was already busy producing gauze bandages for war relief efforts.

Masks were only a small part of the change

### Back in the Day BONUS



By Jane Shambra

in lifestyle that Biloxi encountered during the worldwide 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic.

Schools were temporarily closed. The local newspaper, "The Daily Herald," reported that schools were closed for six weeks.

In accordance with the United States Public Health Department, it was announced that no church services be held in Biloxi for some time.

Grocery stores ran daily ads offering free home delivery. The Peoples Cash Grocery on Howard Avenue advertised home delivery by calling a three-digit telephone number -214- with special prices on home-grown turnips, pigs feet, evaporated (dried) peaches, syrup, and oleo margarine.

Those caring for the ill, elderly, disabled, and small children were offered special deals on the delivery of chicken broth and soups.

Tremmel's Grocery, also on Howard Avenue, offered all sorts of jelly and jam delicacies to be delivered free of charge. It is interesting to note that in addition to grocery store ads, the "Daily Herald" newspaper also carried advertisements for Corona typewriters, a C-word we hear a lot of today.

Back in the day, telephone, telegraph and postal mail were the major means of communicating long distances. In 1918, it was announced that Western Union telegraph employees, telephone workers, and mailmen were also stricken with the disease, causing a serious delay in the delivery of news.

The Biloxi chapter of the Red Cross strongly encouraged private funeral services, possibly

## ATTENTION BILOXIANS

The following resolutions passed by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Biloxi, should be carefully read by each and every Biloxian:

All clerks and other persons waiting on or serving the public in mercantile establishments, meat markets, barber shops, fruit stands, conductors on street cars while taking up fares and all other places where the public is served, are urgently requested to wear masks such as are recommended by the United States Public Health Service.

The public generally are also requested to wear said masks while in any of the above mentioned places.

A strict compliance with the above is expected by the city and health authorities as they realize that without the assistance of the public generally the existing conditions of the city cannot improve.

All persons engaged in conversation are requested not to stand within four feet of each other.

The masks can be secured at the local Red Cross Headquarters.

A public notice from the Daily Herald, Oct. 19, 1918

in "open air" to reduce the threat of further spreading the epidemic.

There was also another interesting list of federal regulations the public of 1918 was expected to follow. The wording:

- Do not gather in crowds on streets.
- Do not enter crowded stores; use the telephone to order.
- Do not go visiting.
- Never sneeze or cough, except into a handkerchief.
- If you contract the influenza, go to bed and stay in bed until you are entirely well.
- Keep your feet dry.
- Keep your sleeping room windows open all night.

Like today, city leaders at the time were dealing with the influenza while daily life continued. Paving, construction, payroll, electric bills, fire and police protection, bridges, and even fuel costs were regular items on the agenda when city leaders met.

Added to those were the funds to house and shoe city-owned horses as well as securing an ice truck for regular delivery services.

Storm season did not take a break for the Spanish Flu. Reportedly, the Weather Bureau sent out news of a tropical storm near the Yucatan during that time, but the storm did not take a Biloxi path.

Biloxians have prevailed through many challenges, storms and yes, another pandemic. We do it again, but right now, remember to Mask Up, Biloxi.

# The infrastructure work in Biloxi

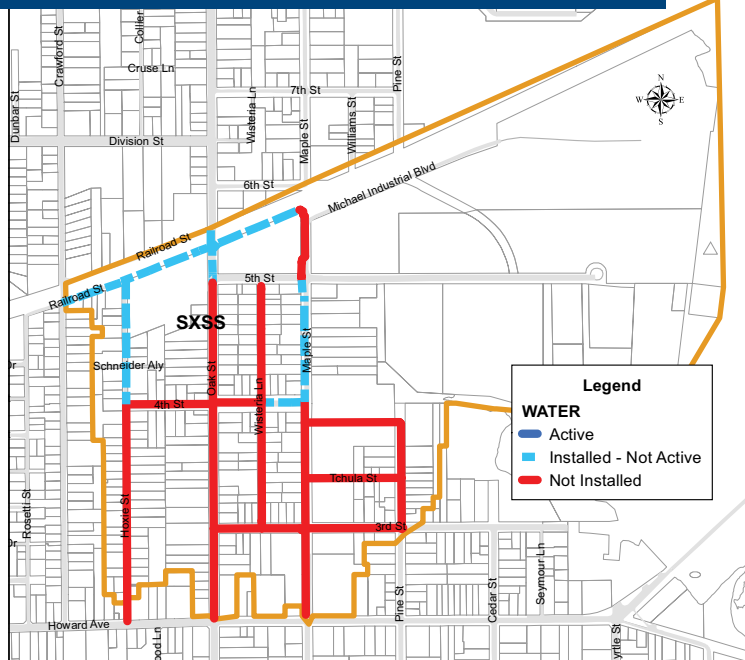
Pages 13 through 16 contain maps that show the status of the city's three major infrastructure projects now underway. The information on these maps is compiled by the city's Engineering Department, based on reports from contractors and inspectors at each site. See detailed maps and video online at [biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/](http://biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi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

## 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.

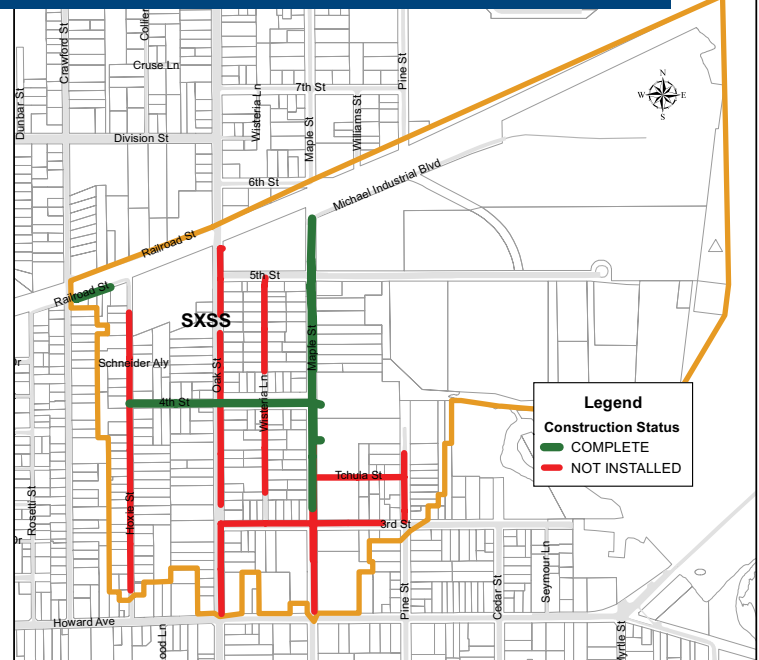
### Lane Construction Water

Water Mains to be installed as of August 14, 2020



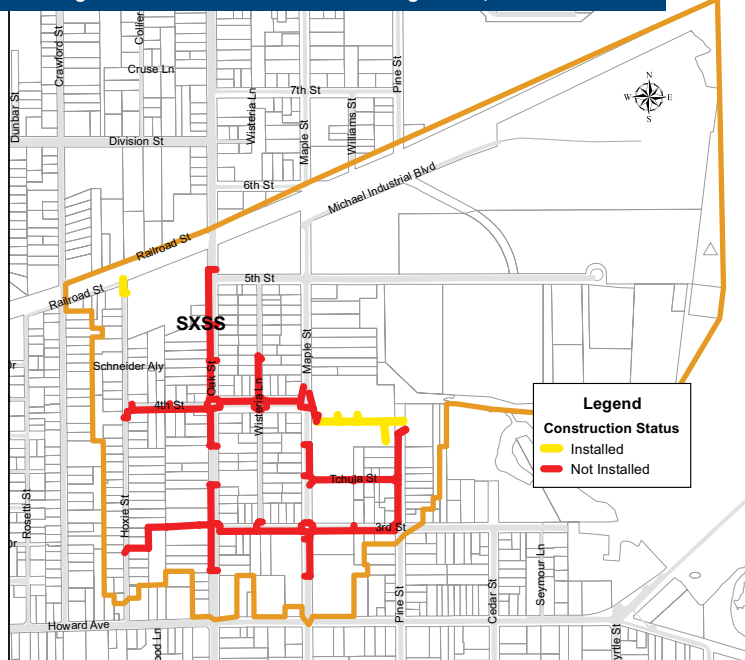
### Lane Construction Sewer

Sewer Mains to be installed as of August 14, 2020



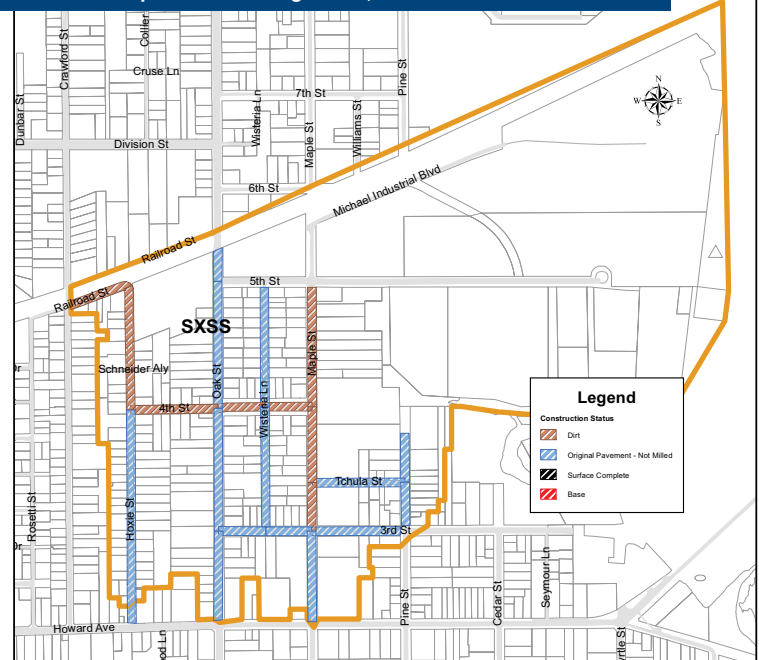
### Lane Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of August 14, 2020



### Lane Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of August 14, 2020





# The North Contract: Remaining Paving (as of August 14, 2020)



**Legend**

**PAVING**

**Construction Status**

Temporary Paving

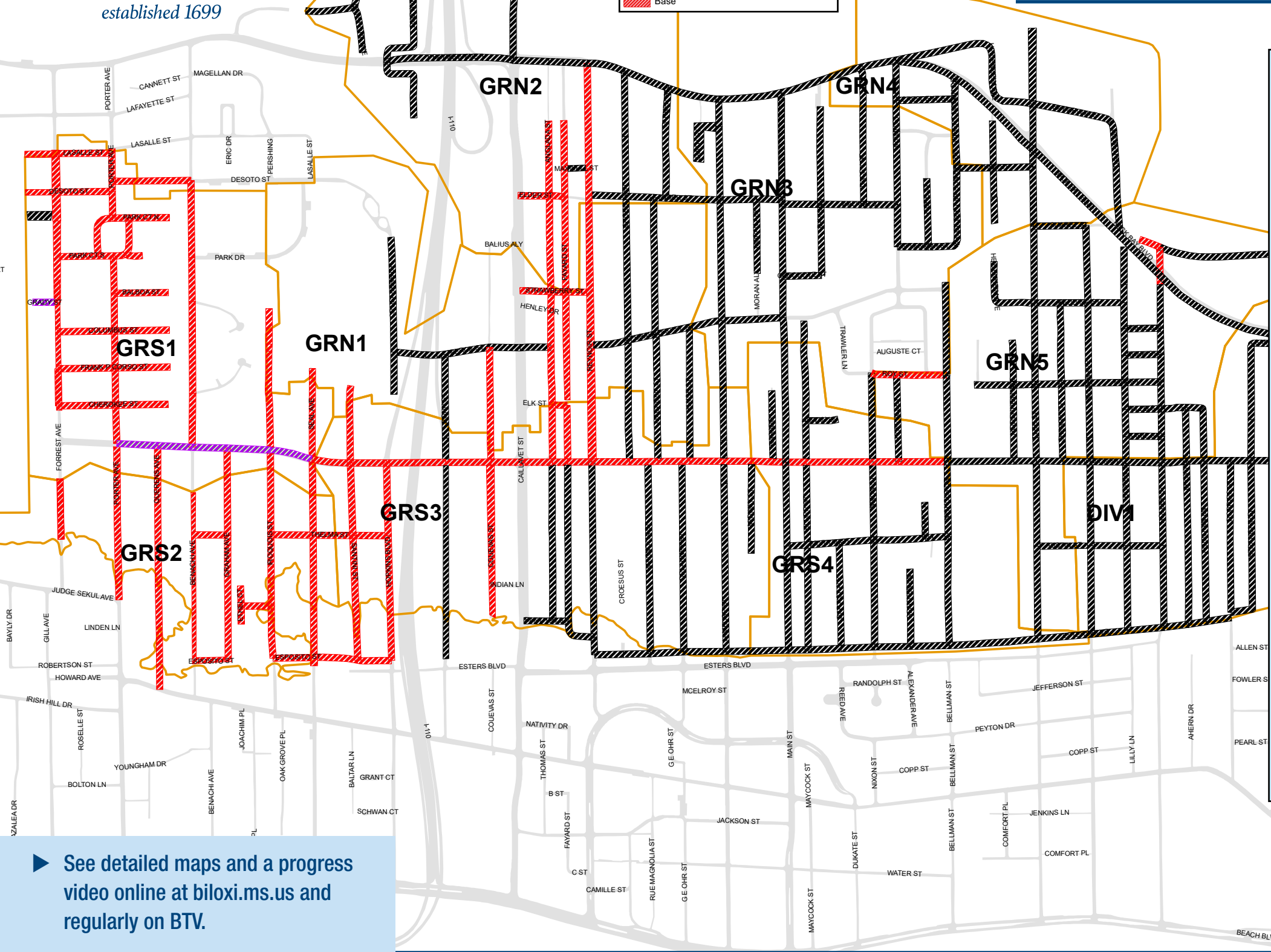
Oscar Renda Temporary Paving to Remain

Original Pavement - Not Milled

Surface Complete

Base

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



**North Contract Water** as of August 14, 2020

**Legend**

**WATER**

**Construction Status**

Active

Installed - Not Active

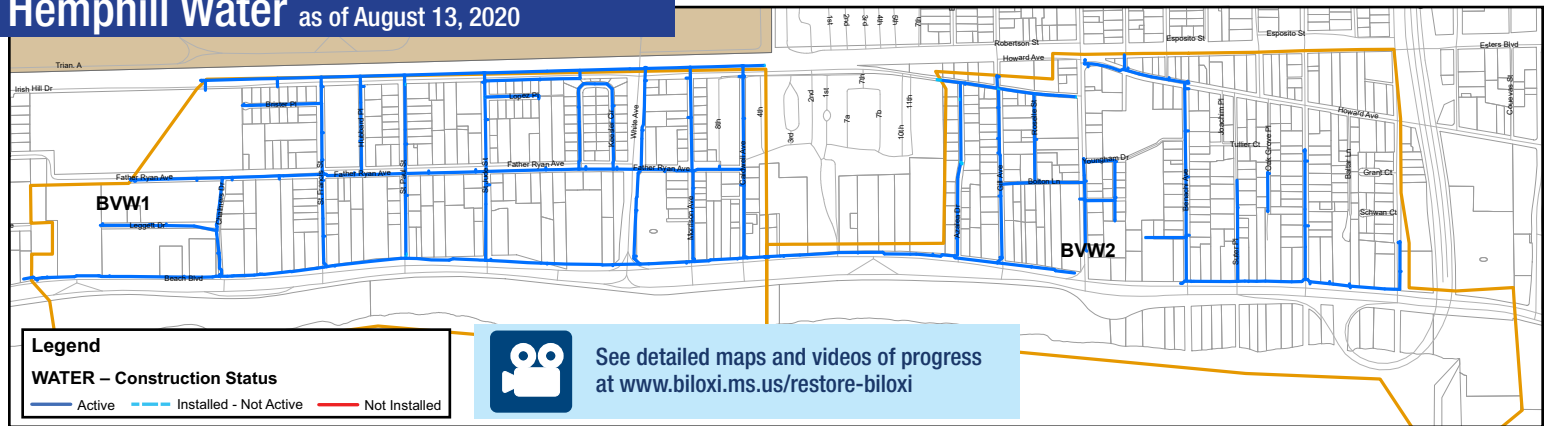
Not Installed

**North Contract Sewer** as of August 14, 2020**Legend****SEWER****Construction Status**COMPLETENOT INSTALLED**North Contract Drainage** as of August 14, 2020**Legend****DRAINAGE****Construction Status**InstalledNot Installed

► See detailed maps and a progress video online at [biloxi.ms.us](http://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 October 2, 2020.

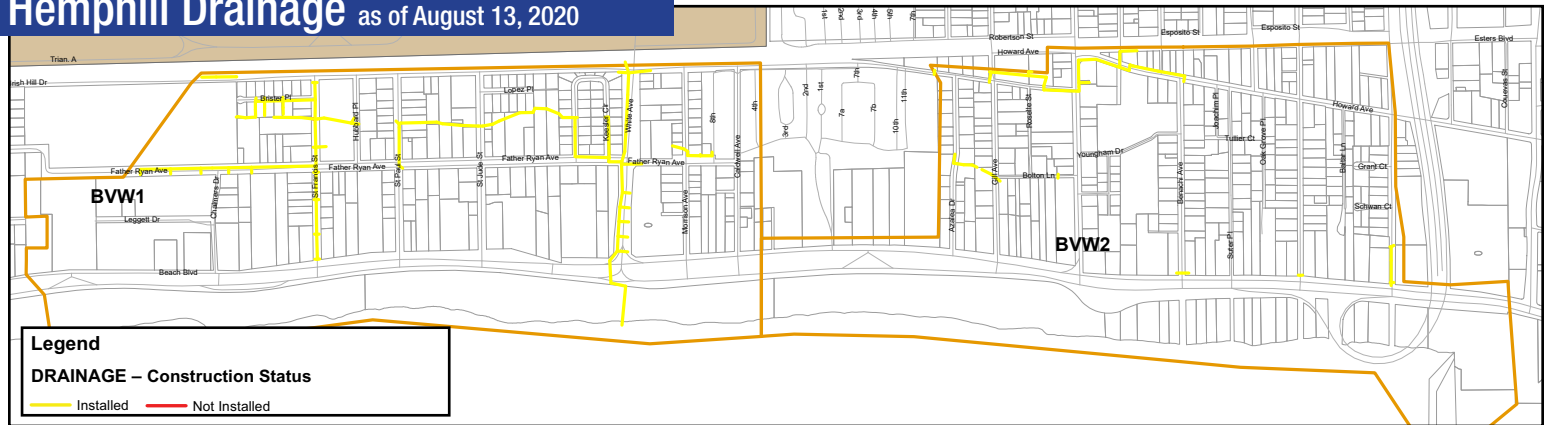
## Hemphill Water as of August 13, 2020



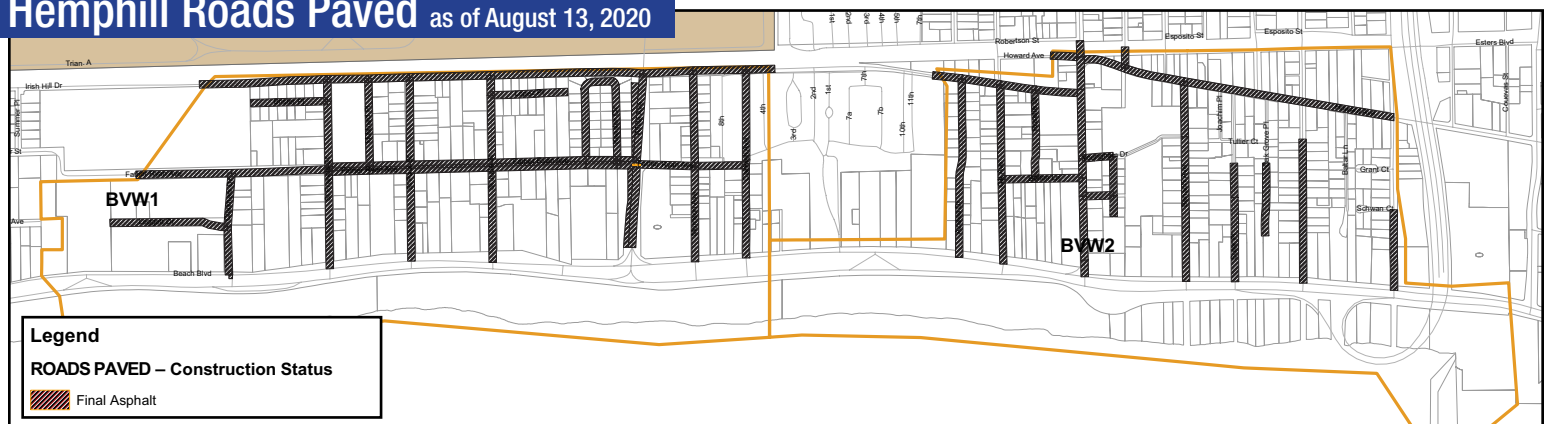
## Hemphill Sewer as of August 13, 2020



## Hemphill Drainage as of August 13, 2020



## Hemphill Roads Paved as of August 13, 2020





## Best Bet!



## "Ball Fore!"

These days at MGM Park you are more likely to hear "Fore" instead of "Ball Four." That's because Schooner's Landing Tee Off is back for Round 2! After a successful run in July at transforming the park into a golf experience, golfers can once again "drive the green" at the park. There are two options to choose from, the Nine-Hole Course or the Target Challenge. "It's a fun and unique experience that almost anyone can enjoy," said Hunter Reed, Shuckers General Manager. "The Nine-Hole Course is fun and doable for first time golfers and the Target Challenge, well that's just a fun way to get together, enjoy some beverages with a fantastic view and take some swings with some good music playing in the background." So, whether your golf swing is more of a bogey or an eagle, one thing is for sure, no one needs to hit the "birdie" at the ballfield. Safety guidelines are followed and fees begin at \$25. Details: 228-271-3472, info@biloxishuckers.com.

Events subject to change without notice.

**Biloxi Community Market**, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6 a.m.-4 p.m., under I-110 overpass off Hopkins and Howard. Market vendors social distanced and selling produce, plants, jams and jellies. Face covering required. Details: 228-388-7170

### **Biloxi Natatorium lap swimming**,

Weekdays, 5 a.m.-8 p.m., 1384 Father Ryan Ave. The city's Olympic size swimming pool is open for lap swimming only. Adult lap swimming – age 18 and older – from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. and youth lap swimming – age 12 to 17 – from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Safety protocols include no more than two swimmers per lane, alternating sides; entrance through southwest double doors; exit through one of the gates; waiting area closed; and locker rooms and showers accessible upon exit and limited to 15 minute use and three per area. Face covering required while not in the water. Admission fee required. Details: 228-435-6205

### **Mystery of the Sea Sand Sculpture**, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. daily through October,

Edgewater Mall, 2500 Beach Blvd. A 75-ton sand sculpture on display inside the mall. Themed Mystery of the Sea, the sculpture includes hidden objects sculpted into the sand to create an interactive exhibit for guests. Free admission.



**Million Dollar Job Fair**, Sept. 2, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Edgewater Mall, 2600 Beach Blvd. Details: jobfair@telesouth.com

**Schooner's Landing Tee Off at MGM Park**, Sept. 4-6 and 11-13, times vary, MGM Park, 105 Caillavet St. The Biloxi Shuckers are bringing back "Schooner's Landing" for Round 2. Admission begins at \$25 per person. Details: 228-233-3465

**Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center**, reopens Sept. 8, weekdays 6 a.m.-7 p.m., 2520 Pass Road. Call for hours and safety protocols. Details: 228-388-1340

**Community Market Festival**, Sept. 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Under I-110 overpass off Hopkins Boulevard and Howard Avenue. Specialty vendors, prize drawings every 15-minute, and live entertainment. Admission is free. Details: 228-435-6339



## Best Bet!



## Cruise on the Betsy Ann

Sunsets, cuisine, and history are all part of the Betsy Ann experience. Aboard the old-fashioned paddlewheel boat for a Sunset Eco-Tour with a colorful narration by the captain, a Hibachi Dinner Cruise with a hot meal prepared by Chef Hung Hurlly or a Historical and Ecological Tour spotlighting the coast's seafood industry, the Barrier Islands and wildlife along the Mississippi Sound. If a private charter is more your cup of tea, then give the captain a call for availability. Who knows, you may even see some dolphins while cruising the sea! Details, including cruise times and fees: www.betsyannriverboat.com; 228-229-4270.



# Stay in touch

**BNews:** Welcome to the 28th 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](mailto:kmiller@biloxi.ms.us).

**Bmail:** The city provides information about projects and events via email. Sign up at [biloxi.ms.us/register](http://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](mailto: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](http://biloxi.ms.us), is the comprehensive digest of city information. The website also has links to the city's Facebook and YouTube platforms.

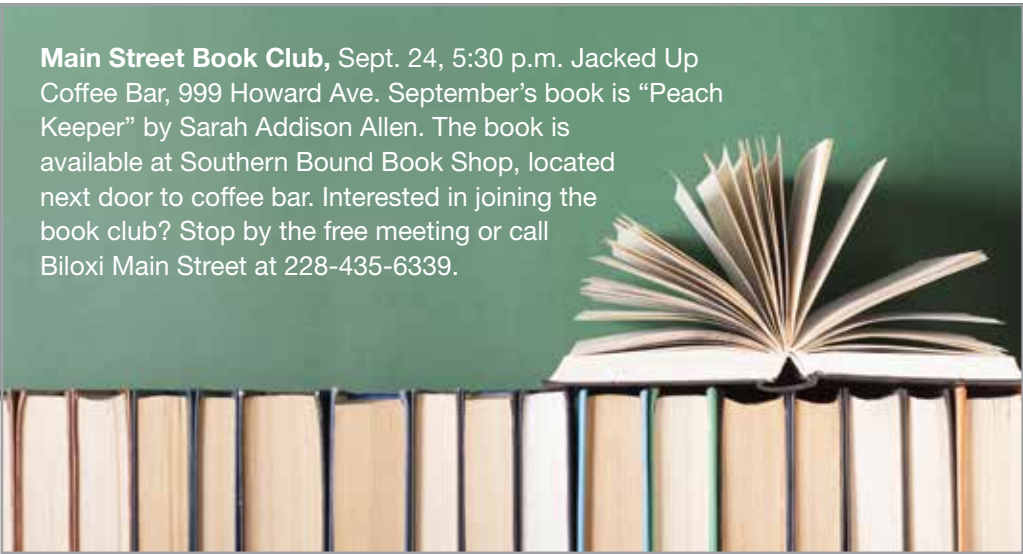
Vincent Creel, Public Affairs Manager  
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Cecilia Dobbs Walton, Public Affairs Specialist  
[cdobbswalton@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:cdobbswalton@biloxi.ms.us)

## 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
- 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



**Main Street Book Club,** Sept. 24, 5:30 p.m. Jacked Up Coffee Bar, 999 Howard Ave. September's book is "Peach Keeper" by Sarah Addison Allen. The book is available at Southern Bound Book Shop, located next door to coffee bar. Interested in joining the book club? Stop by the free meeting or call Biloxi Main Street at 228-435-6339.



**First Friday Downtown,** Resumes October 5, instead of September as stated in the August Community Calendar. For more details on the Downtown event, contact the Biloxi Main Street office. Details: 228-435-6339



**Twenty-fourth Annual Cruisin' The Coast,** Oct. 4-11. Thousands of classic cars converge on the Gulf Coast for a week of cruising along U.S. 90, rock 'n' roll shows, sock hops, swap meets, and other entertainment. Details: 228-385-3847; [www.cruisinthecoast.com](http://www.cruisinthecoast.com).





**Biloxi Little Theatre**

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

**Center Stage**

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

**Biloxi Schooners**

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

- Walk-on sunset sails, charters, or sails to Horn Island. Minimum of six passengers for Walk on Sail, and available when schooners are unchartered. Guests are welcome to bring food and refreshments aboard. Ice and chests will be provided. Admission: \$30 per adult; \$15 per child ages 5 -12.

**Biloxi Shrimping Trip**

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

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

**Biloxi Tour Train**

Biloxi Lighthouse Park parking lot  
South of Biloxi Visitors Center  
Traffic light #40  
228-374-8687, www.biloxitourtrain.com

- Tours daily. Call for reservations.  
Experience the history of Biloxi with a ride on an open-air train

**Betsy Ann Riverboat Cruise**

173 Beach Blvd., 228-229-4270  
betsyannriverboat@gmail.com, bestyannriverboat.com

- Historical & Ecological Tour, and Sunset Eco Tours

**Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum**

762 Howard Ave., 228-314-4747, <https://www.facebook.com/biloximardigrasmuseum/>

**Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum**

115 1st St., 228-435-6320, www.maritimemuseum.org

**Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art**

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

- 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

**West End Hose Co. No. 3 Fire Museum**

1046 Howard Ave., 435-6119/435-6200, www.biloxi.ms.us

- Historic 1937 fire house open Saturdays 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment

**Biloxi Elks 606 Lodge of Biloxi**

1178 Beach Blvd., 228-374-0606

- **Friday Bingo**, Sept. 4, 11, 18 & 25; Doors open at 5 p.m.; Early bird begins at 6:30 p.m.; Regular games at 7 p.m.; Cash payouts and door prizes. Concessions available.
- **Sunday Bingo**, Sept. 6, 13, 20 & 27; Doors open at noon; Early bird begins at 2 p.m.; Regular games at 2:30 p.m.; Cash payouts. Concessions available.
- **Safety protocols**: six-foot social distancing, contact tracing forms to be completed, temperature taken, hands to be sanitized, and masks required.

**Fleur de Lis Society of Biloxi (French Club)**

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

**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](http://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   |
|--|---------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| <div>30</div> <div>Sunday Bingo<br/>Biloxi Elks Lodge</div>  | <div>31</div> | <div>1Community Market</div>  | <div>2</div> <div>Million Dollar Job Fair<br/>Edgewater Mall</div> | <div>3Community Market</div>  | <div>4</div> <div>Schooner's Landing Tee Off<br/>MGM Park</div> <div>Friday Bingo<br/>Biloxi Elks Lodge</div>  | <div>5</div> <div>Schooner's Landing Tee Off<br/>MGM Park</div>  |
| <div>6</div> <div>Schooner's Landing Tee Off<br/>MGM Park</div> <div>Sunday Bingo<br/>Biloxi Elks Lodge</div>  | <div>7</div>  | <div>8Community Market</div> <div>Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center Reopens</div> | <div>9</div>   | <div>10Community Market</div>   | <div>11</div> <div>Schooner's Landing Tee Off<br/>MGM Park</div> <div>Friday Bingo<br/>Biloxi Elks Lodge</div> | <div>12</div> <div>Schooner's Landing Tee Off<br/>MGM Park</div> |
| <div>13</div> <div>Schooner's Landing Tee Off<br/>MGM Park</div> <div>Sunday Bingo<br/>Biloxi Elks Lodge</div> | <div>14</div> | <div>15Community Market</div>   | <div>16</div>  | <div>17Community Market</div>   | <div>18</div> <div>Friday Bingo<br/>Biloxi Elks Lodge</div>  | <div>19</div>  |
| <div>20</div> <div>Sunday Bingo<br/>Biloxi Elks Lodge</div>  | <div>21</div> | <div>22Community Market</div>   | <div>23</div>  | <div>24Community Market</div> <div><br/>Festival<br/>Main Street Book Club<br/>Jacked Up Coffee Bar</div> | <div>25</div> <div>Friday Bingo<br/>Biloxi Elks Lodge</div>  | <div>26</div>  |
| <div>27</div> <div>Sunday Bingo<br/>Biloxi Elks Lodge</div> <div>Sunday Bingo<br/>Biloxi Elks Lodge</div>      | <div>28</div> | <div>29Community Market</div>   | <div>30</div>  | <div>1Community Market</div>  | <div>2</div> <div>Friday Bingo<br/>Biloxi Elks Lodge</div>   | <div>3</div>   |





# September Schedule

Sparklight 56; Uverse 99 (follow prompts) or at [biloxi.ms.us/btv](http://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.     | "Katrina & Biloxi: A Story of Resolve & Resilience" (50 min)                        |
| 7:50 a.m.  | Storm surge at City Hall (5 min)  |
| 7:55 a.m.  | The Complete Katrina Experience (4 min)   |
| 8 a.m.     | RU Ready? What you need to know (35 min)  |
| 8:40 a.m.  | Salvation Army, 15 years after Katrina: Meet the People Behind the Shield (20 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. | The Biloxi Main Street Public Art Project: The murals (25 min)                      |
| 1 p.m.     | "A Lady Called Camille" (27 min)  |
| 1:27 p.m.  | "FoFo" Gilich, the surfing mayor (2 min)  |
| 1:30 p.m.  | Salvation Army, 15 years after Katrina: Meet the People Behind the Shield (20 min.) |
| 1:50 p.m.  | Katrina: The Complete Experience (4 min)  |
| 1:55 p.m.  | Ronny Broussard: "I Wanna Come Home" (4 min)  |
| 2 p.m.     | Stormwater management: Common sense info (12 min)                                   |
| 2:45 p.m.  | It's the height of storm season: Are you prepared? (15 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.  | Keesler Air Force Base (15 min)   |
| 7 p.m.     | "Katrina & Biloxi: A Story of Resolve & Resilience" (50 min)                        |
| 7:50 p.m.  | Storm surge at City Hall (5 min)  |
| 7:55 p.m.  | The Complete Katrina Experience (4 min)   |
| 8 p.m.     | RU Ready? What you need to know (35 min)  |
| 8:40 p.m.  | Salvation Army, 15 years after Katrina: Meet the People Behind the Shield (20 min.) |
| 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.

## BTV: Focus remains on storm preparation

With the National Weather Service continuing to predict a record-setting number of named storms this hurricane season, BTV in September remains focused on what you need to know about preparing for threatening weather.

"Katrina & Biloxi: A Story of Resolve & Resilience," the city's award-winning 50-minute documentary about Biloxi's brush with Katrina, airs each morning and evening, along with "R U Ready," where a host of local emergency responders come together with relevant information about storm prep.

For good measure, "A Lady Called Camille" remains in the lineup each afternoon, along with, of course, "The Surfing Mayor." Also in the afternoon lineup is "Stormwater Management: Common sense info," which has advice to property owners on how to help protect local waterways and the city's drainage systems.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration warns that the 2020 season, which has already delivered a record nine named storms this year, could deliver a total of 19 to 25 named storms. That would put this year in league with 2005, which boasted over two dozen named storms including Katrina.

**Council TV:** You can hear and see the latest on city issues, including work on the FY 2021 budget, during the three-hour block of programming each day at 9 a.m., 3 p.m. and 9 p.m.

# DUNGENESS & SNOW CRAB

## LUNCH & DINNER DAILY



LUNCH 11AM & DINNER 2PM

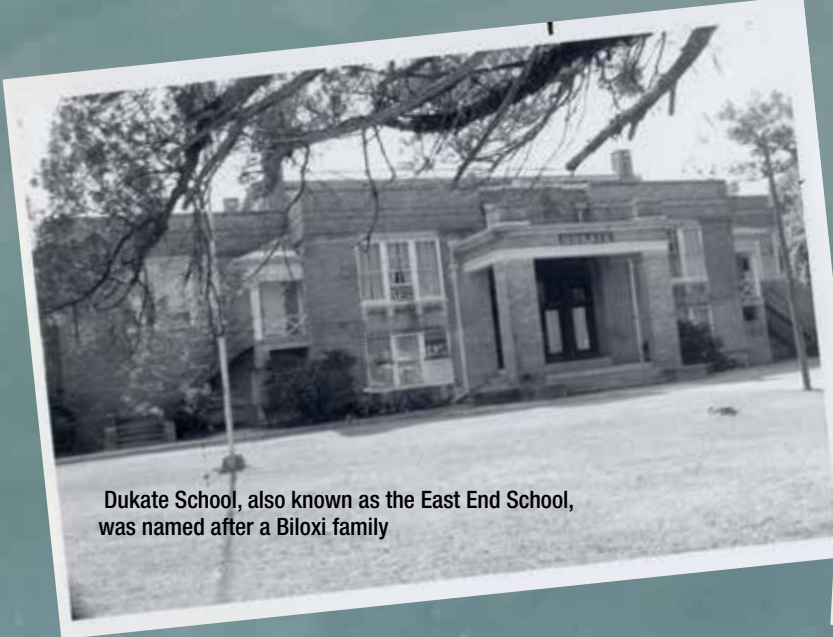
|                     | WITH CRAB* | \$28.79 | \$25.59 | \$23.99 | \$27.19      |
|---------------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|
|                     |            |         |         |         | MILITARY 50+ |
| LUNCH WITHOUT CRAB  | \$12.49    | \$9.99  | \$9.37  | \$10.62 |              |
| DINNER WITHOUT CRAB | \$17.99    | \$15.99 | \$14.99 | \$16.99 |              |

WITH PLAYERS' CARD PLUS TAX

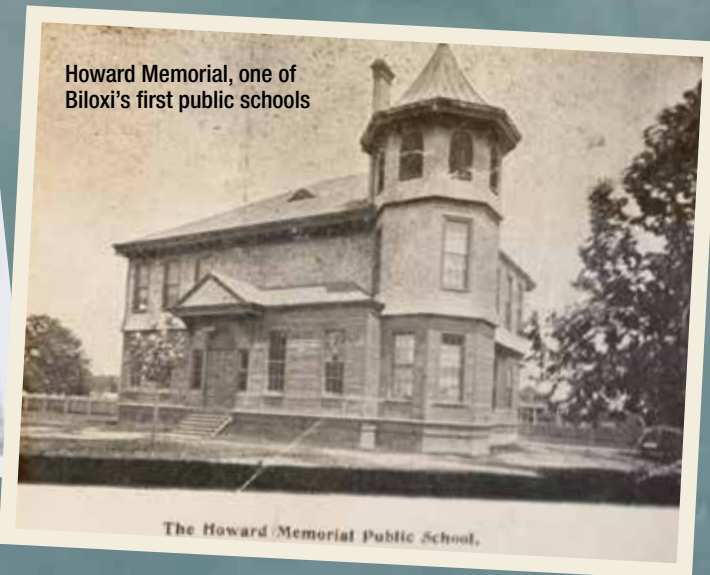
\*Crab not available for lunch to go or takeout.







Dukate School, also known as the East End School, was named after a Biloxi family



Howard Memorial, one of Biloxi's first public schools

The Howard Memorial Public School.

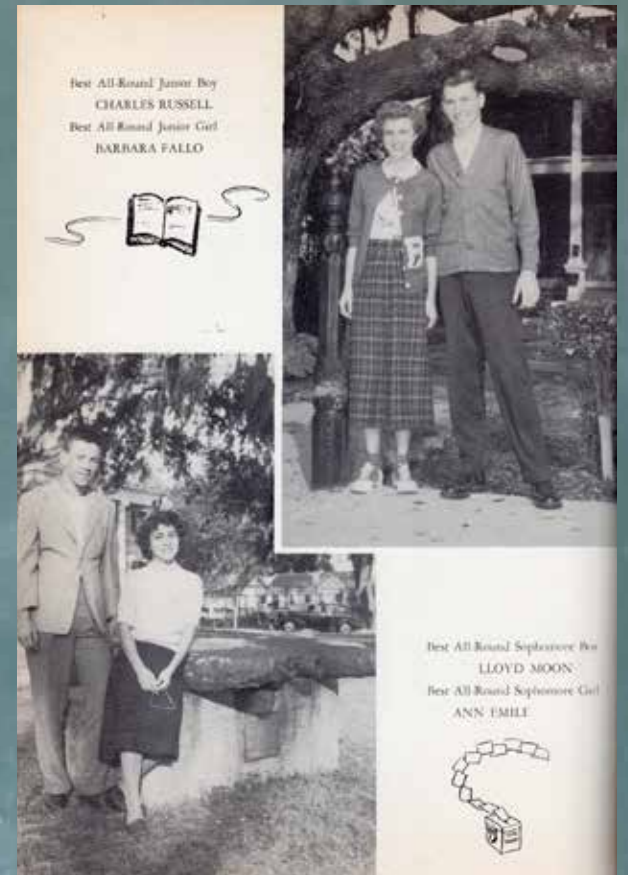
# Biloxi Learning back in the day



First grade students at Gorenflo Elementary in 1937



Students gather outside Our Mother of Sorrows school in 1936



1949 yearbook photo featuring Lloyd Moon, who is mentioned on page 10

Mr. Lemoyne D'Iberville was indeed a learned man. His biography states that he was a native of Montreal where he went to school. He was educated at a Canadian seminary there

## Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra

and had a rigorous school schedule of Latin, literature, technical writing, and public speaking. He was an excellent writer, as evidenced by his preserved journals, written in French, describing his travels to our Gulf Coast.

### The beginning

Back in the day, Mississippians expressed a desire for education long before statehood,

The writer is manager of the Local History and Genealogy section of the Biloxi Public Library. Email her at [jane.shambra@gmail.com](mailto:jane.shambra@gmail.com).

creating private schools and schoolhouses and in the early 1800s, many cities established public schools.

One of Biloxi's earliest schools was in the Creole Cottage, a building that still stands in Downtown. The historic Creole Cottage building, originally located on Lameuse Street and now sits on Rue Magnolia, was once utilized as a school in 1898.

One of the first public schools in Biloxi was the Howard Memorial School on Main Street. It was a gift of Frank T. Howard and Harry T. Howard and built in 1888 for \$10,000. You may remember the Howards from last month's column.

Some other early schools in Biloxi were: Seashore Academy located on the beach about 500 feet west of the Biloxi Lighthouse which opened in 1893; Sacred Heart Academy which was located on Fayard Street and built in the early 1900s; and Our Mother of Sorrows Elementary School on Reynoir Street which opened in 1917 followed by the opening of the high school in 1932.

### The framework

School life was quite different back in the day. Unlike today's modern architecture, schools were designed with noisy wooden floors and wooden doors. There was no air

conditioning. On hot days, large windows were opened to draw in outside air, and, in the winter, warmth was provided by a steam-driven silver metal heater in each classroom.

Many schools only taught reading, writing and arithmetic. Books were also not as abundant as they are today. Students would bring books from home or borrow them from older kids.

As enrollment in schools increased, the City of Biloxi reacted by making plans in the early 1920s to construct three new schools. In 1924, the three new schools were given the names of three Biloxi families who made immeasurable contributions to the school system: Lopez, the West End School; Gorenflo, the Back Bay School, and Dukate, the East End School.

### The days

Back in the day school didn't start until the beginning of September. Most students walked to and from school. Many older students had bicycles for transportation and also had paper routes after school. These "paperboys" would have the energetic after-school job of collecting, folding, and throwing the daily newspapers to subscribers' homes. At the end of each week they would also personally collect the fees from their customers.

Blackboards and later green boards along

with white and yellow chalk were utilized by teachers to accompany his/her instruction. The clapping of the erasers was a fun thing to do. At the end of each day one or two chosen students would go outside with the task of cleaning the blackboard erasers by hitting them together, creating a huge cloud of nasty dust into the air.

The dismissal time would be sounded by a large, loud hand-held brass bell with a wooden handle.

Preparing for school each year was a welcomed time for downtown merchants. Just like today, shoe shopping was a much-anticipated shopping event. Saddle oxfords and penny loafers were popular choices back then. Saddle oxfords were durable and needed to be polished, but lasted forever. Penny loafers had inserts or small pockets for coins on the top of each shoe. They provided emergency spending money for a pay phone or an after school sweet treat.

Howard Avenue was the place to go for school shoes back in those days, and Poll Parrot, Red Goose, and Buster Brown were popular brands. Today, families have a plethora of choices of all types of shoes at Biloxi's indoor, climate-controlled Edgewater Mall.

Weekends were filled with fun activities such as football and dances. With the excitement

of Rock and Roll music, sock hops became popular. These dances were held in school gymnasiums and socks were required so as not to scuff up the wooden floors.

### The extras

Did you know that Biloxi had non-traditional schools back in the day? In the early part of the 1900s on Howard Avenue, Biloxi Shorthand School offered special courses in shorthand, typewriting, bookkeeping, and business correspondence.

You might wonder what is shorthand? Shorthand was an interesting abbreviated writing method utilized by secretaries to record spoken sentences. That was before digital recording existed. It was much like a "secret code." Not only did one need to learn how to write the symbols, but also needed to know how to read them and transcribe them to type sentences quickly using a non-electric typewriter.

Biloxi's most famous specialized training centers have been housed on Keesler Air Force Base. In its early years, Keesler Field, as it was known, was renowned for military pilot and mechanics training. Today, Keesler Air Force Base provides unsurpassed technical training in the fields of electronics, computers, and weather. It hails as the "Electronics Training

Center of Excellence" for the United States Air Force.

### A blast from the past

Old school yearbooks offer a mini time machine for us to visit students, old buildings, fashion, sports, and events from years gone by. Yearbooks are a special kind of publication. They are more like photo albums and generally not filled with lots of paragraphs to read.

Thanks to Mr. Zan Skelton a former teacher at Biloxi High School, the Local History and Genealogy Department/Biloxi Public Library has an extensive collection of Biloxi Public Schools' books dating back many years. The Department also houses yearbooks from other schools and colleges, as well.

### Digital history

Did you know that the City of Biloxi acquired a film showcasing myriad Biloxi locales and people from decades ago? If you want to get a glimpse of school fashion and hair styles during the early 1950s as well as a peek into the interior of Biloxi High School/Central High School, visit the city's YouTube Channel and tune to a special black-and-white documentary, which a five-man crew shot in Biloxi in July 1951 over three weeks titled "Social Change in a Democracy."



# BNews Monthly

SEPTEMBER 2020

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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