

COVID-19: Where we are and how we got here

For us, it goes back to St. Patrick's Day and Grillin' on the Green, back in mid-March, the first casualties of the Pandemic of 2020.

In the ensuing nine months since the Ides of March, we've endured shutdowns, slowdowns, an unsettling hurricane season, and a host of challenges unique to 2020. For sure, it's been a rollercoaster ride – mentally, physically, financially, politically, and just about every "ly" you can think of.

It's a public health issue that

evolved into a political football and the demonstration of personal rights, a balance between a return to "normalcy" vs. living life in a pandemic.

So where are we today?

By mid-November, Harrison County continues to hover around 50 new cases of the coronavirus each day.

A mask mandate remains in effect. Masks should be worn by all, in all public places. Restaurants and bars must give last call no later than 11 p.m.

► [Putting the coronavirus in context, Pages 3-5](#)



The blitz marches on

By Nov. 17, only 13 days into the city's 60- to 90-day plan to remove Hurricane Zeta debris, crews had hauled away more than 83,000 cubic yards of debris, closing in on the halfway point of the total and enroute to completing the "first pass" of the city by mid-December. See the progress and a Q&A, Page 6.

North Contract paving: This is the end

Throughout 2020, with its layers of uncertainty, there was a constant: infrastructure work in Biloxi.

The big news today from Infrastructure Program Manager Walt Rode is that all 55 miles of roads in the North Contract should have their final paving by the end of 2020.

Rode's report on infrastructure work status:

In the North Contract project, the city used Warren Paving to place the final layer of asphalt on roads that have now passed all testing and video review of the new underground utilities.

The city anticipates all roads in the North Contract will be paved with the last layer of asphalt by the end of 2020. As additional roads are approved throughout the next few weeks, Warren Paving will be returning to the project to complete the asphalt pavement. Stripping of

the new roads will begin after Thanksgiving.

On Point Cadet, Lane Construction continues work installing massive 42-inch sanitary sewer pipe on Maple Street. This work is currently just south of Third Street, in front of the Slavonian Lodge and is approaching Howard Avenue. The 42-inch sewer pipe, when completed with an adjacent project, will allow the city to close the Pine Street pumping station, streamlining the city's sewer system.

Also on Point Cadet, Necaise Brothers Construction is scheduled to begin work on Jan. 4, 2021. The first order of business for this \$41.5-million project: installation of a new sanitary sewer on Howard, from Maple to Cadet, while maintaining access to the Palace Casino throughout construction.

The Necaise work is scheduled to take 900 days.

► [See infrastructure maps, Pages 13-15](#)

ALSO INSIDE This month

Santa's coming to town

✿ Christmas on the Water is just round the corner, Page 17
✿ Edgewater Mall doings, Page 9
✿ Visitors Center holiday fare, Page 16



Seeing red – and green

Two new "green" fire trucks are now in service in Biloxi. And we have some kitchen safety tips, too, Page 10

What's up at the VA?

Get the latest word on current affairs at the Biloxi VA, Page 12

Back in the day

The time-traveling column branches out, Page 22



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2020 will end, and life will go on

"The nom de plume Nick L. Shrimp," as it says at the bottom of this space each month, "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."

Walter, to be sure, was one of the original One Coast crowd, but his weekly rants, under the banner "Olde Crab Sez," were decidedly Biloxi One Coast. He was All Things Biloxi. With little tolerance or patience for what he viewed as contrary.

Patience is a word that won't show up too many times on this page. It's not typically part of our vernacular.

Except for today, as the season of goodwill approaches, as the curtain comes down on a dumpster fire of a year. Make no mistake: The gray cloud of the pandemic will persist. The Zeta cleanup will march forward.



Meanwhile, we shall strive for the kinder, gentler approach.

We're going to continue to wear our mask. It's not a political statement. It's the right thing to do in this day and age.

We're going to pile our storm debris at the curb. They'll be by to get it soon, they say, and I will have done my part. I'm going to focus on my side of the street.

We're going to do those things, and we're going to take a deep breath on those occasions when we encounter the misinformation and the obtuseness, which seem to abound.

"Oh, restaurants don't have to wear masks," said the restaurant worker.

"Oh, I've had a shot," said the convenience store clerk when matter-of-factly asked about the absence of a mask to cover her face.

Fact is, if you walk into a business or gathering today, everyone, employees included, should be wearing a face mask. It's the safe thing, the courteous thing to do.

We're going to keep our distance from the maskless and thoughtless.

We're going to try to do it quietly.

We're going to move forward.

We're going to try to remember – and practice – the Serenity Prayer.

*"God, grant me the serenity to accept
the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things
I can,
and the wisdom to know
the difference."*

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.

Putting COVID into context

For 24 years, Dr. Robert Travnicsek was our doctor. As the Mississippi State Department of Health leader in south Mississippi, he guided the community through a host of public health challenges, from the AIDS epidemic and West Nile, to hurricanes and the oil spill. He did it in an informative, relevant and engaging manner. Today, as he's enjoying retirement at 81, we asked the Cornhusker-turned-Biloxi resident for guidance moving forward in the pandemic.

Every small act makes a difference

Hello friends in Biloxi!

As a former District Director of the Mississippi State Department of Health for the southern six counties of our state, I have been asked to give my thoughts on the COVID pandemic.

I have been a physician for more than 50 years, of which the last 20 were in public health, and quite frankly, I have never seen such a relentless virus attacking the human condition.

It's been a rough year to say the least, and we are all becoming very sick and tired of this particular issue, to the point that many citizens are starting to ignore the safety measures that we all need to take to protect everyone – including our family, friends and co-workers.



Dr. Robert G.
Travnicsek MD, MPH

The numbers are breathtaking and need to be taken seriously. I understand the fear of a crumbling economy, the frustration of closing schools, businesses and the disruption of many family gatherings especially with the upcoming holidays.

EVERY SMALL ACT makes a difference. Vaccines are on the way, but in the interim it behooves all of us to make these very small sacrifices to save lives.

We all need to do our part to make sure everyone is safe and protected from this deadly virus.

Masks work!

Social distancing works!

Basic hand hygiene works!

Please do your part to protect everyone.

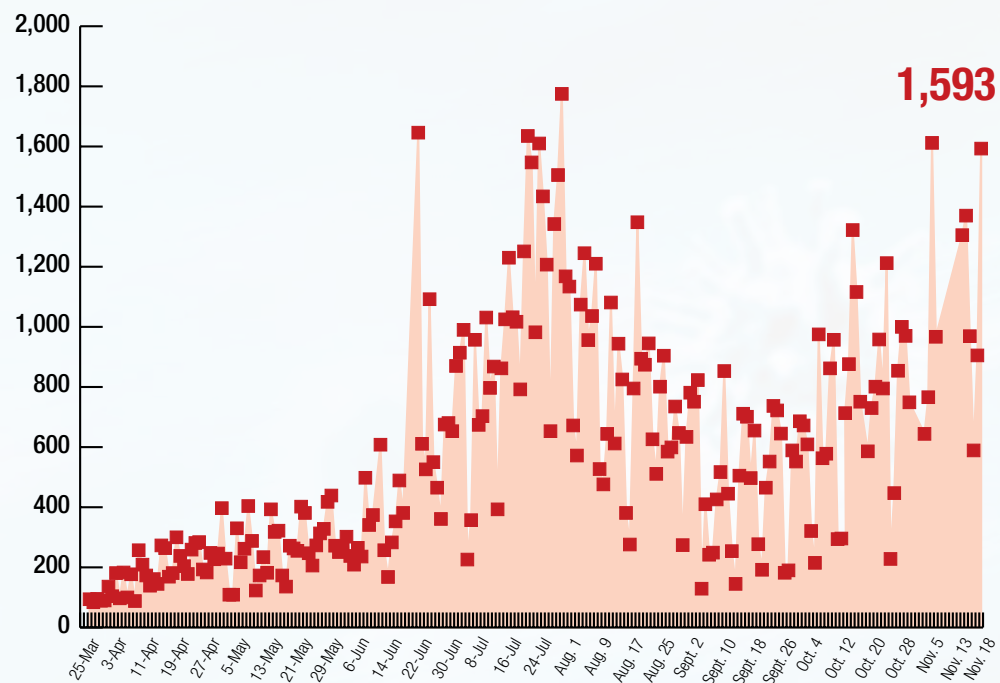
▶ Tracing COVID-19 from Day 1, Pages 4-5

Coronavirus by the numbers

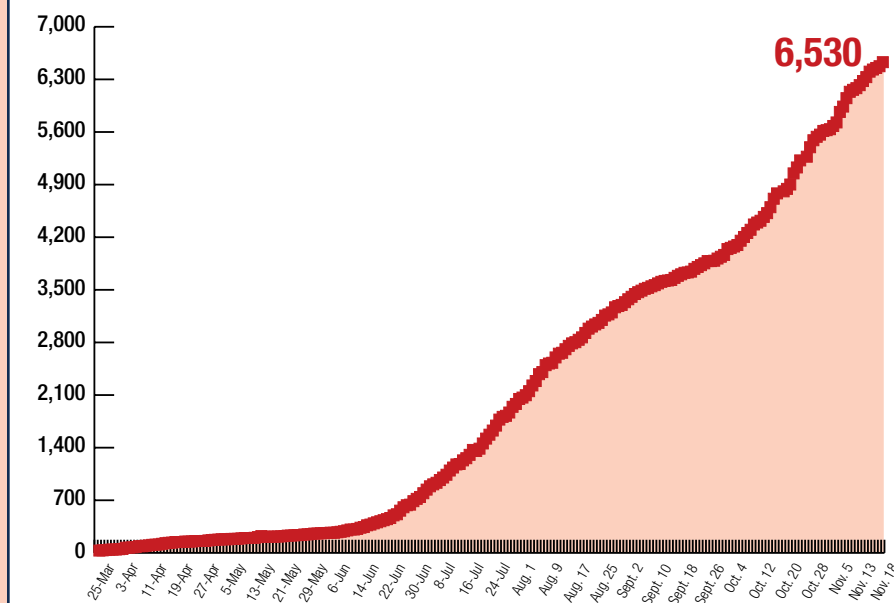
Overall total cases statewide March 25 -Nov. 18, 2020



Daily cases statewide



Daily cases, Harrison County



News & notes

COVID GUIDELINES/ REMINDERS

- Masks should be worn in public.
- Restaurants and bars should give last call no later than 11 nightly.
- Restaurants and bars should encourage outdoor dining; limit customers to those who can be distanced six feet; and limit tables to six guests.
- Retail should limit the number of individuals in store; customers should be encouraged to use hand sanitizer when entering; and non-cash payments recommended.
- Barber shops, hair and nail salons should have stations separated by six feet; disposable capes are recommended; barbers, stylists and technicians must wear gloves; and there should be no waiting areas.
- Churches, gyms, fitness facilities, and hotels should have sign at entrance: No one with symptoms allowed; sanitizing of hands when entering; and common areas, rooms and equipment cleaned and sanitized frequently.
- Medical, dental and health care should educate and train staff on appropriate use and disposal of PPE; waiting rooms limited to one healthy, symptom-free person per patient; office cleaned and disinfected after each appointment; patient chairs sterilized after each patient; and telemedicine encouraged.
- Close-contact services such as tattoo, massage, etc. facilities use disposable material and supplies and dispose accordingly; conduct services by appointment only; there should be no waiting area and sign at entrance: No one with symptoms allowed.
- Each facility should follow recommended capacity guidelines, have staff wear face coverings and screen staff for symptoms.

► For more details, visit online at biloxi.ms.us/coronavirus-info-practical-advice/

Storm debris blitz

Picked up as of Nov. 17, 2020



Storm debris removal: Questions and answers

When will the debris crews get to my street?

As quickly as they can.

Crews are working on a “first pass” around the entire city. The areas south of I-10 have been the focus of the contractor because that’s where the most debris is, and because a temporary debris staging site in West Biloxi helps contractors move more debris more effectively and more quickly. However, the entire “first pass” of the entire city is expected to be finished in mid-December.

I saw a map that showed trucks all over the city, but I have not seen a truck. What’s up with that?

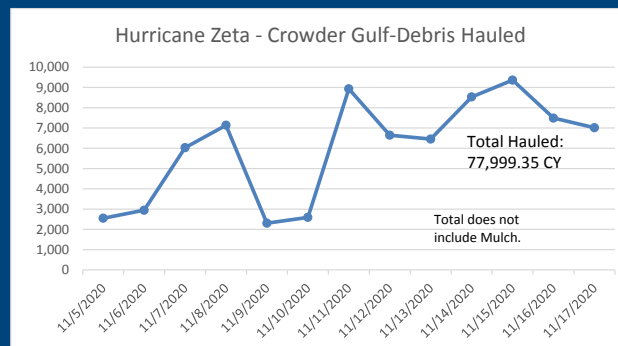
At the outset, the city planned to have debris trucks work in each of the city’s seven wards. However, with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality approval of the staging site in West Biloxi, the crews shifted gears to be more effective and maximize debris removal. The result has led to huge amounts of debris being moved.

Make no mistake: Debris trucks are in all seven wards of the city.

In fact, the contractor is working

Debris Totals

Cubic yards hauled, by day, as of Nov. 17, 2020



to get a second staging site in Woolmarket to improve the efficiency of debris pickup north of the bay.

I bagged my debris, and the debris truck passed it up. Why? And when will it be picked up?

The bagged debris is an issue for the storm-removal contract. The City of Biloxi suggests, with good reason, that residents bag leaves and tree trimmings when they place them by the curb. This prevents them from blowing into the road and compromising the city’s drainage systems.

However, under FEMA guidelines, the debris contractor can pick up only storm debris, and since crews

can’t see what’s in the bag, they skip it. The bags will be picked up by Pelican, which handles normal weekly service. Because of the capacity, it will take time.

They came to my house and now I have put more debris out. Are they coming back, and when?

Yes they are coming back. The first pass is expected to be completed in mid-December. After that, the second pass will begin.

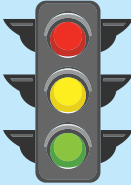
And, finally, how long will the debris removal take?

It’s estimated that the debris effort will take 60 to 90 days, from when it began on Nov. 5.

News & notes

ZETA RECOVERY

Signals: Of the city’s 64 signalized intersections, only a handful still lack working traffic signals at mid-November: Two intersections on Eisenhower Drive in West Biloxi, and three on Howard Avenue in East Biloxi. Please drive carefully.



Haulin’ it: The trucks working in Biloxi’s debris blitz made 1,884 pickups in their first 13 days, Nov. 3-17. During that time, they hauled more than 83,000 cubic yards of the estimated 200,000 cy of debris left in Zeta’s wake. See the map at <https://arcg.is/1jumrf>.



Dockside sales: The 50 shrimp boats that had been in the commercial harbor, south of the Hard Rock parking garage, are now back in the harbor, although not necessarily in the same slips. Look for dockside sales to resume.

The power: One of the huge concrete sections of the Point Cadet fishing bridge shifted four inches as a result of the Zeta storm surge, which covered the bridge.

The hours: Debris crews are working from sunrise to sunset seven days of the week. On the front of their trucks it says: “Do not delay.”

Parks: All of the city’s public parks, except for Miramar in West Biloxi, are open, but residents should use caution as crews continue to remove downed trees.





Shining a light on giving

Project SHARE makes it easy to help your neighbors in need. By donating a few dollars on your power bill, which is matched dollar for dollar by Mississippi Power, you can change the lives of others, including those who are elderly, disabled or struggling and facing tough circumstances. Spread love and light this holiday season.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR
STUDENTS AND STAFF.

WE WISH YOU ALL A
JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON &
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Biloxi High School

Biloxi Junior High

*Biloxi Upper
Elementary*

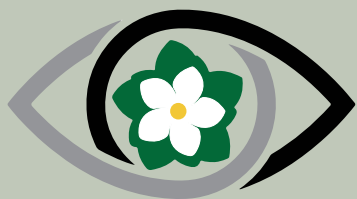
Corenflo Elementary

Jeff Davis Elementary

*Popp's Ferry
Elementary*

*Nichols
Elementary*

*North Bay
Elementary*



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Pictures with Santa!

Santa arrives December 5 at 11 a.m.
and will be available for pictures
through Christmas Eve!

There will be a giant plexi-glass shield in front of Santa with a bench in front,
so families can interact safely and get their holiday photos.

Edgewater Mall Holiday Hours

EXTENDED HOURS SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS

- Dec. 19, 2020: Open 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Dec. 20, 2020: Open 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Dec. 24, 2020, Christmas Eve:
Open 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Dec. 25, 2020, Christmas Day:
Closed
- Dec. 31, 2020-Jan. 1, 2021,
New Year's Eve and Day:
Open 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

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restaurants and entertainment
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Edgewater Mall

In the holiday rush, don't forget fire safety

Holiday season usually means lots of cooking and home-heating. It can also mean more fires.

In fact, the National Fire Prevention Association says cooking is the most common cause of home fire. Also, the Biloxi Fire Department says that this time of year usually means a spike in calls when residents are using fireplaces, heaters and other heating devices that have been dormant for months. As a result, the department wants to remind residents of steps to take to help avoid a fire.

"Have your fireplaces checked to make sure that they are working properly," Biloxi Fire Chief

Joe Boney says. "Also, do not use cooking appliances for heating, only for cooking."

Those using space heaters should not use the device with an extension cord, as the cord may overheat. Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet.

"When cooking, practice safe cooking behavior," Boney says. "Exercising caution at all times in the kitchen can help reduce the risk of a kitchen fire."

People get busy, get interrupted while in the kitchen and they just walk away, many times for some small distraction that turns into a major problem. So never leave a stove unattended."

Keep an eye on what you fry. If you see any smoke or that the grease starts to boil, turn the burner off. Keep a pan lid or baking sheet nearby and use it to cover the pan if it catches on fire.

Also, remember to keep the cooking area clean and free of anything that may catch on fire such as oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packing and towels.

And always have a working smoke alarm and fire extinguisher nearby.

For more fire safety tips, visit the Biloxi Fire Department page online at <https://biloxi.ms.us/departments/fire-department/> or call the department at 228-435-6200.



The city's two new fire trucks, at City Hall the other day, are a million-dollar investment.

Green is the new red with it comes to fire trucks

Biloxi's "green" fire trucks have arrived!

"These are the first green trucks in the state of Mississippi," Biloxi Fire Chief Joe Boney says. "They are designed specifically to protect our firefighters, before during and after a fire."

They are custom-built trucks, built to Biloxi Fire Department specifications, says Boney. "They are 30 feet long instead of 34, they

are lower to the ground for ergonomics, to allow firefighters to access equipment without having to climb onto the truck. It cuts out about 80 percent of their carcinogenic exposure by having these trucks designed and built the way they're built."

The two trucks are in service at Central Fire Station on Porter Avenue and Bay Vista Fire Station on Pass Road.



Telehealth Appointments Now Available

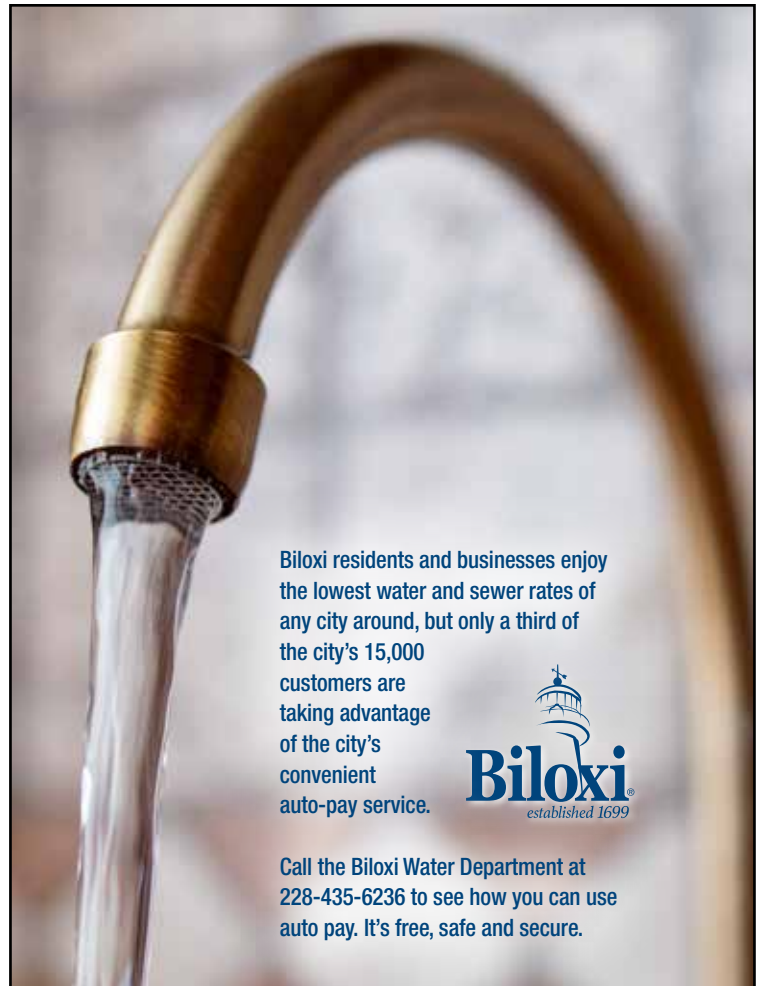
Virtual visits are open
for new and existing patients.
Call now to make an appointment.

Lakeview – 228-354-9300
Cedar Lake – 228-392-7760
Promenade – 228-456-0173
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Biloxi residents and businesses enjoy the lowest water and sewer rates of any city around, but only a third of the city's 15,000 customers are taking advantage of the city's convenient auto-pay service.



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\$500 IN FREE SLOT PLAY EVERY 30 MINUTES STARTING AT 1PM.
\$2,021 GRAND PRIZE AT MIDNIGHT

4X POINTS

**12:01AM
TO 4PM
JANUARY 1**
See Player's Club for details.



VA adapts and overcomes during COVID-19

By Bryan C. Matthews
Director, Gulf Coast Veterans
Health Care System

We're headlong into the holiday season and although 2020 has proven one of the most challenging years in recent memory, here at the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System's Biloxi Veterans Affairs Medical Center we've managed to adapt and overcome.

That's an old military adage – adapt and overcome. And like so many of us along the Gulf Coast, our ties to those who have worn the cloth of our country are significant, and that willingness to shift and change the manner in which we approach any given situation.

Here at the Biloxi VA Medical Center, this staff of medical professionals has more than met the challenges they've faced during the ongoing global health crisis. They've leveraged technology in an effort to provide access to care and have provided thousands of virtual consults to our Veterans, bridging what could have been a gap in health care. These men and women – many of them Veterans themselves – are continuing to serve our Veterans, despite facing many of the same challenges. As we're all faced with adapting to current situations, I encourage each and every Veteran to learn more about the numerous virtual health care options the VA is offering. Visit online at <https://telehealth.va.gov/>.

I am so proud of what they're continuing to accomplish. Medical professionals everywhere are facing an increased workload and our Biloxi VA Medical Center staff is no different; each and every member of our team remains committed to Veteran health care, and are taking every precaution possible – from ensuring our Veterans are wearing a mask in our facilities, performing stringent cleaning regimens in accordance with Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations and discussing transmission guidelines with the men and women to whom we provide health care – to maintain the standard and quality of care we are committed to providing.

They have adapted and overcome.



Bryan C. Matthews



Safety is priority



Giving thanks on Veterans Day



Dept. of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie visits Panama City Beach clinic



Biloxi VA TODAY

As we all have. Unfortunately, our Veterans Day celebration was cancelled, but our Medical Media service was able to virtually include City of Biloxi Mayor Andrew 'Fofo' Gilich, several Gulf Coast-area organizations and other community leaders to ensure each of them had the opportunity to thank our Veterans for their service, and I would like to thank each and every one of them for participating. To view the video, visit on Facebook at [VAGulfCoast/videos/904510846987200](https://www.facebook.com/VAGulfCoast/videos/904510846987200).

Members of the GCVHCS staff and I had the privilege of hosting Dept. of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie in October and were able to discuss our screening protocols and procedures. Wilkie visited our Panama City Beach community-based outpatient clinic and

- ▶ Visit the VA online at www.biloxi.va.gov
- ▶ Follow the VA on Facebook at [facebook.com/VAGulfCoast](https://www.facebook.com/VAGulfCoast)

was impressed with these Veteran safety-oriented practices which are designed with one thing in mind – to minimize exposure of disease to our Veterans and staff. Throughout the GCVHCS we maintain this standardized method of practice, and I want to congratulate our Panama City CBOC on this highly successful visit and serving as a benchmark in Veteran safety. More details about the VA Secretary's visit are on the GCVHCS website, <https://www.biloxi.va.gov/>, and other information about our facilities and services can be found on the GCVHCS Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/VAGulfCoast>.

Lastly, each of us are more than likely ready to celebrate the Holiday Season. This year has been exceedingly difficult, with feelings of isolation driven by the ongoing global health crisis. There are Veterans who are undoubtedly impacted by our country's current state, and I encourage those of you who are able to reach out to these men and women; a kind word or conversation, an invitation for a coffee or virtual chat can make a world of difference during the Holiday Season for a Veteran who has sacrificed so much.

Thank you all for the continued support you provide us in serving those who have served.

The infrastructure work in Biloxi

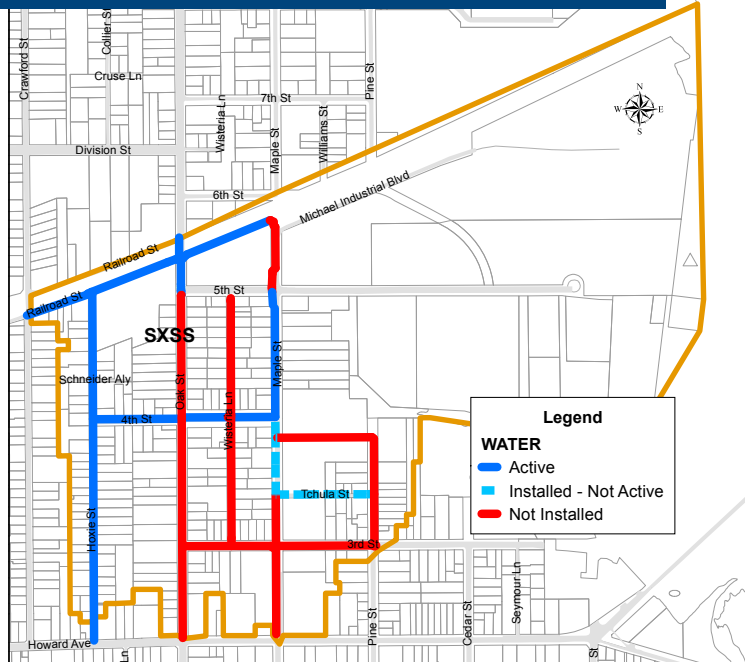
Pages 13 through 16 contain maps that show the status of the city's three major infrastructure projects now underway. The information on these maps is compiled by the city's Engineering Department, based on reports from contractors and inspectors at each site. See detailed maps and video online at biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/.

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.

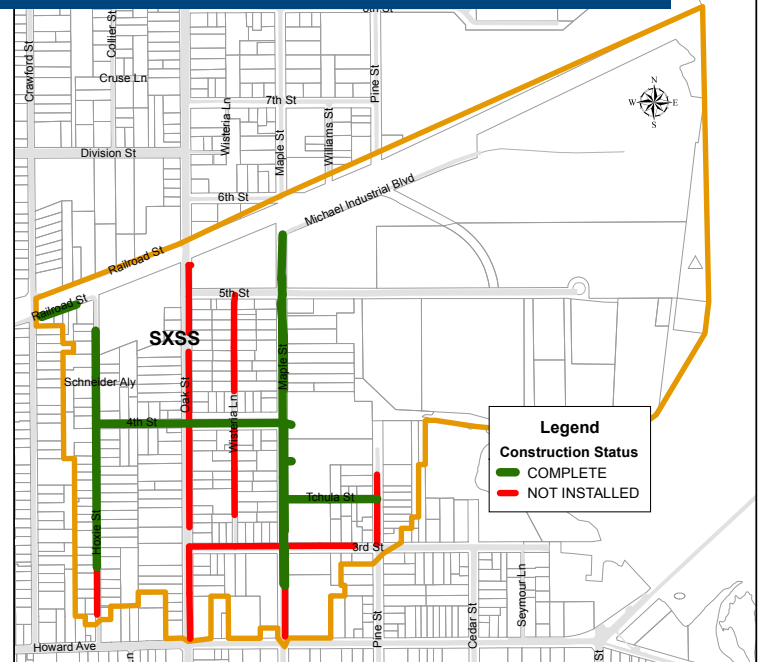
Lane Construction Water

Water Mains to be installed as of November 13, 2020



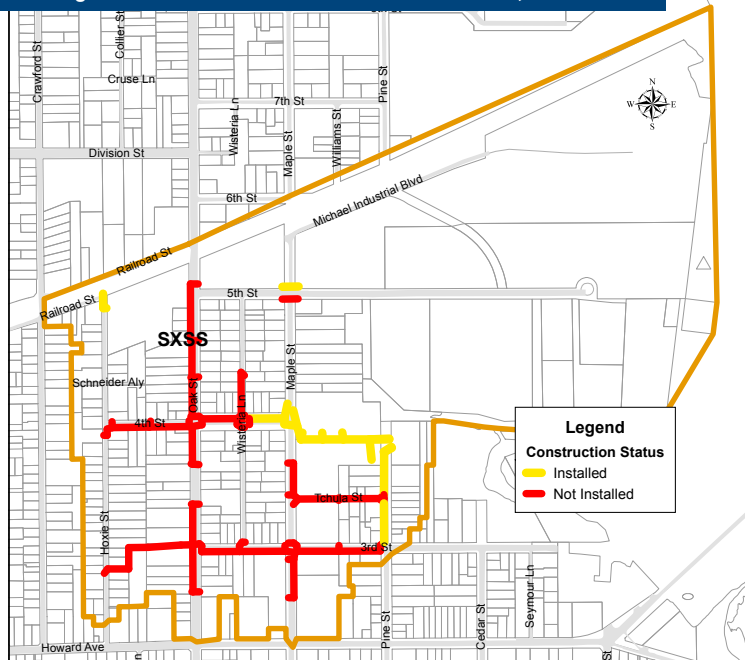
Lane Construction Sewer

Sewer Mains to be installed as of November 13, 2020



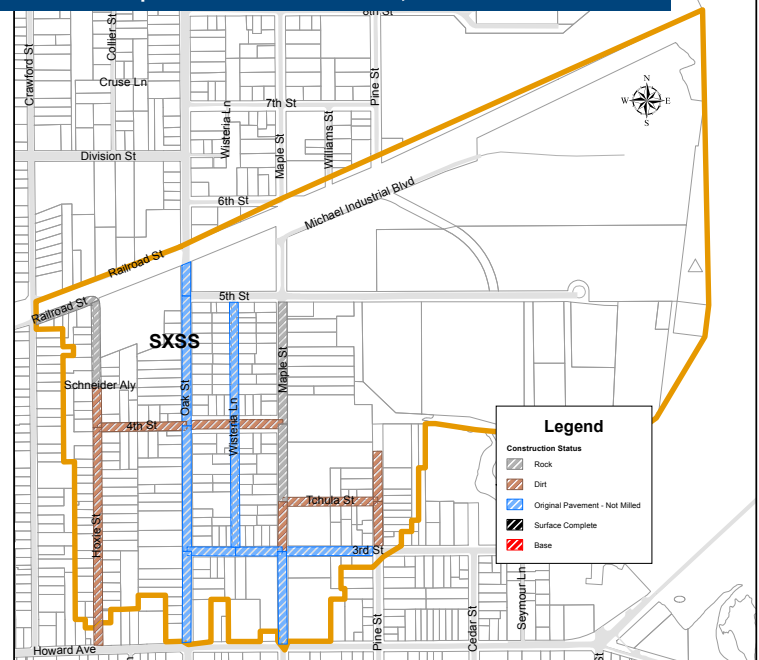
Lane Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of November 13, 2020



Lane Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of November 13, 2020



The North Contract: Remaining Paving (as of November 20, 2020)

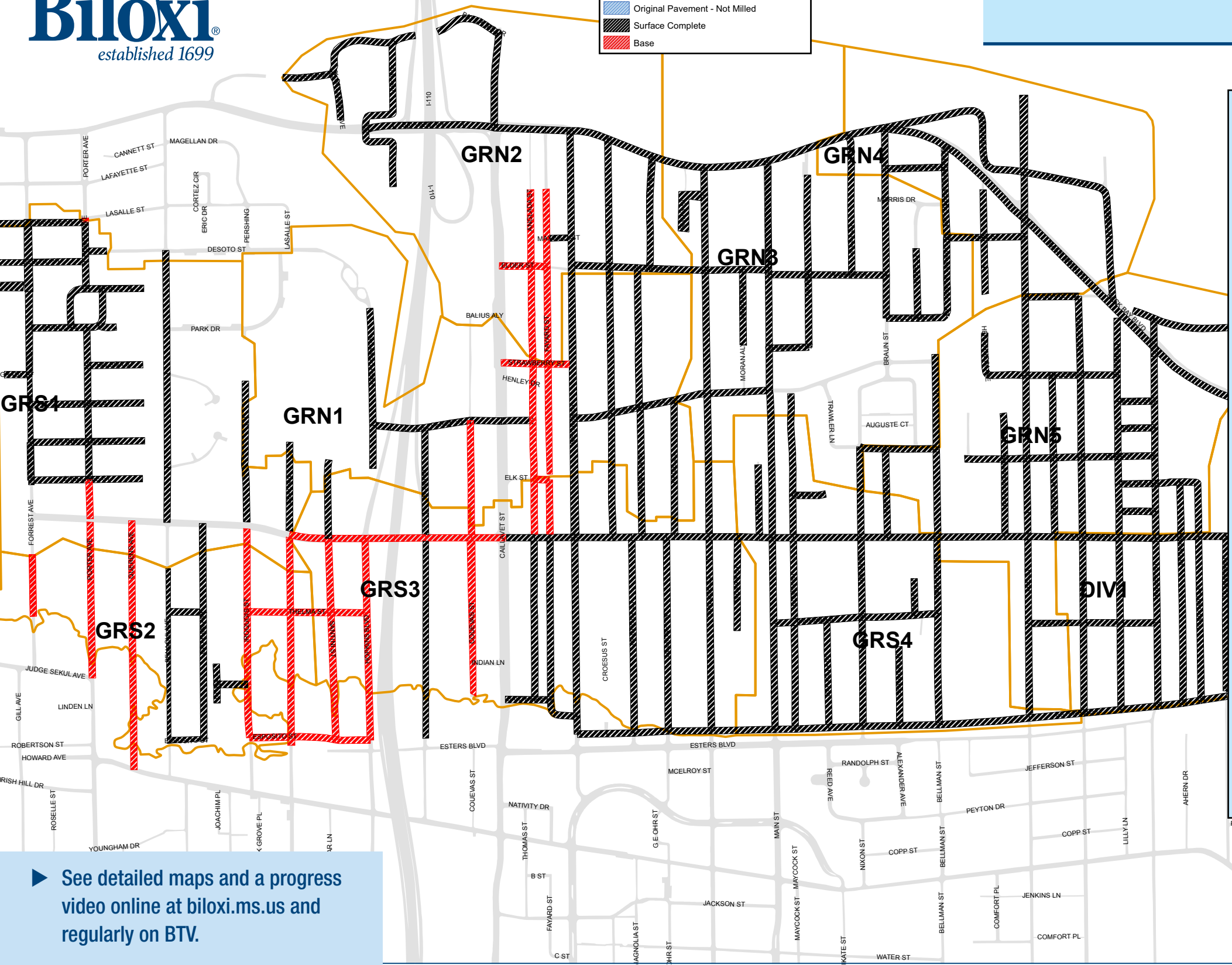


Legend

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.



North Contract Water as of November 13, 2020

Legend

WATER

Construction Status

- Active
- Installed - Not Active
- Not Installed

North Contract Sewer as of November 13, 2020**Legend****SEWER****Construction Status****North Contract Drainage** as of November 13, 2020**Legend****DRAINAGE****Construction Status**

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

Holiday Market

Come do your holiday shopping with us every Saturday and Sunday from Dec. 5 until Dec. 20.

Local artists will showcase their work and will have tons of beautiful items for sale.

You're sure to find the perfect gift for all your holiday needs!

*Every
Weekend!*

**December 5
through
December 20**

*Door
Prizes!*

Inside of the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd., 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

For more information, call 228-374-3105.

Due to Covid-19, facial coverings are required and social distancing encouraged.



Best Bet!

Holiday Market

Looking for a special, hand-crafted gift for Christmas? Then stop by the Biloxi Visitors Center each Saturday and Sunday until Dec. 20 for the City of Biloxi's Holiday Market event.

Local artists and craftsmen will be selling their wares inside the Biloxi Visitors Center each weekend from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission. Door prizes will also be part of the event. For more details, call the Visitors Center at 228-374-3105.



Christmas on the Water

The Mississippi Sound will light up with boats decorated in Christmas lights and decorations parading along the water on Saturday, Dec. 5. The annual water boat parade will begin at 6 p.m. followed by a spectacular fireworks display. This Biloxi tradition dates back to 1986. It has grown to an impressive holiday event that attracts locals and visitors. The event can be seen along the waterfront from the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor to the Biloxi Lighthouse. So, feel free to park in a designated area and watch the parade. For more details, call 228-617-3112 or 228-432-2563.

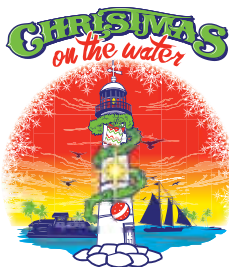
Holiday Market, every Saturday and Sunday until Dec. 20, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. inside the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Local artists and craftsmen will be showcasing their wares. Door prizes. Free admission. Details: 228-374-3105

Ice Skating, through Jan. 17, Mississippi Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd. Details: MS Coast Coliseum.com

Laying of the Wreaths to Honor our Fallen, Dec. 1, 2 p.m., Beauvoir, 2244 Beach Blvd. Free admission. Details: 228-388-4400

First Friday, Dec. 4, 5-8 p.m., Rue Magnolia & Water Street. Downtown shops and galleries stay open late and offer specials and refreshments. Live entertainment and prize giveaways will also be part of the event. Free admission. Details: 228-435-6339

Santa's B.E.S.T. Swim Meet, Dec. 4-6, various times, Biloxi Natatorium, 1384 Father Ryan Avenue. Details: 228-435-6205



Annual Christmas on the Water Boat Parade, Dec. 5, 6 p.m., Mississippi Sound. Boats parade in holiday décor followed by a fireworks show. Best viewing: Biloxi

Small Craft Harbor or along the beach between the Biloxi Lighthouse and Small Craft Harbor. Free admission. Details: 228-617-3112 or 228-432-2563

International Christmas Pastry Sale, Dec. 11, Noon-7 p.m.; Dec. 12, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Dec. 13, 1-5 p.m., Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 255 Beauvoir Road. No festival, just pastry sale this year. For more than 40 years Greek pastries and bread, Tyropita (cheese pies), and Spanakopita (spinach pies) have been sold at Holy Trinity. Event is spaced out over three days to make for a safe experience and includes preorders. Details: www.holytrinitybiloxi.org/2020ChristmasBakeSale.php; 727-858-8505



Best Bet!



Mississippi Gulf Coast Marathon



MISSISSIPPI
GULF COAST MARATHON

Is running your thing? If so, then the Mississippi Gulf Coast Marathon has what you are looking for: views of the waterfront and different distances to choose from. Not ready to run in public? Then sign up for the virtual 5K, half marathon and full marathon! In-person races include the Margaritaville 5K at 8 a.m. followed by the Kids Marathon 1-mile at 9:30 a.m., both on Saturday, and the full and half marathon beginning at 7 a.m. on Sunday. Half and full marathons finish at MGM Park. As for those virtual runs, sign up for the 5K before Dec. 11 at 7 p.m., and the half and full marathon before Dec. 12 at 5 p.m. For more details and to register, visit <http://mississippigulfcoastmarathon.com/>.

Adherence to CDC guidelines paramount.
All events subject to change.

Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the 31st issue of BNews Monthly. It's a compendium of things you should know about your city: status reports on current and pending public works, and a calendar of community events covering the next 30 days.

Calendar: Biloxi Downtown Services is responsible for the Community Calendar, a compendium of events open to the public in Biloxi. Deadline for publication citywide and online is the 10th of each month. Listing must include name of event, date, time, location, one- or two-sentence description, admission fee, phone number or web address. Email to Kay Miller, downtown services manager, kmiller@biloxi.ms.us.

Bmail: The city provides information about projects and events via email. Sign up at biloxi.ms.us/register.

Advertising: BNews and Bmail represent an advertising opportunity for civic-minded businesses and organizations. In your hands you are holding the only advertising medium that is delivered to every single home, business, apartment and PO Box in the city. For rates and info, email online@biloxi.ms.us or call 228-435-6368.

B-Alert: For text advisories on traffic and severe weather, text BILOXI to 888777.

Website: The city's website, at biloxi.ms.us, is the comprehensive digest of city information. The website also has links to the city's Facebook and YouTube platforms.

Vincent Creel, Public Affairs Manager
vcreel@biloxi.ms.us

Cecilia Dobbs Walton, Public Affairs Specialist
cdobbswalton@biloxi.ms.us

Frequently Called Numbers

Area code is 228 unless otherwise noted.

- Animal Control 392-0641
- Auto Tag/Property Tax Information . . . 435-8242
- Birth Certificates 601-576-7960
- Building Permits 435-6270
- Business Licenses 435-6247
- 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



Woolmarket Christmas Parade, Dec. 12, 2:30 p.m. The parade rolls from Shortcut Road, travels along Woolmarket Road, turns left on John Lee Road and ends at Woolmarket Elementary school. Details: 228-861-5422 or 228-547-5816



Mississippi Gulf Coast Marathon, Dec. 12-13, various times and races. Includes a kids marathon 1-mile fun run, 5K, a half marathon, a marathon, and virtual runs. Marathon and half marathon finish will be at MGM Park on Sunday, Dec. 13. Schedule and registration: www.mississippigulfcoastmarathon.com



Bike Biloxi, Dec. 15, 6 p.m. Ride begins at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd., and travels through downtown. Bicycle ride ends with refreshments and food at a downtown restaurant at cyclist's expense. Helmets and lights recommended. This month's event features a bike decorating contest. Free admission. Details: 228-435-6339

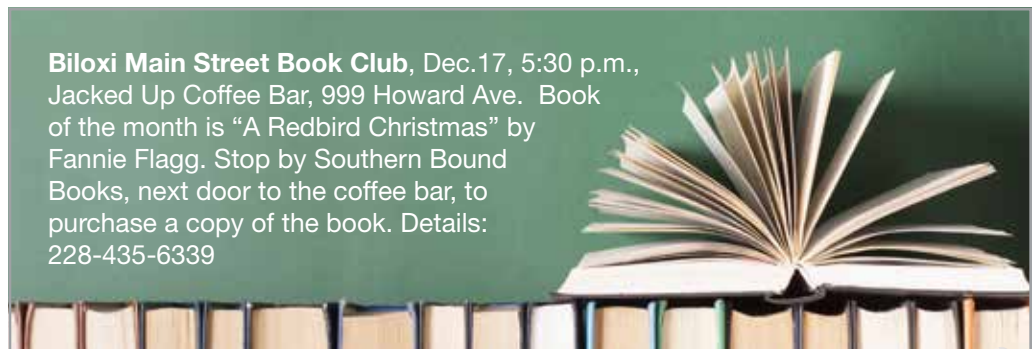


Santa Calling, Dec. 16, Children in Pre-K through 2nd grade can talk with Santa and his helpers. Parents and guardians must complete an application and be available during designated times. Applications due by Dec. 15 and available at www.biloxi.ms.us and Edgewater Mall. Details: 228-388-7170 or email programs@biloxi.ms.us

Seniors Brunch with Santa, Drive-Thru event, Dec. 17, beginning at 9 a.m., Frank Gruich Center, 591 Howard Ave. Open while supplies last. Details: 228-388-7170

Christmas on Lameuse, Drive-Thru event. Dec. 19, Beginning at 9 a.m., Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Open while supplies last. Details 228-388-7170

Biloxi Main Street Book Club, Dec. 17, 5:30 p.m., Jacked Up Coffee Bar, 999 Howard Ave. Book of the month is "A Redbird Christmas" by Fannie Flagg. Stop by Southern Bound Books, next door to the coffee bar, to purchase a copy of the book. Details: 228-435-6339



Santa Claus is Coming to Town at the Fire Museum, Dec. 20, 1-2 p.m., West End Hose Co. 1053 Fire Museum, 1056 Howard Ave. Details: 228-435-6119

CANCELLED



Biloxi Little Theatre

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

Center Stage

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

Biloxi Lighthouse & Visitors Center

1050 Beach Blvd., 228-374-3105, www.bilxoi.ms.us – Open daily, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
• Lighthouse Tours Daily, 8-9:30 a.m.
• **Holiday Market**, every Saturday and Sunday until Dec. 20

Biloxi Schooners

367 Beach Blvd., 228-435-6320, schooner@maritimemuseum.org
• Walk-on sunset sails, charters, or sails to Horn Island

Biloxi Shrimping Trip

693 Beach Blvd., 228-392-8645, biloxishrimpingtrip.com
• Sunset cruises, fishing trips, and three shrimping trips daily

Betsy Ann Riverboat Cruise

173 Beach Blvd., 228-229-4270
betsyannriverboat@gmail.com, bestyannriverboat.com
• CLOSED UNTIL SPRING

Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum

792 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
• Ferry service resumes spring 2021, Private charters available year-round. Details: 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 firehouse open Saturdays 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment

Biloxi Elks 606 Lodge of Biloxi

1178 Beach Blvd., 228-374-0606
• **Friday Charity Bingo**, Dec. 4, 11, and 18; Doors open at 5 p.m.; Early bird 6:30 p.m.; Regular games 7 p.m.; Kitchen open until 8:30 p.m.
• **Saturday Dance**, Dec. 12; Doors open at 5 p.m.; Band "Nimblefeat" 6-10 p.m.
• **Sunday Charity Bingo**, Dec. 6, 20, and 27; Doors open at noon; Early bird 2 p.m.; Regular games 2:30 p.m.; Kitchen open until 4 p.m.
• **New Year's Eve Dance**, Dec. 31; Champagne toast, breakfast and party favors. Tickets go on sale soon, \$25 per person.
• **Safety protocols**: six-foot social distancing, contract 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
• **Karaoke with Kenny**, every Friday night in December at 7 p.m.
• **New Year's Eve Dance**, Dec. 31; 8 p.m.-midnight, Music by the Barlow Brothers. Admission: \$20 per person and includes champagne and breakfast.

Lagniappe**Charles R. Hegwood****Biloxi Community Market**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6 a.m.-4 p.m. under the I-110 overpass on the corner of Howard Avenue and Hopkins Boulevard. Details: Tina Cowart at 228-388-2443.

City of Biloxi Senior Program

Activities for ages 55 and older weekdays at the Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center and the East Biloxi Senior Citizen Center. Details: Gwen Johnson, 228-388-2494, seniors@biloxi.ms.us.

Biloxi Libraries

- Biloxi Library, 580 Howard Ave., 228-436-3095
- Margaret Sherry Library, 2141 Popp's Ferry Road, 228-388-1633
- West Biloxi Library, 2047 Pass Road, 228-388-5696
- Woolmarket Library, 13034 Kayleigh Cove, 228-354-9464

For more information call the Harrison County Library System at 228-436-3095.

Biloxi Main Street

Promoting, preserving, revitalizing and enhancing the economic growth of the downtown Main Street district. Details and membership: 228-435-6339, mainstreetbiloxi.com

**City of Biloxi Public Meetings**

- **Architectural Review Commission**: Regularly scheduled meetings: second and fourth Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m.; Community Development, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266.
- **Biloxi City Council**: Regularly scheduled meetings: first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. and the third and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.; City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Details: 228-435-6257.
- **Biloxi Civil Service Commission**: Regularly scheduled meetings: second Thursday of the month at 4 p.m.; City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Details: 228-435-6259, Courtney 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
29 Holiday Market Biloxi Visitors Center Sunday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	30	1 Community Market Laying of the Wreaths to Honor the Fallen Beauvoir	2	3 Community Market	4 First Friday Downtown Biloxi Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Charity Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	5 Holiday Market Biloxi Visitors Center Christmas on the Water Mississippi Sound
6 Holiday Market Biloxi Visitors Center Sunday Charity Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	7	8 Community Market	9	10 Community Market	11 International Christmas Pastry Sale Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Charity Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	12 Holiday Market Biloxi Visitors Center Woolmarket Christmas Parade – Fleur de Lis Society International Christmas Pastry Sale Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Mississippi Gulf Coast Marathon Coastwide/MGM Park Saturday Dance Biloxi Elks Lodge
13 Holiday Market Biloxi Visitors Center International Christmas Pastry Sale Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Mississippi Gulf Coast Marathon Coastwide/MGM Park	14	15 Community Market Bike Biloxi Downtown Biloxi	16 Santa Calling	17 Community Market Main Street Book Club Jacked Up Coffee Bar Senior Brunch with Santa Frank Gruich Center	18 Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Charity Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	19 Holiday Market Biloxi Visitors Center Christmas on Lameuse City Hall
20 Holiday Market Biloxi Visitors Center Sunday Charity Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	21	22 Community Market	23	24	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 	26
27 Sunday Charity Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	28	29 Community Market	30	31 Community Market New Year's Eve Dance Fleur de Lis Society New Year's Eve Dance Biloxi Elks Lodge	1 Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society	2

Btv December 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.	The Biloxi VA Today (15 min)
7 a.m.	Christmas on the Water 2018 (31 min)
7:32 a.m.	Woolmarket Christmas Parade 2019 (18 min)
7:50 a.m.	Holiday safety tips, with Chief John Miller (4 min)
7:55 a.m.	Christmas tree safety, with Biloxi Fire Department (2 min)
8 a.m.	Christmas on the Water 2017 (17 min)
8:18 a.m.	Vietnamese Tet Celebration, January 2020 (20 min)
8:40 a.m.	The Biloxi Lighthouse, with Mary Ann Mobley (13 min)
8:53 a.m.	The Biloxi Light (4 min)
8:57 a.m.	An ode to the Biloxi Lighthouse (3 min)
9:00 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)
12:25 p.m.	Woolmarket Christmas Parade 2019 (18 min)
12:45 p.m.	The Biloxi VA Today (15 min)
1 p.m.	Christmas on the Water 2018 (31 min)
1:35 p.m.	Holiday safety tips, with Chief John Miller (4 min)
1:40 p.m.	Christmas tree safety, with Biloxi Fire Department (2 min)
1:45 p.m.	Christmas on the Water 2017 (16 min)
2:01 p.m.	Vietnamese Tet Celebration, January 2020 (20 min)
2:25 p.m.	The Biloxi Lighthouse, with Mary Ann Mobley (13 min)
2:40 p.m.	The Biloxi Light (4 min)
2:45 p.m.	Biloxi from the air (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)
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8:40 p.m.	The Biloxi Lighthouse, with Mary Ann Mobley (13 min)
8:53 p.m.	The Biloxi Light (4 min)
8:57 p.m.	An ode to the Biloxi Lighthouse (3 min)
9 p.m.	City Council meetings and bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)
Midnight	National anthem by Ronny Broussard (2 min)

A scene from
"Christmas on the
Water, 2017"



Holidays highlight BTV in December

BTV: Biloxi Television, the city's municipal TV channel, has a decided holiday feel in December, with a look back at the city's festive celebrations.

Highlighting programming in December are replays of the Christmas on the Water boat parades from 2017 and 2018, the Woolmarket Christmas Parade from 2019, and the Vietnamese Tet Celebration from January 2020.

The programs highlight the morning, afternoon and evening schedule.

BTV also carries replays of recent City Council meetings and other public gatherings during a three-hour block of programming that airs at 9 a.m., 3 p.m. and 9 p.m.

And, finally, in December, Biloxi native and Miss America Mary Ann Mobley headline a block of programs focusing on the Biloxi Lighthouse. Mobley narrates a 13-minute history of the lighthouse in the first of three city-produced documentaries, followed by two shorts, The Biloxi Light and An Ode to the Biloxi Lighthouse.

BTV continues to provide monthly programming time to the Biloxi Veterans Administration Medical Center and Biloxi Public Schools.

Let's branch out this Christmas

Biloxi Main Street 2020 Christmas Ornament, The Old Peoples Bank Weather Vane



Net Christmas Tree at Peoples Bank

With the passing and recovery of Hurricane Zeta, Biloxi trees have been on everyone's mind. But now, we can begin to focus on the Christmas Tree. Let's take a look back at some coastal traditions as well as some holiday traditions associated with trees.

First, let's take a look at some coast tree history and a dozen or so memorial trees.

Practical use

Hundreds of years ago when Monsieur Lemoyne D'Iberville landed on our shore, he was astounded by the huge array of trees that he encountered. The early French settlers documented our amazing tree assortment which included cedar, cypress, pine, magnolia, sassafras, oak, and sweetgum.

Upon arrival, the Colonists went right to work constructing houses, small buildings, boats, and much-needed household furnishings for their new homesteads. The plethora of trees also provided food such as nuts and fruit for the new population as well as for the animals. Amazingly, our mulberry trees were also cultivated for the production of fine silk.

The leisurely palm

Even though our early settlers weren't likely to encounter the non-indigenous palm tree, this tree has been adopted as an unofficial symbol of leisure and vacation along the Coast.

Looking back at photos of popular Biloxi landscapes, we can see where palm trees were added to popular properties. Palm trees grow well on our Biloxi peninsula and can endure our stormy weather.

Places like the old Broadwater Hotel, Baricev's Restaurant, and the median along U.S. 90 near the present I-110 loop all had palm trees. And, palm trees are still everywhere and still standing even along U.S. 90!

The Twelve Palms Memorial

A dozen palm trees were displayed in the early 1900s at City Park located at Reynoir Street and Esters Boulevard, just south of the CSX Railway, where a Mississippi Power Co. office is now located. The park, also called the Twelve Palms Memorial, with its "Biloxi" sign, had served as a welcoming point for rail passengers visiting Biloxi.

The palms honor Biloxi's World War I casualties and the original project was completed by the Cleophan

Club of Biloxi, believed to be the oldest women's club in Mississippi, with its first recorded meeting taking place Sept. 30, 1901.

On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2013, Biloxi rededicated the twelve palms, now located at the Biloxi Businessmen's Park, at Forrest Avenue and Bayview Avenue, on Back Bay, in a ceremony held by the Biloxi Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

A tree city

For more than three decades Biloxi has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for its continued tree planting and preservation.

Each February, the City of Biloxi celebrates Arbor Day, complete with a 5K and 1-mile run, tree plantings and giveaways. Why celebrate in February? Well, that time in late winter is the best time to plant new seedling trees. By the way arbor in Latin means tree.

Now, let's look at some Christmas Tree traditions.

Tullis-Toledano holiday trees

With the threat of this year's coronavirus pandemic, more families will participate in at-home decorating projects. The arrival of cooler weather brings along the excitement of holiday preparations. Tree decorating adds to the festive spirit of the season.

Years ago, before Hurricane Katrina, trees were decorated and displayed at the historic Tullis-Toledano Manor on Biloxi's East Beach Boulevard also known as U.S. 90.

At least ten cultural groups sponsored and contributed trees, including the Yugoslavs, French, English, Hispanics, Scots, Germans, African-Americans, Vietnamese, Irish, and Italians.

The old 1800s structure provided an amazing holiday extravaganza. Sadly, in 2005, Hurricane Katrina ended the cultural learning opportunity when its monstrous waters forced a huge barge to land on top of the Manor.

Netted Christmas Trees

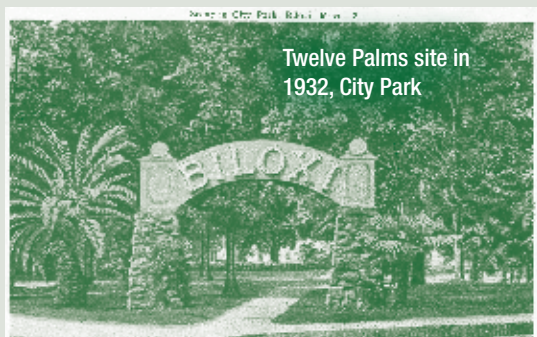
Other festive trees could be seen throughout downtown Biloxi. Across from City Hall on the old Biloxi Library property, a

fisherman's netted tree, one designed out of fishing nets, was often constructed recognizing the strong influence of seafood workers in our community.

The Peoples Bank building on Howard Avenue also exhibited a netted tree visible from the sidewalk through its window.



Palms trees at the old Broadwater Beach Hotel



Twelve Palms site in 1932, City Park

Holiday ornaments

Since 1997 Biloxi Main Street has offered an assortment of tree ornaments depicting historic Biloxi structures from both the past and the present. These shiny artistic renderings have included popular Biloxi structural icons such as the Barq's Root Beer Factory, the old Biloxi Library, the Saenger Theatre, and our present City Hall.

This year's ornament is the curious Weather Witch weathervane which is still perched atop Ellzey's Hardware store on Howard Avenue. This unusual architectural ornament has endured decades of hurricanes and is still hanging on.

The ornament is available at the Biloxi Visitors Center's Gift Shop.

The Biloxi Visitors Center also offered a Christmas ornament dating back to 2013. The ornament was a series and featured the Biloxi Lighthouse and the Visitors Center.

The series highlighted the city's oldest landmark and one of the city's most symbolic buildings representing Biloxi's resolve. The center did not introduce a new ornament this year.

Floating trees

For 35 years now, the official opening of the holiday season for the Mississippi Gulf Coast has been marked by the Christmas on the Water celebration which usually includes a parade both on land and on water.

Many boat owners elaborately decorate their vessels with holiday garb and lights, and parade in organized formation along the shoreline of the Mississippi Sound from west to east.

The boats are clearly visible by way of their holiday lights. Many include Christmas trees as part of their display. Many boats are even accompanied by festive holiday music, as well.

This year's event will only involve a parade on water which is scheduled for Saturday evening on December 5 and will be followed by a fireworks display.

Family trees

During this year's holiday, before visiting with family members either in person or via popular technology, it's a good idea to sharpen those genealogy skills by adding details to the Family Tree.

Whether used as a research tool or a sharing event, Family Trees are the easiest way to see family connections, especially for the young at heart. Visit the Local History and Genealogy Department at the downtown Biloxi Library to see the great collection of books and other resources to help solve your family tree puzzle.



Christmas on the Water

Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra

The writer is manager of the Local History and Genealogy section of the Biloxi Public Library. Email her at jane.shambra@gmail.com.

BNews Monthly

DECEMBER 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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