

With rising cases and vaccines, spikes are the talk of the pandemic

The calendar turned and we're well into 2021, but by mid-January the pandemic raged on, amidst a backdrop of growing eagerness for vaccinations.

The focus was turning from spikes in daily cases to spikes in the arm.

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021 is dubious as the largest day of new cases of the coronavirus in Harrison County, 251 cases, occurring 10 months to the day COVID-19 began canceling local events. Since mid-March, COVID had claimed 191 lives in Harrison County.

Meantime, the Coast Coliseum was announced as a drive-up vaccination

site for those who have appointments through the health department.

By mid-January, 283,000 vaccine doses had been distributed statewide; more than 109,000 had been administered, and 9,600 second doses.

Wrote Gov. Tate Reeves on Facebook Jan. 14: "A few weeks ago, Mississippi was the slowest state in the country to deliver the vaccine. Today, we're poised to administer every vaccine that the federal government gives us weekly, at least for the next two weeks. We are not out of vaccine. We are operating at max capacity."

The end of the line

George Juanico of the Public Works Traffic Division sizes up the completed striping at Main and Division, the heart of the project.

A week into 2021, striping went down on Division Street, the backbone of the "North Contract," a \$130 million project that saw new water, sewer and drainage lines under 55 miles of streets in East Biloxi, north of the CSX railway.

The project, billed as the largest municipal undertaking in the history of the city, began in August 2014 and was supposed to be finished three years later, in August 2017.

Nearly 300 change orders and four years later, and after months of dusty or muddy roads, the major overhaul of east Biloxi infrastructure came to a close with the Division striping.

"This was one long ordeal, and for that we apologize," said Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich, who took office a year into the project. Ward 2 and East Biloxi have the newest streets, sidewalks, water, sewer and drainage systems you'll find anywhere, and it's been earned."

ALSO INSIDE This month

Biloxi booster

Decades ago, Tommy Munro said Biloxi ought to have something to say, Page 2



The shift from debris

Zeta debris operations are winding down as permanent repairs are in the offing, Page 4

BTV in the spirit

Our Mother of Sorrows and Nichols grads discuss '60s Biloxi in a Black History Month special. Plus we're cooking and telling stories, Page 25

Mardi Gras memories

Take a look at Biloxi Mardi Gras from back in the day, Page 26



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Things are
brighter
in



biloxi
Biloxi Bay Chamber

"Things are brighter in Biloxi," proclaimed the Tommy Munro-created bumper sticker, still displayed three decades later by Clark Griffith, the retired brigadier general and former City Councilman.

State of the City

The origins are humble for a story that is so big

As this year's State of the City presentation makes its way to mailboxes, cyberspace and BTV this month, it marks another turn in a long and winding road for the annual presentation.

And we're not talking about the impact of COVID-19 and its havoc on annual events. No, we're talking about an annual presentation that has evolved from a gathering of a few dozen people in the auditorium of the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center on Point Cadet 30 years ago, to an event that has been presented to luncheon audiences of 600 or so people who paid \$50 a head to hear the news of their city.

The event is a brainchild of the late Tommy Munro, the longtime Biloxi booster, civic leader, respected businessman and benevolent one. Munro marshalled support among like-minded citizens – Dickie Schmidt, Franklin Kyle, Larry Corban, Dr. Frank Gruich, to name a few – to shine a favorable light on the city, to present an annual State of the City report.

"That small group of us were thinking that there wasn't one, and there should be," said Biloxi attorney Wayne Hengen, a charter member and former president of what today is the Biloxi Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. "Tommy likened it to the State of the Union, and I don't know that any other cities had done it back then."

Hengen has attended every State of the City presentation since that first year.

"Oh yea," he responded matter-of-factly. "And I couldn't be more proud that we have gotten so much participation in the event. They've been informative and it seems like it's growing every year. Tommy Munro hit the nail on the head."

To be sure, the annual presentation is actually rooted in state statute: In the mayor council form of government, state statute says the mayor "shall annually report to the council and the public on the work of the previous year and on the condition"

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.

Nick L. Shrimp



SOTC through the years – and now

You can see an archive of State of the City videos and reports online at biloxi.ms.us/sotc.

The 2021 State of the City will make its debut on BTV Thursday, Feb. 11 at 8 p.m. It will also premiere simultaneously on the city's YouTube channel and Facebook pages.

of the municipality. The mayor, the statute continues, shall also require each city department to make an annual report.

Of course, it could be as simple as "hey, we've had a good year." But when has government taken the simple route?

In fact, Mayor Holloway, never known to relish the role of public speaking before large audiences of, say, three or four, much less 600 to 700, was forced to deliver two state of the city addresses. One for the Biloxi chamber and one for the Biloxi Bay chamber. Usually about a month apart, and to essentially the same audience. Mercifully, the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce eventually opted to stage Breakfast with the Mayor every couple of months instead of a state of the city.

Credit Don Snyder, the longtime and enterprising Biloxi Parks & Recreation chief, with the idea of a multi-media presentation.

"You know," Snyder said one year after sitting through a 30-minute delivery by Mayor



Tommy Munro planted seeds before he passed away in 2009

Holloway, "it might be good to do a movie every year. That way, people won't have to just sit and listen to the mayor. They can have something to see."

Tactful, you were, Don Snyder.

Mayor Holloway, for sure, loved the idea, with the majority of the heavy lifting taken off Game Day. What has ensued is a fast-paced, 18- to 25-minute presentation, set to recorded word and using nearly 200 images and supporting video.

For 20 years, the address has been supported by a mailout sent to every postal customer in Biloxi, and now with a robust online presence as well.

And, in this election year and in these often uncertain times, here's one certainty: the State of the City is the one presentation each year where you get a broad-yet-comprehensive take on the program of work in your city. And, yes, to borrow a phrase from a Tommy Munro bumper sticker, it shows that "things are brighter in Biloxi."

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Edgewater Mall

Drop on monthly water bill begins in February or March

The 14,000 customers of the Biloxi Water Department have lower bills coming on their monthly water bills – 50 cents per thousand gallons, actually, up to 25,000 gallons – and it could come as early as the February water billing cycle and certainly no later than March.

“You’ll know if it’s on your bill if it says ‘credit’ under the Harrison County Utility Authority line on the bill,” said Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich.

“The last thing we’re going to do is screw up the water bills,” declared Gilich, whose background is in software. “People have complained about this line for years and you’ll clearly see that’s changing on the new bills.”

The city sends water bills in three cycles – the 10th, 20th and 30th of the month. If testing is successfully completed in time, the “credit” line will be shown on the February bills. If not, March.

The city’s debris-removal contractor, Crowder Gulf, hauled away nearly 300,000 cubic yards of debris in the three-month effort, which had a price tag of about \$4 million.



Zeta effort moves from hauling debris to restoring facilities

The city’s Zeta debris-removal efforts, at least the federally funded portion, wound down by the end of January and attention is focusing more on long-term repairs to facilities now that a FEMA disaster declaration and funding to rebuild is promised.

“We’re to the point now where we’re seeing green vegetation in some of the debris piles,” said Jonathan Kiser, who monitored the city’s debris operations, which began three months ago and have seen nearly 300,000 cubic yards of debris hauled from neighborhoods. “We’re to the point now where debris is no longer a threat to public safety, which is the federal guideline. It’s now more of an inconvenience and will be handled by the city or as part of regular trash pickup.”

Chief Administrative Officer Mike Leonard advised the Biloxi City Council that over the next 30 to 60 days, city staff would submit as many four dozen projects for FEMA funding for permanent repairs, which could occur over the next six to nine months.

Among the biggest projects: Repairs to exteriors at several city buildings, such as the Biloxi Visitors Center, repairs to all waterfront piers and harbors and permanent repairs.

Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich, who wanted to avoid shortfalls between local expenses and federal reimbursements, reminded councilmembers that the city had acquired a \$10 million line of credit, at less than a 1 percent interest rate, to help kickstart approved projects or meet pending bills, such as the \$4 million debris tab.

“We’re in good shape to keep moving forward,” Gilich said. “We’re also looking at other things we can do, such as underground wiring in some cases and elevating electrical boxes even higher. We’re also looking to build back smarter. We’re trying to make the case now on things like the Biloxi Lighthouse pier.

“We want a signature pier there, one that’s resilient,” Gilich declared. “We’ve rebuilt that pier three times in the last few years, and we think there’s a better way instead of constantly rebuilding it.

“Those are the kinds of things we’re looking at as we go forward. And we will go forward.”

Destroyed and rebuilt three times in recent years, there’s a better way to rebuild the Lighthouse pier, says Mayor Gilich.



News & notes

Zeta residential help:

Homeowners and renters with uninsured Zeta losses may qualify for FEMA assistance such as help with temporary housing, basic home repairs and other expenses. Register at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or call 800-621-3362 (800-462-7585 TTY). A disaster center is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to noon at the Harrison County Annex, 9229 U.S. 49, Gulfport.

Zeta SBA help: Business owners, private nonprofits, homeowners and renters may be eligible for low-interest Small Business Administration loans. Apply online at SBA’s secure website, [DisasterLoan.sba.gov](https://www.DisasterLoan.sba.gov). Email FOCE-Help@SBA.gov for more info or call SBA’s Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955.

Traffic signals: Emergency repairs have been completed, for the time being, to signals at the city’s 64 signalized intersections throughout Biloxi. Drive carefully.



Lining up: Would-be candidates for Mayor or City Council have until Feb. 5 to express their intent in writing to Municipal Clerk Stacy Thacker. Primary election is April 6; general election is June 8. See lineup of would-be candidates and other election news on city website. Click on Voter Information on left side of any page of the site.



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Béarnaise, Chives, Tobiko, Toast Point
Duckhorn Vineyards Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc

SECOND COURSE
ROASTED CAULIFLOWER SOUP
Olive Oil, Garlic, Fried Shallot Rings, Truffle
Duckhorn Migration Sonoma Coast Chardonnay

THIRD COURSE
COQ AU VIN
Potato Puree, Mushroom Medley, Roasted Leeks, Pancetta
Duckhorn Migration Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir

ENTRÉE
PRIME RIBEYE CAP ROULADE
Spinach, Gorgonzola, Root Vegetable Puree, Demi-glacé, Roasted Potato
Duckhorn Vineyards Napa Valley Merlot

FINALE
DARK CHOCOLATE CHEESECAKE
Cookie Crust, Dark Chocolate Ganache, Amarena Cherry, Hazelnut
Canvasback Red Mountain Washington State Cabernet Sauvignon

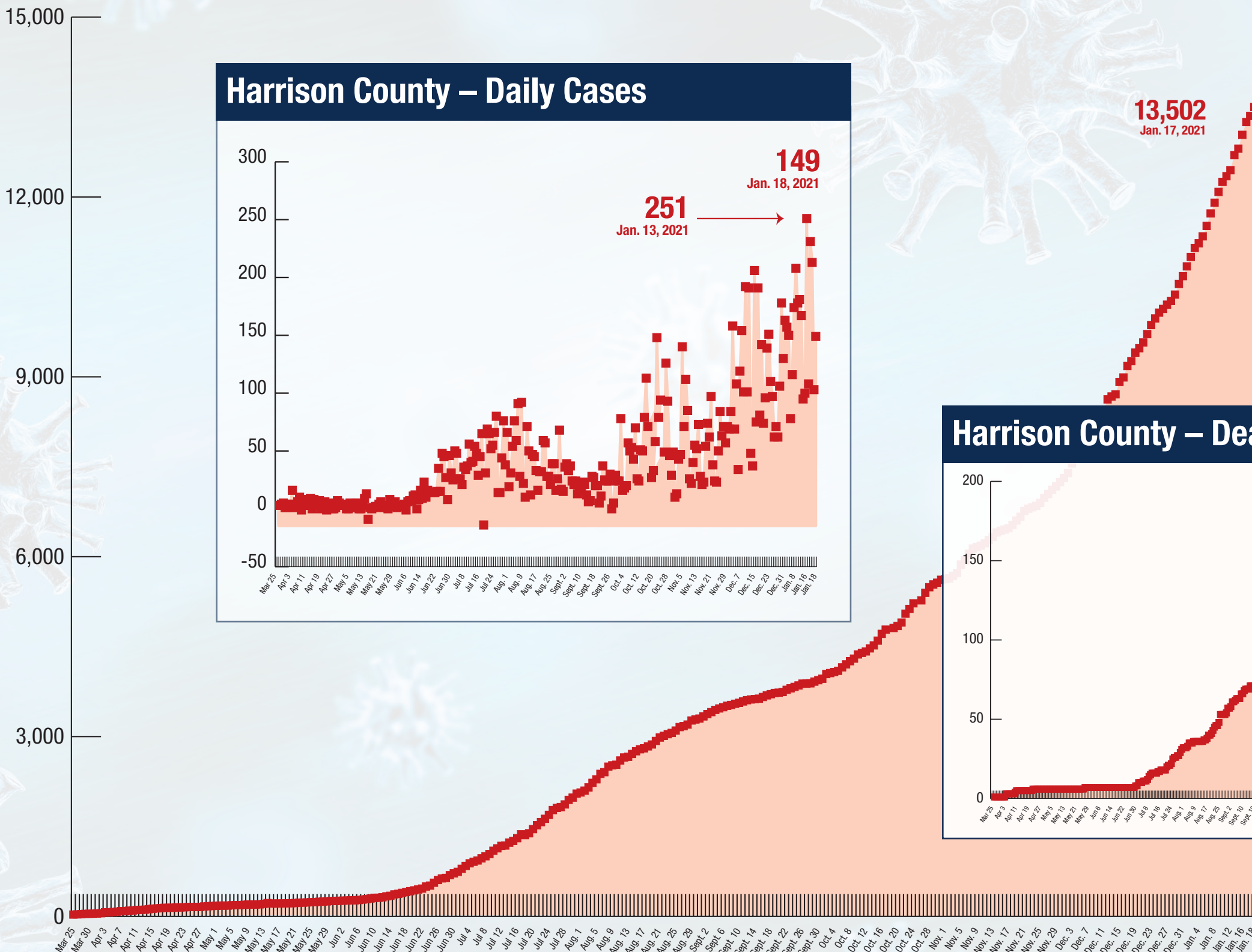
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Coronavirus by the numbers

Harrison County – Overall (as of January 18)



See updates Monday and Friday on the city's Facebook page.

Statewide overall

Positive cases

253,932

(as of Jan. 18)

Presumed recovered

207,769

(as of Jan. 17)

Deaths

5,524

(as of Jan. 18)

Hospitalizations

1,188

(as of Jan. 17)

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Visit online at biloxi.ms./coronavirus-info-practical-advice/ to see links to the Mississippi State Department of Health's vaccination locations, and see links to local hospitals who may be hosting vaccination locations along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Health care officials have said the it takes time for the body to build antibodies and that the length of the effectiveness of the vaccination is still being studied so continue to follow all safety guidelines, avoid social gatherings, wash your hands often and wear a face mask.

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

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*Crab not available for lunch to go or takeout.



Treasure Bay
CASINO AND HOTEL

CITY OF BILOXI PUBLIC NOTICE

Fair Housing Workshop



The city and the Mississippi Center for Justice will host a free workshop to share information and discuss your rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act. You can also learn special tenant protections during COVID-19, and participate in a community fair housing round-table discussion of current issues.

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2 p.m.

Community Development Department
676 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard



Is language or a handicap hindering your ability to attend? Notify the city at least 72 hours before the workshop. Details: Federal Programs Division at the Biloxi Engineering Department, 228-435-6269.

Attendance may be limited by COVID-19 restrictions.

See more info at biloxi.ms.us/cdbg/.

CELEBRATING BLACK
HISTORY MONTH

“Darkness
cannot
drive out
darkness;
only light
can do
that.”

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.





2020 is hindsight

Greetings, my fellow Biloxians:

It's February, when we traditionally present our annual State of the City report, providing you a compilation of the many and major achievements of city departments and divisions in the previous year.

It's certainly been a year like no other: a pandemic that dominated and disrupted our lives and livelihoods, with a hurricane and several hurricane threats thrown in for good measure.

Despite it all, our dedicated city workforce – 653 in all – dealt with the challenges and used innovation and determination to provide you the caliber of service you expect and deserve.

There's no doubt, 2020 will certainly be known as the year of the pandemic. But Biloxi will not be defined by a pandemic. Just as we were not defined by Katrina or Camille or the BP oil spill or any other calamity that has come our way.

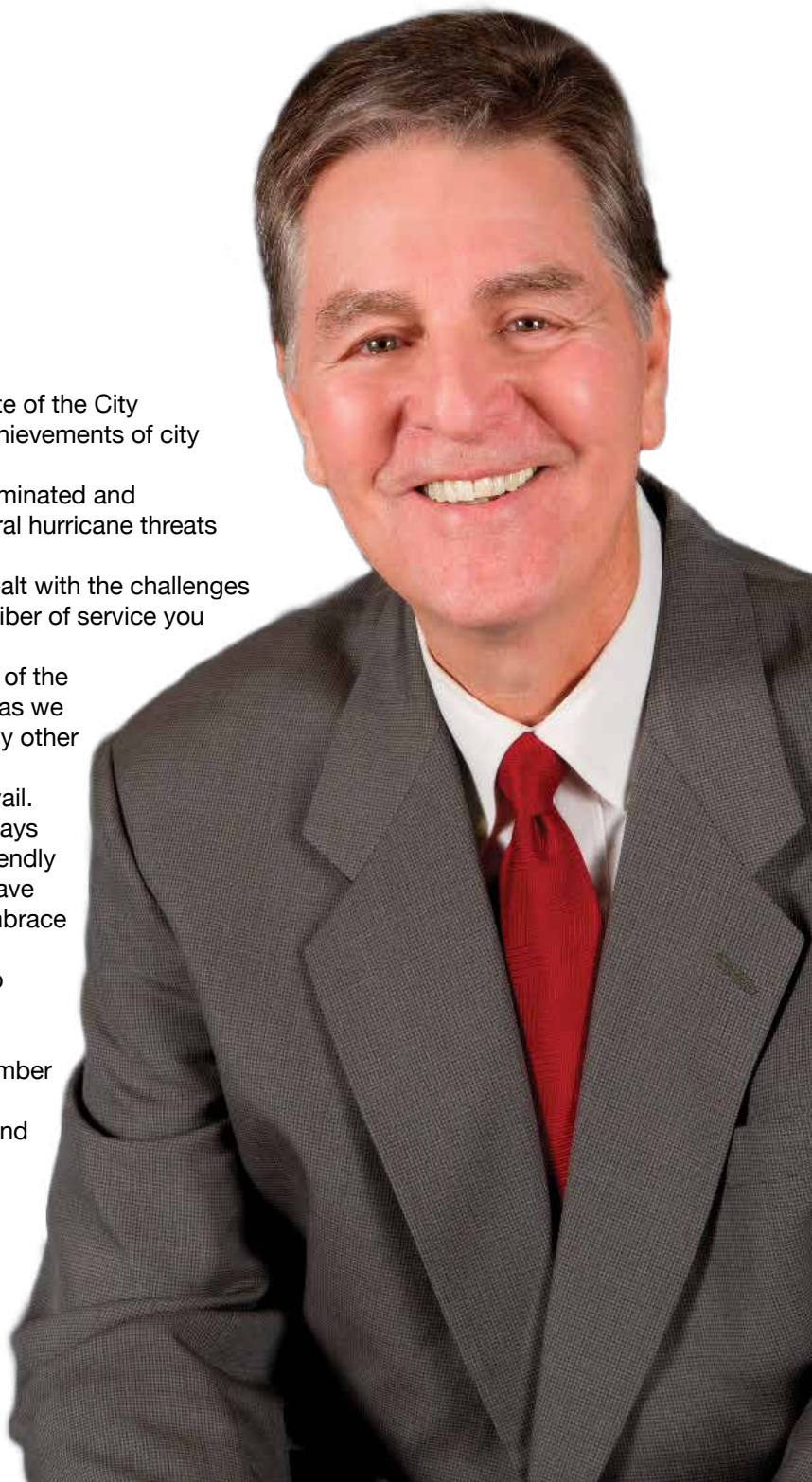
We do not merely endure, to paraphrase Faulkner, we prevail. Biloxi is the inviting land of opportunity. Always has been, always will be. We offer a backdrop of a beautiful community, with friendly hard-working people and 300+ years of colorful history. We have shown time and again that we are up to the challenge and embrace opportunities.

I hope you read this report and appreciate as much as I do the progress we have made. We'll be discussing the progress and issues in a video event that will take place this month, on Thursday, Feb. 11, at 8 p.m., in fact. The Biloxi Bay Area Chamber is eager to hold its annual luncheon, and we certainly will celebrate that occasion down the road. After all, we are the land of opportunity.

Meantime, please stay safe and keep the faith.

God bless you and God bless Biloxi.

Andrew "FoFo" Gilich, Mayor
Feb. 1, 2021



See the state of your city



► **The details:** The following pages provide highlights of annual reports from key departments and divisions, as well as a map providing status of major projects throughout the city. You can find the complete departmental reports online at biloxi.ms.us/sotc2020.

► **The overview:** Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich will present a detailed status report on city programs and initiatives during a special that makes its debut Thursday, Feb. 11 at 8 p.m. It will be shown simultaneously on BTV, the city's Facebook pages and on YouTube.

► **The history:** You can see an archive of State of the City videos and reports online at biloxi.ms.us/sotc.

Departmental Annual Reports

Explorer Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, garbed for past and present, outside the Biloxi Visitors Center.



Administration Department

- Introduced “Opening Up Biloxi Again” guidelines in May, after meeting with segments of the Biloxi community and in adherence to public health standards.
- Bond rating, at AA-, positioned the city well in terms of credit rating
- Projected \$59.4 million in revenue, received \$58 million in revenue
- Projected \$62.2 million in expenses, had \$58 million in expenses
- Support departments in their efforts, while maintaining city policy
- Employees: 653; saw 27 retirements and hired 51 permanent
- Assisted in implementation of the community crime cameras
- Installed new sound system in City Hall council room
- Upgraded firewall for city’s internal data network and helped launch city’s public outreach efforts, such as live streams of council meetings and other events
- Planning and design phase of Fred Haise statue at Biloxi Lighthouse Park parking lot

Community Development

- \$30.8 million increase in overall construction valuation from 2019
- Issued 4,466 permits, including 465 for commercial structures and 968 for residential structures
- Saw the completion of the 30-unit Beach Vista Apartments on Briarfield, J Mart Convenience Store & Chevron Service on Miss. 67, Biloxi Fire Station No. 7 on Popp’s Ferry Road, Pep Boys Automotive Center on Beach Boulevard, Shipley Do-Nuts in the former Popp’s Ferry Car Wash, Desporte’s Seafood on Caillavet Street, The Cannery Bar n’ Grill on Shriners Boulevard, Gulf Coast Veterinary Pet Crematorium on East Oaklawn Road, and Building B addition to Caterpillar Development Center in Woolmarket.
- Permits issued for major commercial projects: Community Bank, Margaritaville amusement park and parking garage, Biloxi Public Schools Performing Arts Center, Gulf Coast Veterinary Pet Crematorium, 140-unit RV Park on Veterans Avenue, and Camp David RV Park
- Construction continued on Blake Assisted Living & Memory Care Community, Marshall Funeral Home, Community Bank, Margaritaville Amusement Park Phase II and Parking Garage, Performing Arts Center for Biloxi Public Schools, RV Park on Veterans Avenue, Camp David RV Park and the exterior renovations to the Saenger Theatre

Community Development continued

- Renovations and repairs on Go Kart Track and Pit Buildings at Big Play Family Fun Center, multi-tenant building for RDH Holdings at 2572 Pass Road, Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art build-out of POD Y, Augusta House Remodel, Souvenir City Warehouse and improvements, Fields Flights Restaurant in the old Mardi Gras Museum, and a Martini bar at 918 Howard Avenue
- Issued 313 new business licenses; 353 new licenses for short-term rentals
- Planning Commission oversaw 56 cases, conducted public hearing for each and approved two final subdivision plats that created 37 new single-family lots.
- Reviewed 37 projects and approved 25 site plans
- Issued 104 residential and 8 commercial tree permits and distributed 300 trees during the annual Arbor Day Run
- Received the designation of "Tree City USA" for the 36th year
- Issued 69 Certificate of Appropriateness for historical districts construction or historic landmarks, a 36 percent increase
- Code enforcement processed 6,379 requests and resolved 4,929
- Maintained rating of 4 in building division by the Mississippi State Building Department Rating Bureau
- Maintained "State Best" rating of 5 in the Community Rating System (CRS)
- Biloxi Lighthouse was visited by 883 guests, a 63 percent decrease
- Biloxi Visitors Center welcomed 48,755, a 64 percent decrease, and 92 public and private events, a 69 percent decrease
- Biloxi Civic Center hosted 29 public and private events, a 63 percent decrease

Engineering Department

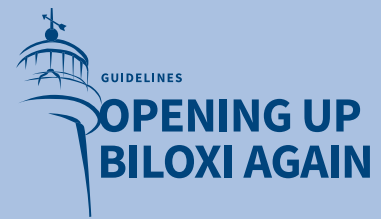
- Managed over 70 projects in concept, design, construction or completion
- Managed over \$1.4 million in paving
- Completed more than 2,300 service requests
- Among completed projects: Belle La Vie Parkway, Churchill Drive Drainage, Ellzey Street Extension to Medical Park Drive, John Henry Beck Park Restrooms, Keesler Gate Inside Project, Popp's Ferry Bridge Submarine Cable, South Contract Phase, Tanglewood Infrastructure repairs, West Beach Boardwalk Phase 1B, and Woolmarket City Center renovations
- Paving completed: Division Street, Reynoir Street, Rustwood Drive, Martin Luther King Parking Lot, Huff Alley, Forrest Avenue, Porter Avenue, Hattie K, Joachim Place, Suter Place, Seal Avenue, Oak Grove Place, Irish Hill Drive, Baltar Lane, and Iroquois Street
- Construction underway: Bayview Waterfront Restoration Project, Boardwalk Small Craft to Oak Street, CSX Railroad Closures (Nixon and Dorries crossings), Eagle Point Park, East Biloxi Connector Roadway, Highway 90 Fishing Pier Lighting repairs, Keesler Gate Outside Project, Lorraine Road Waterline, North Contract Infrastructure, Port Commission Building Roof repairs, Saenger Theater Exterior repairs, Sixth Street South Infrastructure, Snyder Center Chiller replacement, and Woolmarket Road East Drainage
- Projects in design phase: Canaan Fishing Dock Maintenance repairs, Canaan Fishing Dock reconstruction, Cedar Lake Bridge repairs, CSX Passenger Train Platform, East Biloxi Recreational Facility, Hurricane Zeta repairs (approximately 12 projects), Lorraine Road Waterline Phase II, Keegan Bayou restoration, Kuhn Street Boat Ramp Expansion, Main Street Railroad Crossing upgrades, Malpass Landing Drainage, Point Cadet Marina upgrades, Popp's Ferry Bridge, Popp's Ferry Extension Roadway, Sediment Removal Master Plan, South Contract Phase 2, Visitors Center renovations, Katrina Infrastructure -West Contract, and Woolmarket Sidewalks
- Projects in concept phase: Bay Vista Water Well, Lee Street Boat Ramp, Point Cadet Boardwalk, Saenger Theatre Interior Renovations, and Mason Road Waterline

Fire Department

- Responded to 7,026 calls for service, including 4,490 for rescue and medical emergencies (64 percent of overall calls), and 306 fire-related; other calls include good intent, hazardous condition and false alarm calls.
- Medical calls were reduced based on AMR's recommendation because of COVID-19
- Placed Unit 82 into service, a refurbished vehicle outfitted with 50 sets of gear for firefighters to immediately safely store contaminated gear at fire scene
- Put two newly purchased "green" pumpers into service at Stations 1 and 5



Opening Up Biloxi
Again meetings



Saenger Theatre exterior repairs



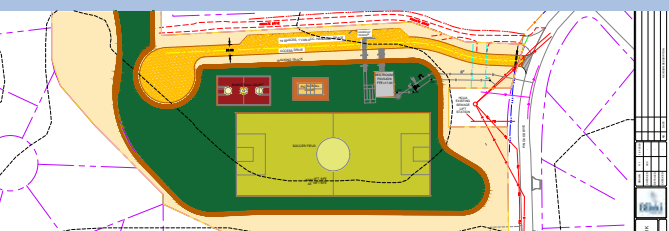
Green fire trucks arrived in 2021



Fire training tower dedication



Fire Station #7 at Cedar-Popp's



Eagle Point Park plans



Eagle Point Park groundbreaking in September 2020

City of Biloxi Police Department
Traffic Enforcement Vehicle



Fire Department continued

- Opened battalion-size Station No. 7 at Cedar-Popp's; station includes a training tower and classroom.
- Reduced city's fire rating from a Class 3 to a Class 2, meaning in the Top 20 percent in the country
- Hired 19 new firefighters
- 94 firefighters are EMTs, five paramedics, and one Advanced EMT
- Completed over 16,000 hours of professional development training
- Installed 87 smoke detectors in 22 residences, a decrease because of COVID-19
- Conducted 1,030 fire inspections (78 percent decrease because of COVID-19) and issued 356 certificates of occupancy inspections, including 55 short-term rentals
- Reviewed 137 blue prints for approval
- Issued 54 burn permits and eight outdoor firework display permits
- Canceled 2020 Fire Academy for Kids summer camp and R U Ready because of COVID-19
- Employed 170 firefighters and seven civilians

Legal Department

- Oversaw refinancing of city debt service, resulting in nearly \$1.5 million in savings
- Successfully obtained the re-instatement of \$8.8 million from FEMA for infrastructure work
- Shared with Biloxi Main Street the management and maintenance of downtown development grants
- Developed and reinstituted Community Court
- Participated in ongoing economic development initiatives
- Secured miscellaneous recoveries of over \$500,000
- Appointed new Municipal Judge Apryl Ready

Parks & Recreation

- Programs, rentals, and events decreased because of COVID-19: 79 facility rental cancellations; no rentals in the months of May and June; cancellation of Mississippi Senior Olympics, Mississippi Special Olympics, championship and annual swim meets; cancellation of all sports except baseball and softball
- Hosted three drive-thru events: Halloween on Hiller, Christmas on Lameuse, and Senior Citizen Brunch with Santa
- Repairs made to Donal Snyder swimming pools; facility fence replaced
- Repairs at Natatorium to retractable roof and exhaust fans; replaced 10 deck heaters, ice machine and pool pump filter
- Maintained 15 city parks and playgrounds, and 20 ballfields
- Broke ground on new public park at Eagle Point
- Began improvement at Mark Barhanovich Circle Park

Police Department

- Handled 102,287 calls for service; officer-initiated calls represented 62 percent of call volume
- Calls for service generated 6,447 arrests
- Rescued 189 animal – a decrease of 574 from 2019
- Investigations Division resolved 49.7 percent of all felony crimes, above the national average
- Investigated 11 homicides; all but one resolved
- Sustained accreditation policies and procedures
- Employed eight K9s; six dual-purpose and two explosive detectors
- K9s and handlers conducted 85 narcotic searches and 239 explosive searches
- Conducted nearly 10,000 hours of training
- Bomb Squad answered more than three dozen calls for service
- Honor Guard provided representation at 12 details, a decrease because of COVID-19
- Bike Team, staffed by 23 officers, logged 24 hours with citizens during co-sponsored rides
- Public Information Division generated over 280 press releases and Facebook posts that resulted in multiple tips in various cases
- Front desk/records clerk completed 191 public record requests

Police Department continued

- Employed 134 sworn officers and 54 civilians
- Five sworn officers retired, two resigned and three were hired
- Employed 23 dispatchers; one was hired
- Assisted with such events as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade, Mardi Gras parades, Spring Break, Scrapin' the Coast, Cruisin' the Coast, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast Marathon
- Secured nearly \$765,000 in grants
- Implemented and deployed Community Crime Camera Program
- Saw the cancellation of Biloxi Community Festival Against Crime because of COVID-19

Port Division

- Maintains four harbors with a total of 457 slips
- Hosted the Gulf Coast Billfish Classic, Biloxi King Master and Kingfish Mayhem tournaments that brought in over 250 boats to Point Cadet Marina
- In design phase for Sherman V. Canaan Back Bay Fishing Dock improvements
- Either secured or made emergency repairs to piers and harbors that were damaged by Tropical Storm Cristobal and/or Hurricane Zeta
- Major damage at Commercial Fishing Dock caused shrimp boats to dock in temporary slips at harbor until repairs completed

Public Affairs Division

- Website had 453,313 sessions, averaging 8,718 visits a week or 1,239 a day; 296,678 unique visitors, an 11 percent increase over the previous year
- Sent 240 Bmails, an average of nearly five Bmails weekly to an audience of 9,500 subscribers
- Sent 255 B-Alert text messages about traffic or weather to an audience that grew by 11 percent, to 10,199 subscribers
- Completed 12 monthly newsletters, averaging 24 pages, delivered to every address in Biloxi; generated \$109,300 in advertising revenue to offset printing and delivery costs
- BTV: Biloxi Television, the city's municipal TV channel, offered local programming and replays of City Council meetings. New programming included documentaries on Fred Haise and Apollo 13.
- Transitioned weekly podcast to COVID-19 daily video update for more than two months before settling on a "Biloxi A to Z" bi-weekly video report; 135 video updates produced, including 75 dailies; viewership ranged from 3,000 to 20,000 for each video
- Studio B created at City Hall to accommodate in-house recording
- Introduced live streams of City Council meetings and other notable events
- Lighthouse cam shown regularly on local media usually with a handful of viewers daily, had more than 800 viewers simultaneously during Hurricane Sally threat, and on another occasion had more than 200,000 views after being simulcast by The Weather Channel.
- Facebook page attracted more than 8,300 new followers, ending year with 45,304 followers, 22 percent increase over 2019

Public Works Department

- Maintained more than 47 city buildings, MGM Park and the Biloxi Cemetery
- Processed 10,148 work orders totaling more than \$3.7 million
- Filled 1,985 potholes
- Mowed 5,778 miles of rights-of-way
- Maintained and repaired 569,539 feet of drainage ditches
- Installed and removed 11,300 barricades and 12,081 four-foot delineator cones for special events
- Picked up 3,199 bags of litter and 5,631 tires
- Water department completed 253 work orders for water meter installations and repairs
- Maintained 23 water wells, 104 lift stations, and more than 2,700 fire hydrants
- Seven employees are certified well operators
- Two employees are certified waste water operators
- Manufactured, installed and repaired 1,007 signs



Port Division: Issued three mandatory evacuations in 65 days



Lighthouse cam: The shot seen 'round the world
Social media reports: The inside story on Things Biloxi



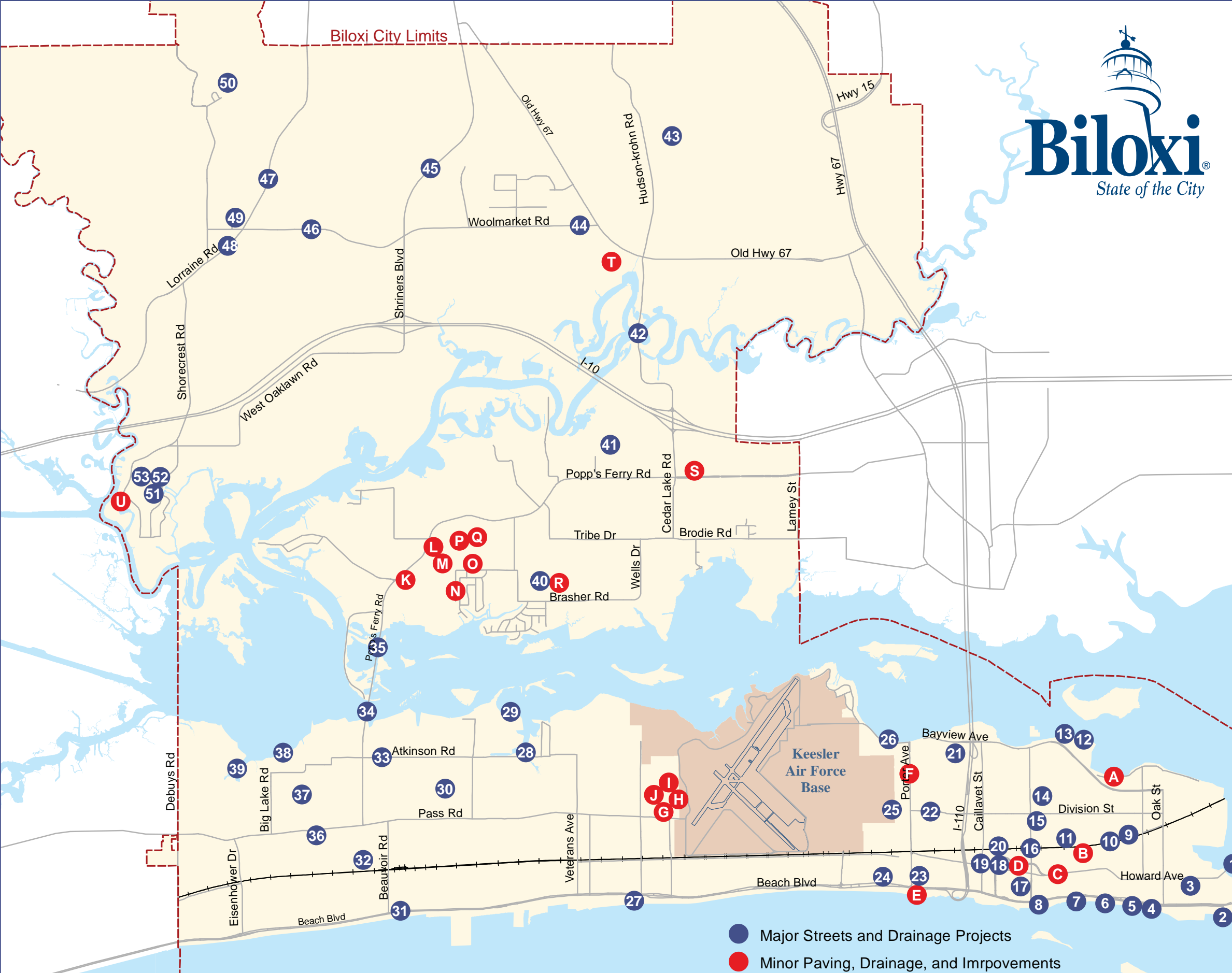
Bi-weekly video report on BTV, Facebook and YouTube



Public Works crew repair water main break at
G E Ohr and U.S. 90

► Complete departmental reports online at biloxi.ms.us/sotc2020

January 2021 status of major projects



Major streets and drainage projects, cost and status

Includes under design, under construction, pending or completed

1	Hwy 90 Fishing Pier Lighting Repairs	\$170,000	Complete
2	Point Cadet Marina Improvements	\$5.7 million	Design
3	Sixth Street South Infrastructure (SXSS)	\$10.5 million	Under Construction
4	Small Craft to Oak Street Boardwalk	\$3.0 million	Construction Pending
5	Kuhn Street Boat Ramp Expansion	\$1 million	Design
6	Sand Beach Renourishment	\$1 million	Design
7	Lee Street Boat Ramp	\$500,000	Conceptual
8	Port Commission Building Roof Repairs	\$175,000	Nearing Completion
9	East Biloxi Connector Roadway	\$730,000	Under Construction
10	CSX Railroad Closures	\$50,000	Under Construction
11	East Biloxi Recreational Facility	\$500,000	Conceptual
12	Canaan Fishing Dock Reconstruction	\$5 million	Design
13	Canaan Fishing Dock Maintenance	\$250,000	Under Construction
14	North Contract (Katrina Infrastructure)	\$129 million	Nearing Completion
15	John Henry Beck Park Restrooms	\$200,000	Complete
16	Main Street Railroad Crossing Upgrades	\$210,000	Design
17	South Contract Phase 2 (BVE 1 & 2)	\$24 million	Design
18	Saenger Theater Exterior Repairs	\$2.5 million	Under Construction
19	Saenger Theater Interior Renovations	\$3 million	Conceptual
20	CSX Passenger Train Platform	\$400,000	Design
21	Keegan Bayou Restoration	\$4.1 million	Design
22	Keesler Gate Outside Project	\$18.3 million	Under Construction
23	Visitors Center Renovations	\$100,000	Design
24	South Contract Phase 1 (BWV 1 & 2)	\$25.6 million	Complete
25	Keesler Gate Inside Project	\$6.6 million	Complete
26	Bayview Waterfront Restoration Project	\$2.0 million	Under Construction
27	West Beach Boardwalk Phase 1B	\$910,000	Complete
28	Hiller Park Boat Ramp	\$200,000	Design
29	Bent Oaks Sediment Removal	\$85,000	Complete
30	Tanglewood Infrastructure Repairs	\$525,000	Complete
31	West Contract (Katrina Infrastructure)	\$33.5 million	Design
32	Popp's Ferry Extension	\$18.3 million	Design
33	Atkinson Road Traffic Study	\$18,800	Design
34	Popp's Ferry Bridge Submarine Cable	\$1.4 million	Complete
35	Popp's Ferry Bridge From Riverview to Pass Road	\$75.0 million	Design
36	Bay Vista Water Well	\$750,000	Conceptual
37	Churchill Avenue Drainage	\$100,000	Complete
38	Sediment Removal Master Plan	\$70,000	Complete
39	Goose Point Sediment Removal	\$150,000	Complete
40	Malpass Landing Drainage	\$250,000	Design
41	Elizey Street Extension to Medical Park Dr	\$700,000	Complete
42	Cedar Lake Bridge Repairs	\$900,000	Design
43	Mason Road Waterline	\$600,000	Conceptual
44	Woolmarket Road East Drainage	\$1.2 million	Under Construction
45	Shriners Blvd Waterline	\$600,000	Design
46	Woolmarket Road Sidewalks	\$1.0 million	Design
47	Lorraine Rd Water Line Phase 2	\$600,000	Design
48	Lorraine Road Waterline	\$600,000	Complete
49	Woolmarket City Center Renovations	\$250,000	Complete
50	Belle La Vie Parkway	\$1.7 million	Complete
51	Eagle Point Canals Cleanup	\$40,000	Design
52	Eagle Point Park	\$580,000	Complete
53	Eagle Point Park Phase 2	\$200,000	Design

Minor Paving, Drainage, and Improvements, cost and status

Includes under design, under construction, pending or completed

A	Bayview Avenue Bridge	\$8,000	Complete
B	Paving Outside of Infrastructure - South of CSX	\$110,000	Construction Pending
C	Small Craft Harbor Parking Lot	\$43,000	Complete
D	MLK Parking Lot & G E Ohr Street	\$90,000	Complete
E	Lighthouse Parking Lot - Fred Haise Statue	\$10,700	Complete
F	Circle Park Asphalt	\$8,000	Complete
G	Salvant Street & Lewis Avenue	\$28,000	Complete
H	St. Martha Paving	\$5,000	Complete
I	Jefferson Davis Elementary School	\$5,000	Complete
J	St. Mary Boulevard Parking Lot	\$4,500	Complete
K	Baywood Drive Paving North of Rustwood	\$54,000	Complete
L	Baywood Drive North of Rustwood	\$90,800	Complete
M	Darwood Drive Paving	\$55,800	Complete
N	Camp Wilkes Road Paving	\$42,000	Complete
O	Trailwood Drive Paving	\$23,100	Complete
P	Rustwood Drive Paving	\$5,000	Complete
Q	Carolwood Drive Paving (West portion)	\$22,200	Complete
R	Watersview Drainage Repair	\$38,000	Complete
S	Fire Station 7 Parking Lot	\$12,000	Complete
T	Hattie K Road & Old Hwy 67	\$18,500	Complete
U	Webb Lane & Shorecrest Road	\$2,200	Complete

The vaccination process has begun for our Veterans

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

Happy New Year from the Gulf Coast Veterans Healthcare System!

Here at the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System's (GCVHCS) Biloxi VA Medical Center in Biloxi, we've faced the trials and tribulations of maintaining health care for our nation's heroes during a global health crisis, an unprecedented endeavor faced by medical facilities around the globe.

As we continue our battle against COVID-19, I assure each of you that we are committed to providing our Veterans with the necessary tools to protect themselves and others. We're continuing to receive doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccination. In accordance with the Centers for Disease



Bryan C. Matthews



Biloxi VA TODAY

Control and Prevention guidelines, we're administering these to our Veterans, beginning with those considered high-risk.

We've successfully vaccinated 1,400 Veterans so far, and our medical and supply professionals have been extraordinary in the distribution of the vaccines we've received. We first provided vaccinations to our front-line health care workers and our Veterans residing in the Biloxi VA Medical Center Community Living Center. Our health care workers were among the first to receive vaccinations because they are at high risk for contracting and spreading COVID-19 to other staff members and patients. Their health is critical to ensuring the continued care of our Veterans.

Veterans interested in receiving the vaccine are encouraged to complete the Keep Me Informed Form (can be found on our Facebook page), a VA initiative designed

to capture Veterans' interest in receiving the vaccine and effort to keep Veterans informed of the VA's vaccination process. The information from this form can assist a Veteran's care team in preparing for eligible individuals' vaccinations.

We'll continue posting updated COVID-19 vaccination information to the GCVHCS official website (www.biloxi.va.gov) and our social media pages (@vagulfcoast). Additionally, Veterans can learn more about the VA's plan for COVID-19 vaccination at the VA Coronavirus Vaccine FAQs webpage or by contacting their care team. If you have medical questions about the vaccine, you can call 1-800-929-7690. If you would like to receive email updates, please visit the front page of our website and enter your email information to be included in our email listing.

Please know that we're committed to our Veterans and committed to our community; one of my 2021 goals is to ensure our organization continues and expands upon the outstanding relationship we share with so many in Biloxi and surrounding area organizations, individuals, and civic leaders.

Thank you all so much for your support during a difficult year and as always.

This monthly column and the 15-minute program airing daily at 6:45 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. on BTV are created by the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System manager.



AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY
CONSTRUCTION & CARPENTRY
CULINARY ARTS
DRAFTING & DESIGN
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES
HEALTH SCIENCE
HOSPITALITY & TOURISM
MARKETING
ROBOTICS



AT THE BILOXI SCHOOLS
CAREER TECH CENTER, WE ARE
*preparing our students
for the future!*



The infrastructure work in Biloxi

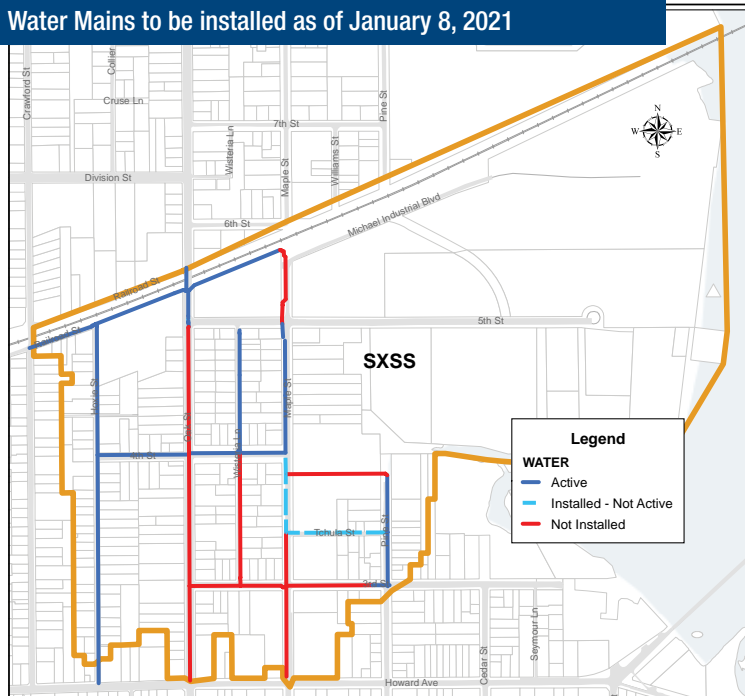
Pages 13 through 16 contain maps that show the status of the city's three major infrastructure projects now underway. The information on these maps is compiled by the city's Engineering Department, based on reports from contractors and inspectors at each site. See detailed maps and video online at biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/.

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.

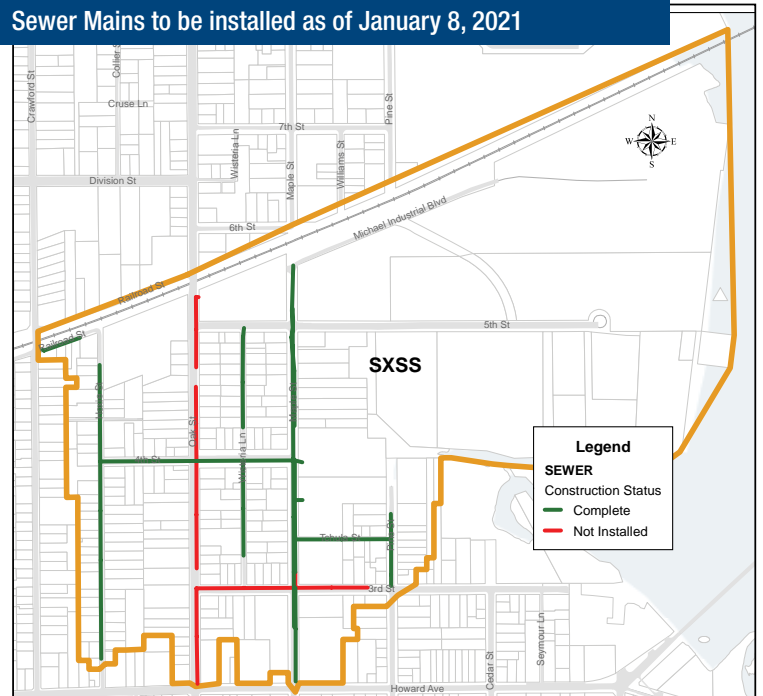
Lane Construction Water

Water Mains to be installed as of January 8, 2021



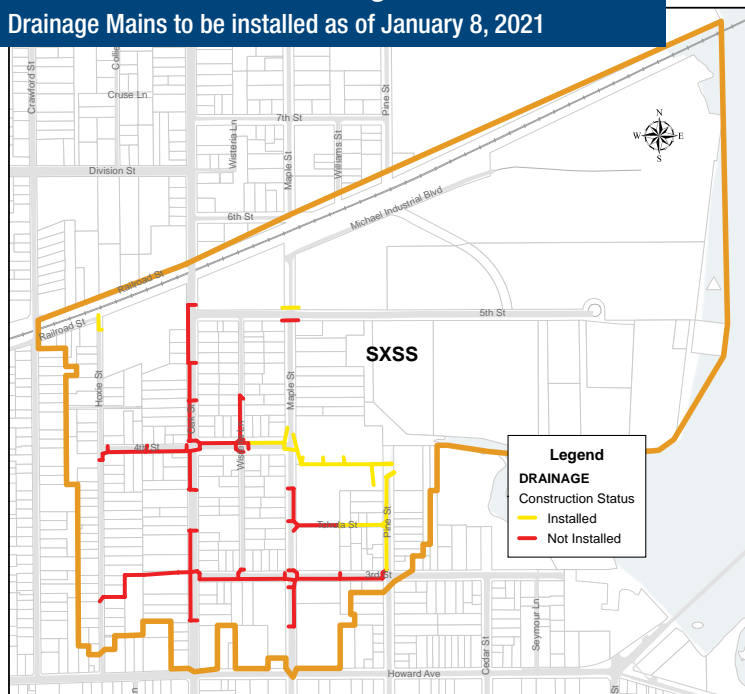
Lane Construction Sewer

Sewer Mains to be installed as of January 8, 2021



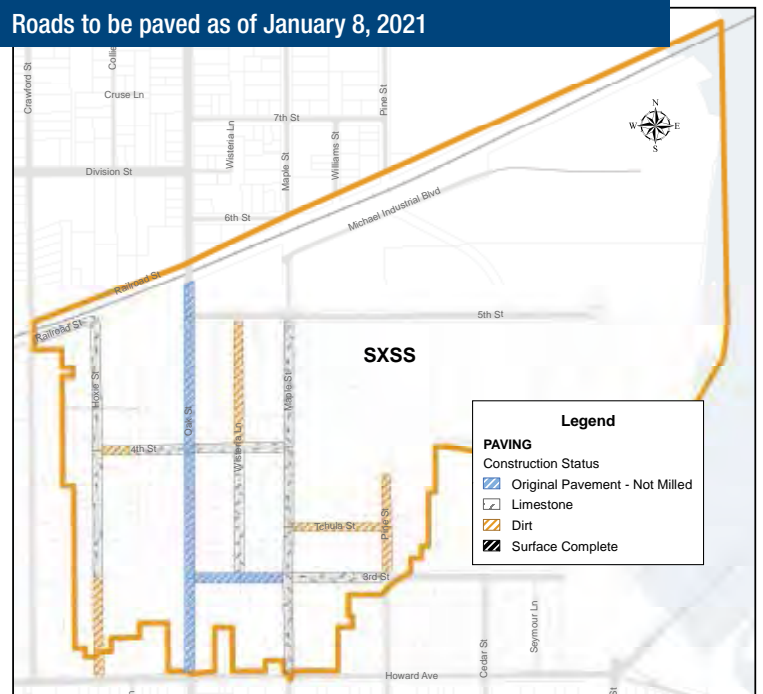
Lane Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of January 8, 2021



Lane Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of January 8, 2021



The North Contract: Remaining Paving

(100% complete as of January 2021)



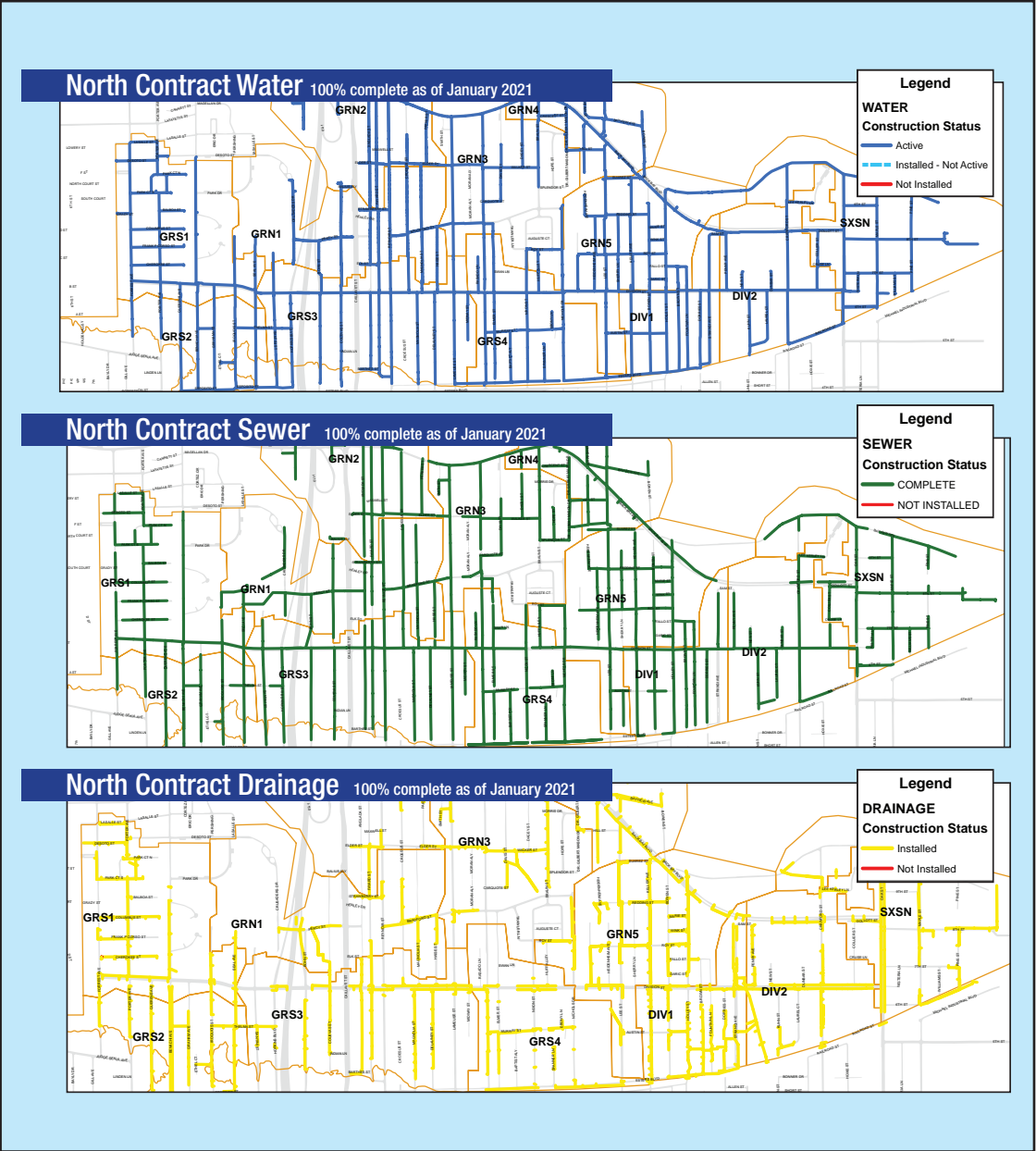
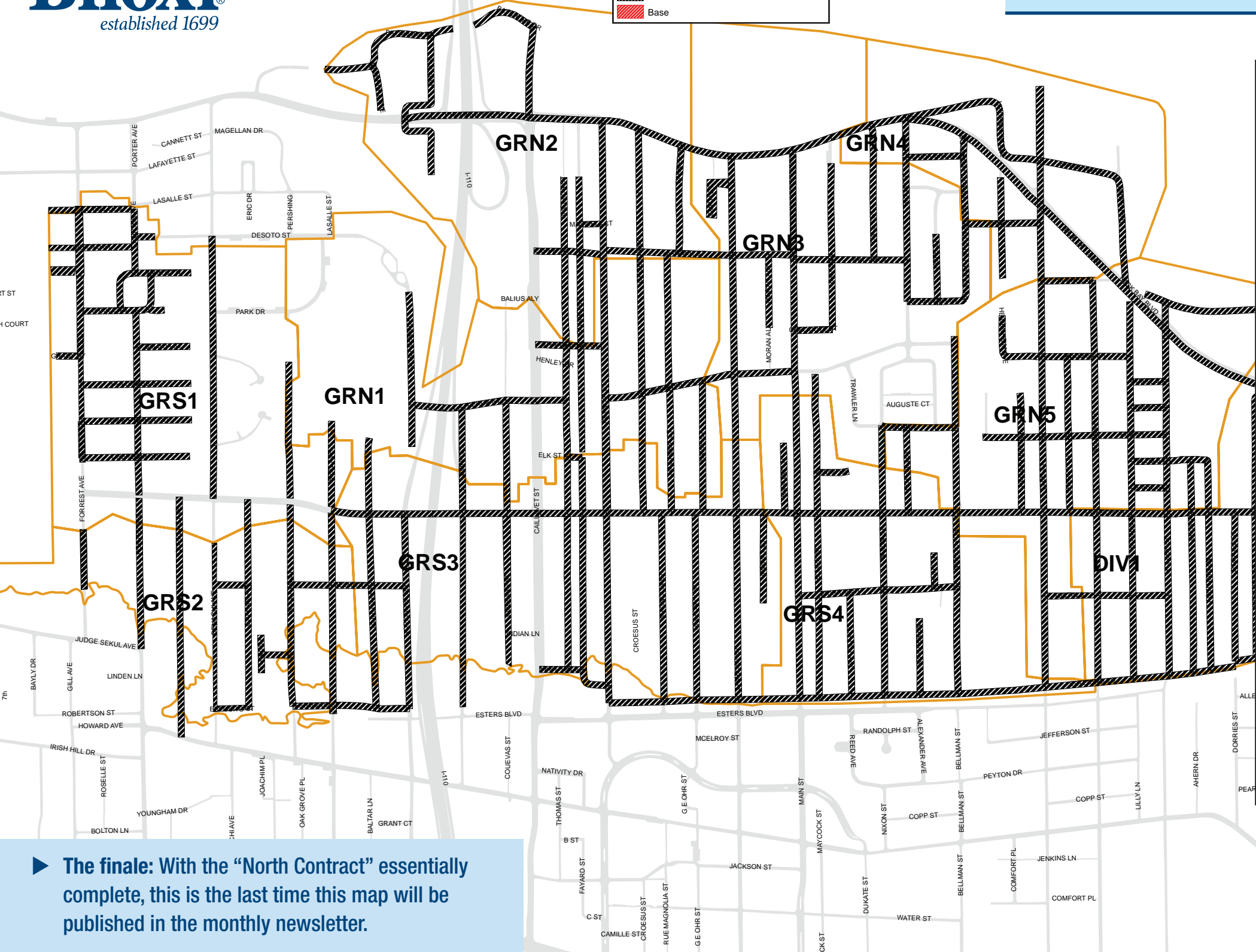
Legend

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.



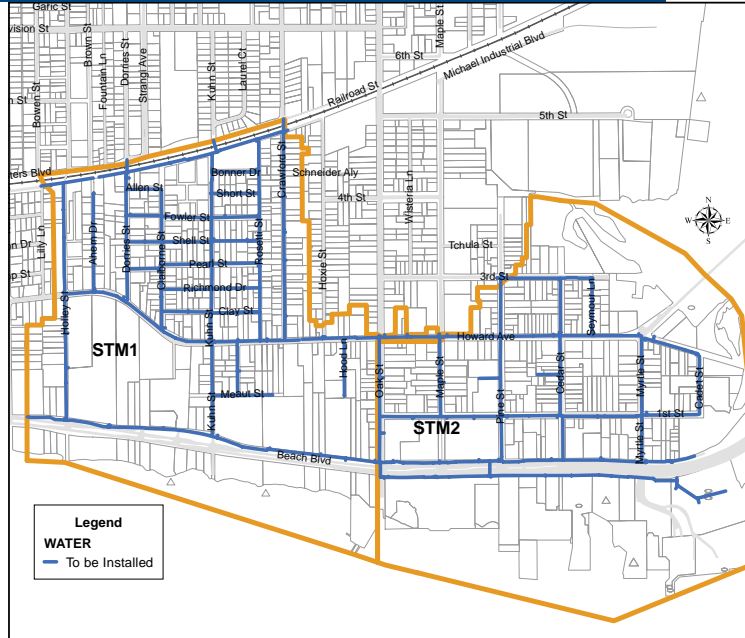
► The finale: With the “North Contract” essentially complete, this is the last time this map will be published in the monthly newsletter.

St. Michael 1 & 2

Necaise Brothers Construction is scheduled to begin work on Jan. 4, 2021 on the next phase of infrastructure work in east Biloxi. 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.

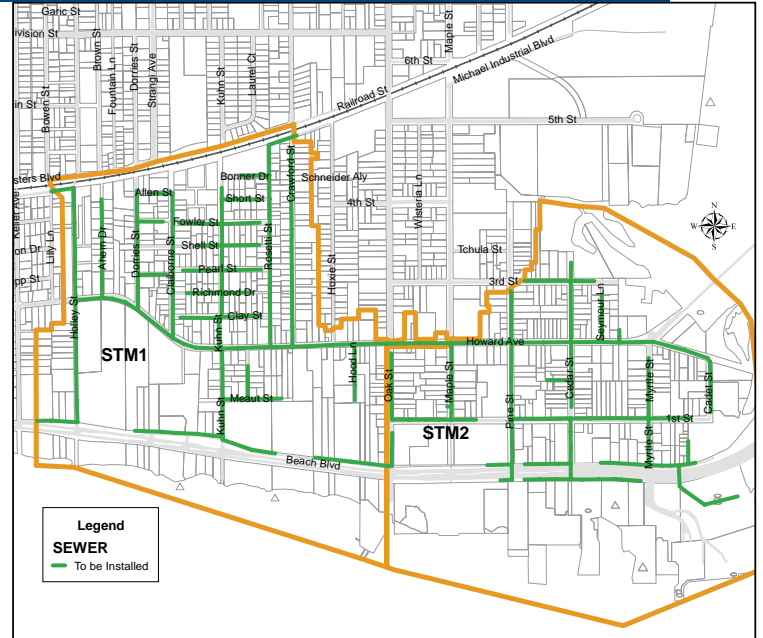
Necaise Brothers Construction Water

Water Mains to be installed as of January 2021



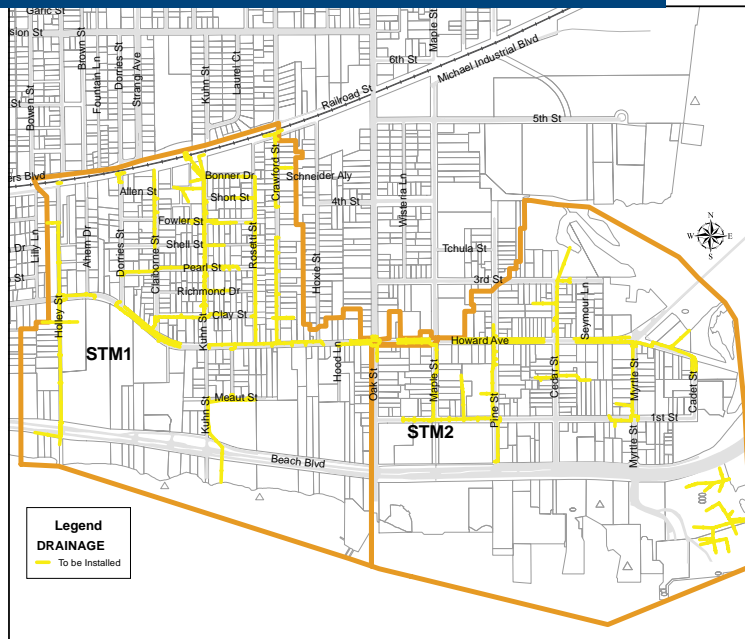
Necaise Brothers Construction Sewer

Sewer Mains to be installed as of January 2021



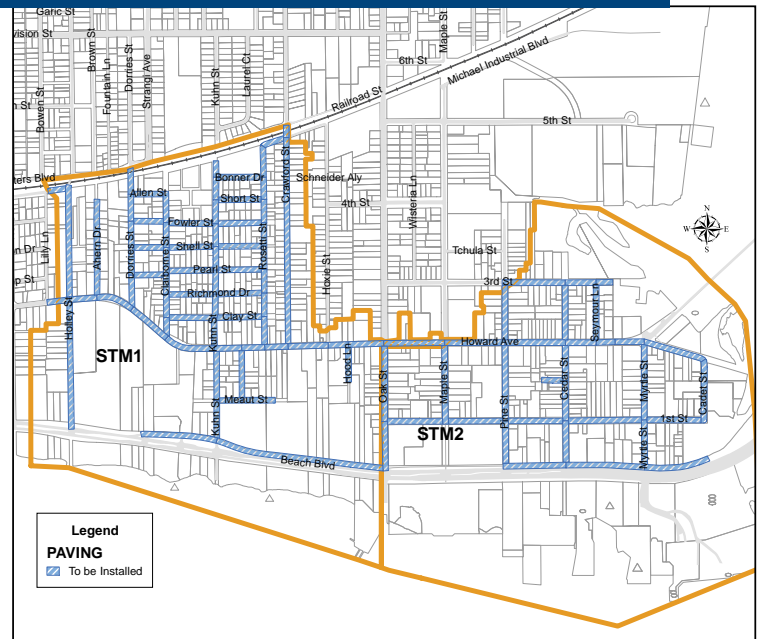
Necaise Brothers Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of January 2021



Necaise Brothers Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of January 2021



CITY OF BILOXI: Tractor-trailer snagged at Main Street rail crossing. Use alternate route [nixe.us/BXM4E](https://www.biloxi.ms.us/BXM4E) Reply with a friend's # to forward

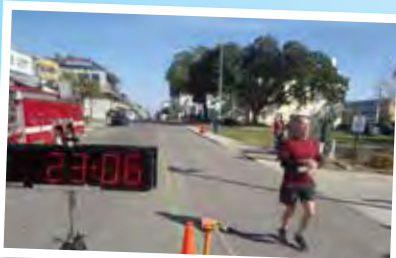
For traffic updates, text BILOXI to 888-777

Best Bets!



Celebrate outside with a walk or a run

Looking for a festive and healthy activity? Well, sign up for the Run for the Beads and Arbor Day runs, which by the way, you can walk. On Saturday, Feb. 6, the Mississippi Coastal Mardi Gras Museum on Howard Avenue will host the 9th **Annual Gulf Coast Carnival Association's Run for the Beads** 1-mile and 5K in celebration of this year's carnival season. The event takes place downtown, begins at 8:45 a.m. and will include a post-party. Then on Saturday, Feb. 20, you can celebrate Arbor Day by participating in the annual **Arbor Day Run/Walk/Roll for Disability Awareness**. The event, which also takes place downtown, includes a 5K, 1-mile and ¼ mile run or walk all beginning at 9 a.m. Those with disabilities are encouraged to participate. Fees apply for each event and preregistration may be done online. For more details, see the event listing in the calendar.



First Friday, on hiatus; Expected to resume March 5. Details: 228-435-6339

Discover the 'Pinta', through Feb. 16, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Biloxi Schooner Pier, 357 Beach Blvd. Daily, self-guided tours of the 'Pinta' replica. The sailing museum provides the public education on the 'caravel,' a Portuguese ship used by Columbus and many early explorers to discover the world. Admission charged. Details: 787-672-2152, or email ninapintatour@gmail.com

9th Annual Gulf Coast Carnival Association "Run for the Beads" 1-mile Fun Run/5K, Feb. 6, Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum, 792-A Howard Ave.



Registration begins at 7:45 a.m. at museum; 8:45 a.m. 1-mile start; 9 a.m. 5K start. Race begins and ends at the museum with a post-race party. Register online at <http://www.msgcca.org/5k-run/>.



Biloxi Baseball and Softball Registration, Feb. 6, online. Baseball open to ages 4-16 (must be 4 by April 30, 2021); softball open to ages 5-16 (must be 5 by Jan. 1, 2021). Fees apply. Registration: biloxiouthbaseball.com; biloxisoftball.com. Details: 228-388-2483



Joppa Shriners Steak Night, Feb. 12, 6-8 p.m., 13280 Shriners Blvd. Ribeye Dinner, \$17; takeout is available; pickup available if call before noon. Occurs on the

second Friday of each month and is a fundraiser to cover costs of transportation and lodging for patients and family members to go the Shriners Hospitals for Children in Shreveport, LA. Details: 228-392-9345

Best Bet!



Roll through Downtown

Get out your bicycle, strap on the helmet, and stick on some lights for an evening ride through downtown Biloxi on Tuesday, Feb. 16. Cyclists meet at the Biloxi Visitors Center and pedal off at 6 p.m. The social ride ends at a downtown restaurant where each cyclist can refuel by treating themselves to some tasty food. For more information, call the Biloxi Main Street office at 228-435-6339.

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

Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the 33rd 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

Best Bet!

Explore history

The Pinta, a replica of Columbus's ship of discovery, is in Biloxi for daily, self-guide tours. The vessel is located at the Biloxi Schooner Pier and open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Feb. 16 at 5 p.m. Individuals, families, school aged children and others are invited to explore the small vessel to learn what the "caravel," a small, fast Portuguese sailing ship of the 15th to 17th centuries used by explorers such as Columbus, was like. Admission is charged and safety protocols will be practiced. For more information, call 787-672-2152 or email ninapintatour@gmail.com.



Bike Biloxi, Feb. 16, 6 p.m., Downtown ride. Begins at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. and ends with refreshments at restaurant at cyclist's expense. Helmets and lights recommended. Details: 228-435-6339



Annual Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Soldier. Feb. 20, 11 a.m., Beauvoir The Jefferson Davis Home & Presidential Library, 2244 Beach Blvd. Program begins in the Beauvoir Cemetery and includes guest speakers and a wreath-laying. Admission charged. Details: 228-388-4400 x217, or kstevens@beauvoir.org

Annual Arbor Day Run/Walk/Roll for Disability Awareness, Feb. 20, 8 a.m., Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. Registration begins at 8 a.m.; 9 a.m. 5K starts; 9:45 a.m. 1-mile & ¼ mile starts. Preregister online at www.gulfcoastrunningclub.org. Details: 228-604-4020



Wedding Collective
THE PREMIER WEDDING SHOW OF THE SOUTH

The Wedding Collective Bridal Show, Feb. 21, 1-4:30 p.m., Biloxi Civic Center, 578 Howard Ave. Wedding pros from across the region on site to help with ideas, find inspiration and plan your wedding. Admission charged. Details: <https://www.facebook.com/idoallmag>

Biloxi Little Theatre

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

Center Stage

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

Betsy Ann Riverboat Cruise

173 Beach Blvd., 228-229-4270, betsyannriverboat@gmail.com, bestyannriverboat.com
• Closed until Spring

Biloxi Lighthouse & Visitors Center

1050 Beach Blvd., 228-374-3105, biloxi.ms.us – Open daily, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
• Lighthouse Tours Daily, 9-9:45 a.m.

Biloxi Schooners

367 Beach Blvd., 228-435-6320, schooners@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

Biloxi Tour Train

Biloxi Lighthouse Park parking lot, south of Biloxi Visitors Center, traffic light #40
228-374-8687, www.biloxitourtrain.com.
• Call in advance to check tour availability

Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum

792 Howard Ave., 228-314-4747, museum@coastalmardigras.com, www.coastalmardigras.com
• Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., closed Sundays and Mondays

Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum

115 1st St., 228-435-6320, www.maritimemuseum.org
• Registration for **2021 Sea-n-Sail Adventure Camp** now open

Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art

386 Beach Blvd., 228-374-5547, www.georgeohr.org
• Check website for 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.

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 Bingo:** Feb. 5, 12, 19, & 26. Door open at 5 p.m.; Early bird games at 6:30 p.m.; regular games at 7 p.m. Cash payouts and door prizes. Concessions available until 8:30 p.m.
• **Sunday Charity Bingo:** No Sunday Bingo for February.
• **Safety protocols for bingo:** six-feet social distancing, contact tracing forms to be completed, temperature taken, hands to be sanitized, mask are mandatory by the gaming commission.

Fleur de Lis Society of Biloxi (French Club)

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472
• **Dinners every Friday night in February**, 6-8 p.m., Karaoke every Friday at 7:30 p.m.
Call for details.

Nativity Cathedral

871 Esters Blvd., 228-374-0606
• **Biloxi Bingo Mania** – Every Tuesday night behind Nativity Cathedral; Doors open at 5:30; Early bird begins at 6:30 p.m.; Regular games begin at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit Nativity BVM Catholic Elementary School.

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, 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
31	1	2 Community Market Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	3	4 Community Market	5 Friday Night Dinners with Karaoke Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	6 Run For The Beads 1-mile Fun Run/5K Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum Biloxi Baseball and Softball Registration biloxiouthbaseball.com biloxisoftball.com
7	8	9 Community Market Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	10	11 Community Market	12 Joppa Shriners Steak Night 13280 Shriners Blvd. Friday Night Dinners with Karaoke Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	13
14	15	16 Community Market Bike Biloxi Downtown Biloxi Discover The Pinta (Last Day) Schooner Pier Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	17	18 Community Market	19 Friday Night Dinners with Karaoke Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	20 Annual Arbor Day Run/Walk/Roll for Disability Awareness Biloxi Town Green Annual Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Soldier Beauvoir
21 The Wedding Collective Bridal Show Biloxi Civic Center	22	23 Community Market Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	24	25 Community Market	26 Friday Night Dinners with Karaoke Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	27
28	1	2 Community Market	3	4 Community Market	5	6

Btv February 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.	Mask up, Biloxi (5 min)
6:10 a.m.	Infrastructure update (3 min)
6:13 a.m.	A look back at Mardi Gras parades 2020 (14 min)
6:27 a.m.	City Within a City (18 min)
6:45 a.m.	Biloxi VA Today (15 min)
7 a.m.	"Biloxi Cooks!" (20 min.)
7:21 a.m.	Mask up Biloxi (5 min)
7:30 a.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (10 min)
7:40 a.m.	Biloxi by Air (15 min)
7:55 a.m.	BTV this month (5 min)
8 a.m.	Special Presentation: City Within a City, Part 2, "Nichols and Our Mother of Sorrows" (1 hour)
	Special Presentation: Feb. 12-14: State of the City 2021
9 a.m.	City Council meetings and other 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.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)
12:45 p.m.	Biloxi VA Today (15 min)
1 p.m.	"Biloxi Cooks!" (20 min.)
1:20 p.m.	Mask up, Biloxi (5 min)
1:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (10 min)
1:40 p.m.	A look back at Mardi Gras parades 2020 (14 min)
1:55 p.m.	A word about BTV (5 min)
2 p.m.	Special Presentation: City Within a City, Part 2, "Nichols and Our Mother of Sorrows"
	Special Presentation: Feb. 12-14: State of the City 2021 (1 hour)
3 p.m.	City Council meetings and other bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)
Evening	
6 p.m.	"Down in Biloxi," by Rockin' Ray Fournier (4 min)
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Midnight	National Anthem by Ronny Broussard (2 min)



You can view individual programs on the city's YouTube channel.

BTV looks back at Nichols, OMS

The graduates of two Biloxi schools, one public and one private and both segregated, discuss their school days in Biloxi in the 1960s in a new program airing as a Black History Month salute on BTV this month.

Videographer August Taconi says his latest production, interviews with a dozen former students of Nichols Public School and the Catholic school Our Mother of Sorrows, is a follow up to 2013's "City within a City," which focused on life in segregated Biloxi in the '60s.

"We brought you heartwarming and sometime tumultuous stories from the people living in a City within a City," Taconi says, "and in part two of City with a City we found out how important education was to their future."

You can see the original 18-minute "City within a City" each morning and evening at 6:27. The Nichols and OMS reboot, at one hour, airs at 8 each morning and evening and at 2 each afternoon.

State of the City bows Feb. 11 at 8 p.m.

The Biloxi Bay chamber's annual State of the City luncheon may be sidelined for the time being, but the State of the City moves forward.

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich will present the annual State of the City presentation on Thursday, Feb. 11, at 8 p.m. on BTV, and on the city's Facebook and YouTube platforms. The presentation will have encores at 8 a.m., 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. Feb. 12-14.



Catch "Storytime with Gumbo Kelly" mornings and evenings at 7:30, and afternoons at 1:30 p.m.

Mardi Gras: A quick look back

The parades are not rolling in Biloxi this year, but you can take a fast-paced look at Mardi Gras parades in Biloxi in a 13-minute program airing on BTV in February. See the redux at 6:13 mornings and evening and 1:40 each afternoon.

Biloxi Cooks! has a new creation

Firefighter Anthony McGee will be cooking "Jumbo Twist," a concoction that includes shrimp, chicken, mushrooms and more is the featured dish on this month's episode of "Biloxi Cooks!"

The show, which airs daily at 7 a.m., 7 p.m. and 1 p.m., also features Battalion Chief Jason Davis, and Firefighters Steven McCravy and Michael Williams.

This month's recipe: Jumbo Twist

Ingredients:

- 12 oz. pack of fresh sliced mushrooms
- 12 oz. frozen raw peeled shrimp
- 1.5 lbs. boneless chicken thighs
- 12 oz. frozen cut okra
- 2 packs – 11 oz. Knorr Mexican Rice
- 12 oz. frozen season blend
- 2 sticks of butter
- 4 oz. Dale's Seasoning
- garlic powder
- Tony Chachere's Original Seasoning
- 4 oz. of olive oil
- 1 oz. curry powder

Instructions:

- Cut chicken into bite sized cubes and season to taste with the seasonings from the ingredients list.
- Place ½ stick of butter and 4 oz. of olive oil into large skillet, add

seasoned chicken and frozen seasoning blend. Cook for 30 minutes or until meat is done.

- Break or dice mushrooms and cook down using ½ stick of butter.
- In a separate pot, prepare Knorr rice packs according to package instructions.
- Place okra in water in a separate pot with a teaspoon of Tony's seasoning and cook until tender or about 10 minutes.
- Sauté shrimp in skillet for about 3 minutes using ¾ stick of butter.
- Drain okra and combine them with mushrooms, shrimp and chicken in the skillet. Cook for 3 minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent sticking.
- Combine mushrooms, okra, chicken and shrimp mixture with rice; mix well and enjoy!



Parade Float-toasting at the Elks building



Parade Hwy 90, looking toward West



Skeet Hunt 1956



1980 King, Mayor at City Hall

Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra

Carnival season has been celebrated in Biloxi for centuries. Over the years, floats have become more elaborate, royalty balls grander and new krewes have been established. This year's festivities are a little different because of the coronavirus pandemic but have no fear, safe celebrations are happening. The Coastal Mississippi

Mardi Gras Museum is hosting virtual events such as Yardi Gras, a home and business decorating contest, and encouraging the public to wear Mardi Gras shirts and post photos on social media. And, the Gulf Coast Carnival Association is hosting its annual Run for the Beads 5K and 1-mile event.

So, get out those Mardi Gras beads, and let's brush up on some history. Laissez les bon temps rouler!

The words

We often use the terms Mardi Gras and Carnival interchangeably but actually they represent different time frames of the holiday.

Mardi Gras, which means Fat Tuesday in French, is the one-day culmination of Carnival season. It occurs on different days on our calendar each year with the earliest possible date being Feb. 3 and the latest being March 9. This year's Mardi Gras is Feb. 16.

Carnival is the actual season. It begins every year with the Twelfth Night, a transitional event whereby the new and old Carnival royalty members gather and participate in the switching of the holiday lights in Biloxi from

Christmas to Mardi Gras.

It is also the 12th day from Christmas, the night before the Epiphany, the day when the three wise men visited infant Jesus, foretelling the revelation of God the Son being born as a human.

Royal colors

Since about 1872, the Mardi Gras colors have represented the season and symbolizes the royalty. Purple represents justice, green represents faith and gold represents power.

During the season each year, banners, flags, fashion, and décor are everywhere donning these royal colors.

Doubloons

One of the many "throws" which are collected during Mardi Gras parades remind us of the days of when pirates roamed our shores and left legends of buried treasures to be discovered. Those throws are known as doubloons.

The tradition of catching Mardi Gras doubloons is relatively new. Doubloon catching began during the 1960s under the supervision of the late Captain of Carnival W. Kenner Hunt and Walter Fountain. These metallic round, shiny, colorful coins have become collector items. Newer versions are even constructed of wood or plastic.

Doubloons aren't just for catching. Each is a work of art with a printed image on both sides. Today's traditional Mardi Gras doubloons have the carnival krewe's insignia on one side and the year on the other.

Businesses have even picked up the clever idea of advertising on the coins by printing their information as well as coupon data and website addresses on the doubloons.

Masking up

In today's world of the pandemic, masking has taken a new term in everyday vocabulary.

But masking in the Mardi Gras world has been going on for decades.

Carnival season is a time to dress up in elaborate costumes, often donning masks concealing the wearers' true identity. Pictures from the past show masked costumed float riders as well as parade goers wearing masks covering their eyes or whole face.

Back in the day, all costumes and corresponding masks were hand-made with delicate needlework. Today, with the exception of elaborate attire for members of the royalty, costumes can sometimes be purchased online and in retail outlets. My, how times changed!

Floating along

The primary component of each parade is the floats. They seem to "float" gracefully down the streets.

Through the years, these decorated platforms were made in different ways. There were floats composed of many layers of papier-mache – a French word for a material made of glue and paper. Then, there were foil floats which were popular for a while and very effective for evening or sunny days adding a sparkling glow.

Today's floats are more complex. They are made or decorated with plastic and wire, wood, flowers and variety of other materials. And, they are pulled along by a powerful truck, unlike years ago when farm mules had that job.

Back in the day, flambeaux, or large candle stick carriers, guided the evening floats down the street and provided a better viewing of each decorated float. Today's electrified, power-generated floats have become exceptionally complex providing popular music from their sound boxes, fancy lighting, and occasionally laser shows.

The designing of floats is a work of art. In the 1920s, Biloxi's Professor S. Navarro Sr. was a popular designer of Biloxi Mardi Gras floats. His work was noted in 1927 in a Biloxi Mardi Gras program which included his float

drawings with a brief explanation of each.

Shoebbox floats

Spearheaded by sisters Susan Hunt and Martha Hunt Tripp in the late 1990s, the Mardi Gras Shoebbox Float Contest is an activity for school children to learn about the history of the Carnival season in Biloxi.

Children are encouraged to create and title their own mini-version of a Mardi Gras float out of a shoe box. Float finalists are displayed at Biloxi City Hall and the Biloxi Visitors Center for a period of time before each child is recognized by Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich with an official mayoral certificate during a Biloxi City Council meeting. The children then get to ride on the Biloxi Tour Train in the Children's Mardi Gras Walking parade.

The Biloxi Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Biloxi, Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum, and Gulf Coast Carnival Association co-sponsor the annual competition.

Float den

The traditional den (room) in our home depicts a setting of sofas, television sets, and leisure gatherings. In the Mardi Gras world, a den is a huge warehouse where floats are kept safe and sound, a hibernation location for the marvels of Mardi Gras throughout the year.

Bead dogs

What can you do with all those Mardi Gras beads found in attics and closets from years ago? Perhaps you can use them as throws during future parades. Or, maybe you can repurpose them into a sculpture such as a dog.

Within the past few years, artisans of all age groups have had the pleasure of a neat recycling project of creating bead dogs.

Basically, you cut strands of Mardi Gras beads and twist them into little pups. Add a touch of glue, paint, sequins, or glitter and you will have a small piece of art work.

The project has even inspired jewelry artists to create wearable dogs and businesses have utilized the bead dogs for promotion during the Mardi Gras season and even throughout the year for the awareness and prevention of animal cruelty.

Evolution in Biloxi

In the 1800s, Biloxi celebrated Carnival season with masquerade parties, balls and special dinners. 1908 marked a special year in Biloxi's Mardi Gras history when King Bienville and Queen Ixolib (Biloxi spelled backwards) reigned as official royalty. No one knows for sure who originally titled our Mardi Gras queen as "Ixolib" but it was a clever idea.

That year's Mardi Gras parade featured 17 floats, 150 flambeaux carriers, and a 12-piece Herald Newspaper Band lead by the famous "Boeuf Gras," a live white steer symbolizing that this day was designed to eat a lot because the next day would be the beginning of the Lenten season when fasting would begin.

A few years later in 1916, a non-profit Biloxi Carnival and Literary Association was incorporated and approved by then Biloxi Mayor E. Glennan, W.H. Hunt, C.J. Kellar, Charles H. Rushing, and J. V. Hagan. The stated purpose of this new organization was to promote the study of literature, particularly Greek mythology, and to give an annual carnival and street celebration in the City of Biloxi.

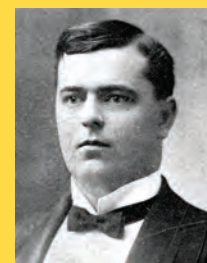
In 1976, the non-profit was officially registered as the Gulf Coast Carnival and Literary Association of Biloxi, Miss. and listed Jerry J. O'Keefe, then mayor, as one of the official officers. The charter also stated that its carnival and street pageants in Biloxi would include floats of Greek, Roman, and Egyptian Mythology, and historical events.



Looking for a family member who may have served as Mardi Gras royalty? Stop by the Local History and Genealogy Department of the Biloxi Library on historic Avenue for a historical research project!



Queen Pical XOLIB



1908 King Arguis John Carraway

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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