

# BNews Monthly

MARCH 2023

*A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi*



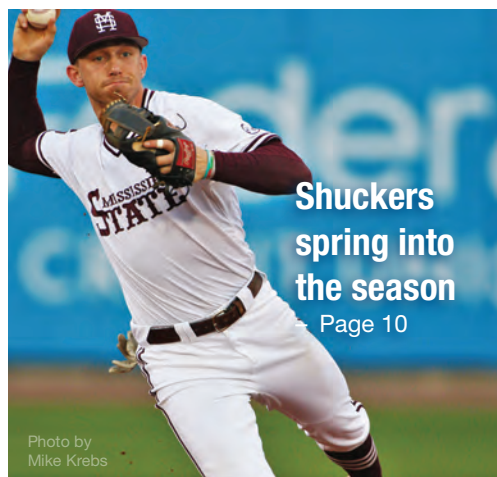
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Photo by Mike Krebs



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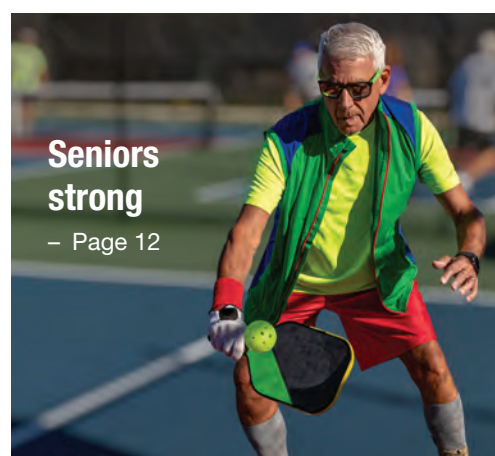
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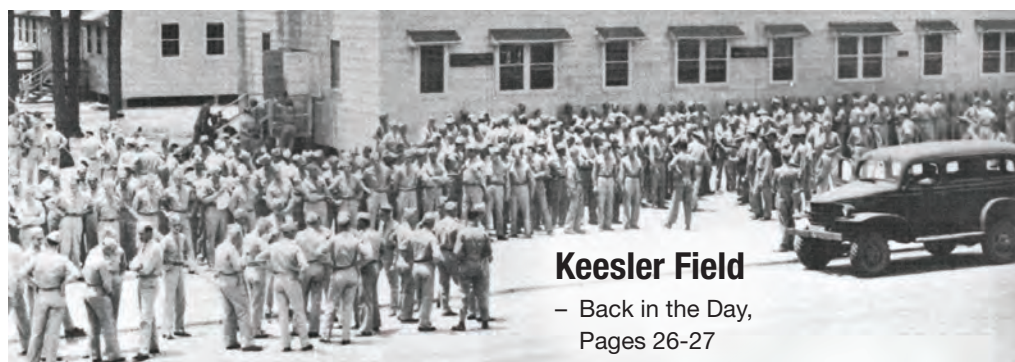
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# ‘The sun shines on Biloxi’

The Honorable “FoFo” Gilich, in what is sure to be a heartfelt and emotional presentation, delivers the annual State of the City address in the middle of this month.

Rest assured, it will be a standing-room-only affair, an all-the-trimmings luncheon, one that now commands \$60 a ticket, in fact. The good news for the sponsoring Biloxi Bay Area Chamber of Commerce is that it will be a hot ticket.

That’s great news for the rest of us taxpayers as well. People are interested in what’s happening in Biloxi. Businesses are interested in what’s happening in Biloxi.

The State of the City address has been around for more than 30 years, and over the course of time it’s evolved into a polished audio-visual production that gives viewers a fast-paced tour of the city’s program of work.

It’s a statement about where we are, where we’re headed, and how we’re going to get there.

Hizzoner will rightfully point to the tremendous activity downtown and along the waterfront, the new Keesler gate and gateway, infrastructure (of course), and he’ll come forward with the next trick up his sleeve. Expect to hear about that view from 20,000 feet you hear about so much, the big picture literally. The vision thing.

But then again as he likes to say, “less is more.” We’ll see. It’s difficult to stop talking about Biloxi once you get started, and then there’s an upgraded ticker he has now.

Make no mistake. It will be passionate, and it’s also an opportunity to hear about the day-to-day services provided across city departments and city ward lines. And there’s even insight on how it’s all being funded.

Time was, laws had to be enacted so that government would be compelled to provide public information to the public. “Sunshine laws,” they called them. You’ll see the latest rays of sunshine on March 16, when the State of the City is presented, and in this newsletter next month you’ll see the detailed departmental reports, the nuts and bolts that make it all happen.

To paraphrase the late great civic leader Tommy Munro and the words sung by Jimmy Buffett: the sun shines on Biloxi.

  
**Nick L  
Shrimp**

## Whet your appetite

Each year, it’s a sweeping panorama of the breadth and scope of progress throughout the city. And you can see the issues year by year online now. Use the smart code to see the playlist of State of the City presentations and see the big stories of each year.



The nom de plume Nick L Shrimp is a homage to Walter Fountain (1920-2003), original olde crab, longtime editor of the Biloxi-D’Iberville Press, and longtime Biloxi Chamber of Commerce manager.







AIR & SPACE SHOW  
APRIL 29 - 30, 2023  
KEESLER AFB • BILOXI, MS

Partnered for over 80 years, Keesler Air Force Base and Biloxi come together to bring aerial performers, including the Thunderbirds, static displays, and other demonstrations to the Mississippi Gulf Coast for a free public event taking place on and off base.

The **2023 Thunder over the Sound Air & Space Show** theme is **"Heritage and Honor."** This theme calls back to the 81 TRW mission, their role in aviation, and community partnerships.

Visit online at  
<https://thunderoverthesound.com/>  
for more details.



Team Aeroshell performs during the Keesler and Biloxi Air and Space Show in Biloxi, May 5, 2019.





# Rouses coming to West Biloxi

Rouses CEO Donny Rouse recently announced the company's plans to lease space at 2348 Pass Road at the corner of Popp's Ferry Road.

The former Winn-Dixie location, 60,000 square feet of space, will

undergo a comprehensive remodel, both interior and façade.

"I know Biloxi will be very excited about what we do with the space," said Rouse. "It will be very different from the old grocery provider that was in that spot, not only in how it looks, but in the products and services offered. We carry everything local from seafood and local produce to entire lines of Gulf Coast-made products, not just one or two selections. We will have our own Sausage Kitchen, Smokehouse, Bakery, Florist, and Seafood Boiling Room in the store, and everything you could want to eat."

"This is exciting," Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich said.

## ROUSES MARKETS

"The development is a direct result of our plans to extend Popp's Ferry to U.S. 90, making the area a major corridor connecting communities east and

west and north and south of the bay. This is a perfect example of a public/private

partnership between the City of Biloxi, X3 Tango Development, Southern Mississippi Planning and Development Districts, Inc., and Rouses Markets."

In February, the Biloxi City Council approved Commercial Redevelopment Program which allows private developers, such as Rouses Markets, to apply for redevelopment incentives based on increases in sales tax that results from the proposed development, as well as other incentives.

Work on the store is anticipated to start in April, with an opening targeted for Spring 2024. The new Biloxi location will be the company's fifth store in

Mississippi. It will employ approximately 200 people.

► Visit Rouses website at [www.rouses.com](http://www.rouses.com)





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# LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**FRIDAYS**  
7 PM - 10 PM  
IN THE CASINO

Eugene Eash  
Fridays in March



**SATURDAYS**  
6 PM - 9 PM  
IN MIGNON'S LOUNGE

March 4	Hank Berumen
March 11	Hank Berumen
March 18	Josh Sirten's Frank Sinatra Tribute Show
March 25	Hank Berumen



  
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# Coming to Downtown Biloxi

# HOW HOP CREATIVE DISTRICT

A transformation is in the works for Downtown Biloxi in the area to be called How Hop.

How Hop is the soon-to-be creative district under the I-110 at the corner of Howard Avenue and Hopkins Boulevard, an area that funnels thousands each day to downtown. Biloxi Main Street will be leading a project that will help create a gathering spot for all ages and feature a center for creative art, a place for children to play, and a spot for adults to enjoy a craft beer or a cocktail.



The project arose from a Downtown Roadmap workshop hosted by Mississippi Main Street and Biloxi Main Street that took place in August 2022 at Biloxi City Hall. The three-day session included members of Mississippi Main Street and Mississippi State University as well as city and community leaders, Biloxi Main Street members, and Biloxi residents and business owners who provided input on the future development of Downtown Biloxi. From the workshop, the concept of the How Hop Creative District emerged.

In November of 2022, Biloxi Main Street received a \$50,000 grant from The Gulf Coast Community Foundation and The Knight Foundation for the enhancements. And in February, the organization put a call out requesting qualifications and project management services for the How Hop Placemaking Beautification Project. Through the project, Biloxi Main Street will oversee teams to design a conceptual art/lighting/reconfiguration of a section of the area for a multi-use public space that may include resurfacing and redesign, lighting installation, various art projects, and parking reimagining and installation.

The project has already received preliminary approval from MDOT as well as from the City of Biloxi.

Bids will be opened on March 1 at the Biloxi Main Street office on Howard Avenue. The project is expected to begin shortly after and be completed by the end of the year.

For information, call the Biloxi Main Street office at 228-435-6339 or visit online at [mainstreetbiloxi.ms.us](http://mainstreetbiloxi.ms.us).

**We call it How Hop – where  
art and entertainment  
come to light.**

## From This:



## To This:



## Request for Proposal

**Bid Reference Title: Biloxi Main Street “How Hop” Placemaking Beautification Project**

Biloxi Main Street is inviting you to submit a proposal for the above referenced to Biloxi Main Street on revitalizing and beautifying Downtown Biloxi, in particular under the I-110 on Howard Avenue.

The details of our request are contained in the enclosed Request for Statement of Qualifications and Request of Project Management Services Quote.

For your convenience the main events in the timeline are detailed below:

- There will be a Pre-Bid meeting on February 15, at 10:30 a.m. at the Biloxi Main Street office 932 Howard Ave. Biloxi, MS 39530.
- Sealed proposals will be received until 10 a.m. on March 1, 2023 at the offices of **Biloxi Main Street, 932 Howard Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530.**
- The proposal will be opened at 10:30 a.m. March 1, 2023, by the Biloxi Main Street Board President, Charnell Martino.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWwxOoWXSa0>

## News & notes

**Early childhood development:** Biloxi Excel by 5 is a program that is open to ages five and younger and their parents.



The center, located at 140 St. John in the Lopez Elementary School, emphasizes the important roles parents and early childhood educators play in the lives of children. Children and parents will have access to interactive workshops, community activities, and more. Interested? Reach out to Susan Hunt at 228-297-6808.

**Water/sewer work on Shriners Boulevard:** City contractors are installing water and sewer lines just north of Beverin Road, north to Shriners Boulevard to the intersection of Old Hwy. 67 and Hwy. 67. The work is expected to be completed by the end of July.

**Infrastructure work:** Each month an Infrastructure update video is posted on the city's website, [biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/](http://biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/) as well as the city's YouTube channel and BTY.

**Traffic plans:** The city employs a number of traffic plans for special events, including the St. Patrick's Day parade. The plan helps to ensure traffic does not impede response times for emergency vehicles. Visit online at [biloxi.ms.us/trafficplans/](http://biloxi.ms.us/trafficplans/)





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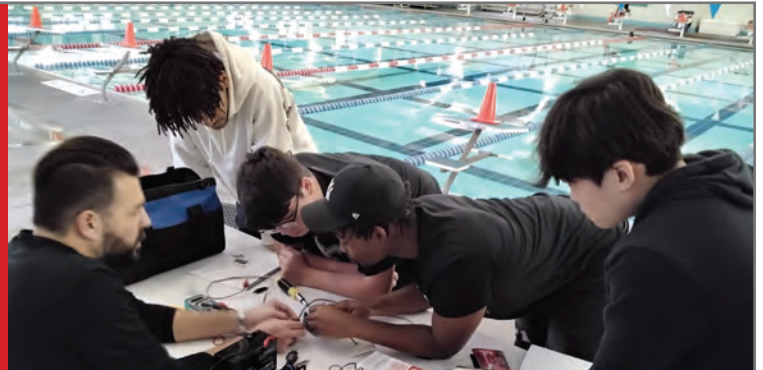
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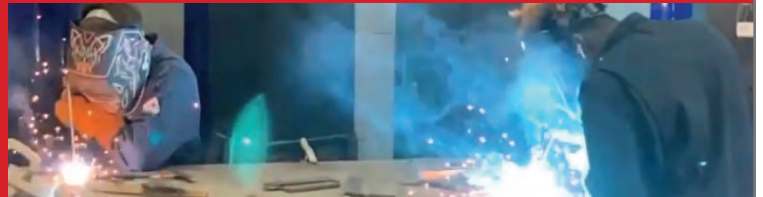
BUSINESS, MARKETING & FINANCE

HEALTH SCIENCE

HOSPITALITY & TOURISM

ENGINEERING & ROBOTICS

WELDING



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





# Lighting the way to the heart of Downtown Biloxi

By Leise Motyl  
The District Green

Have you noticed the string lights downtown? They are welcoming and inviting visitors to the heart of the city stretching north along Rue Magnolia from Highway 90, at The District Green during a First Friday Block Party, inviting music lovers to the entrance of Ground Zero Blues Club, or while visiting Fly Llama Brewery, Martinis, or catching a Shuckers game. These once dark, often blighted areas, dotted with vacant buildings now thrive with the activity and energy of dozens of new businesses.

For those of you who enjoy neighborhood stories of a community coming together, let's travel back to 2018 when the first stretch of string lights on Rue Magnolia went up.

Rue Magnolia has become a well-lit, safe walkway from Highway 90 to Jackson Street, an ideal stretch for evening strolls, a shortcut to nearby locations, a safe way to visit businesses, and where 'First Fridays' began. String lights became a catalyst for Biloxi Main Street, sparking the promotion, preservation, revitalization, and enhancement of downtown.

Fast forward to late 2019 when a core group of Biloxi Main Street members saw an opportunity to spark life back to Howard Avenue. Croesus Alley, between the Barq's and Kress buildings, was the very definition of a "dark and scary alley." Now it sparkles with lights framing the entrance to Ground Zero Blues Club. Accolades to our partners and property owners supporting and endorsing this effort.

Traveling east on Howard Avenue, the spark landed on the site of the former Upstairs-Downstairs which had been a barren, dark lot surrounded by empty buildings for years. It is now a vibrant area known as The District Green. The area is surrounded by easy-access parking, new small businesses, a café, outdoor seating, an interactive musical sculpture, and the now famous "Greetings from Biloxi" mural. The District Green has become synonymous with Biloxi Main Street's First Friday's Block Party and is a community gathering place for myriad events, like Cruisin' the Coast and Christmas in the City. The generous support and donations from the property owners, and the surrounding businesses: ERK Properties, Marley's Music, and Greenhouse Biloxi, encouraged growth



Ground Zero Blues Club entrance



Walkway near I-110 over pass



The District Green

and success in making the area enticing. As a result, since 2021, other businesses opened on G. E. Ohr Street flanking The District Green such as Broussard's Barber Shop and The Cornerstone, a lifestyle women's and gifts boutique.

The story continues in 2021 with the opening of Fly Llama Brewery on Bohn Street in a building with very limited on-site parking. To resolve the issue Biloxi Main Street brought together the City of Biloxi, MDOT, and Fly Llama to open up the parking lot underneath I-110. The lit pathway replaced an overgrown, old rusted chain-linked fence with a new concrete walkway from the parking lot to Fly Llama allowing customers and visitors access to 100-plus available parking spots. Again, partnerships and contributions from MDOT, the City of Biloxi, and Fly Llama lit the way to hassle-free parking and business growth.

Phase I of the string light project at Rue Magnolia launched the strategic plan to light up the Heart of Downtown. Orchestrated by Biloxi Main Street and the City of Biloxi, the initial investment was roughly \$20,000. Under the umbrella of Biloxi Main Street and spearheaded by its Economic Vitality Committee, each successive investment was completely underwritten by privately funded donations to the tune of \$50,000. Each location in the last three years has seen new businesses filling vacant buildings.

The saying "It takes a village" is so very appropriate to this comeback story, commemorated with a plaque at The District Green quoting Dr. Seuss – "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing's going to get better, it's not." Where will the spark land next? More string lights are in the plans and yes, so is the sequel to the story.



# Downtown goes green for St. Patrick's Day



**GRILLIN'**  
**ON THE GREEN**



St. Patrick's Day festivities take place in Biloxi on Saturday, March 11 with a run, a grilling competition, and a parade.

On Saturday, the streets in Downtown Biloxi will be filled with Irish-spirited shenanigans beginning with the annual Hibernia Marching Society St. Patrick's Day 5k and 1-mile Health run and walk. Late registration will take place in front of the Biloxi City Hall on Lameuse Street from 8 to 9:30 a.m. The 1-mile will begin at 9 a.m. followed by the 5K at 9:30 a.m.

Over at the Biloxi Town Green, Biloxi Main Street will host its annual Grillin' on the Green from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dozens of grillers will be at 710 Beach Boulevard participating in the grilling competition and BBQ cookoff. Also part of the event: arts & crafts vendors and live entertainment from Rhythm & Rain Trio at 10 a.m., Symone French & the Trouille Troupe at noon, and Assumed Risk at 3 p.m. Admission to the affair is free, food plates will be available for purchase, and the BBQ Cookoff awards begin at 2:45 p.m.

Then at 3 p.m., the Hibernia Marching Society will host its annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade will begin at the intersection of Esters Boulevard and Main Street, travel south on Main to U.S. 90, turn west on U.S. 90, north on Lameuse Street, west on Howard, and north on Caillavet, ending at Esters.



**HIBERNIA**



**St. Patrick's Day Parade**  
**Saturday, March 11**  
**3 p.m.**

► For more info, visit [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us)  
and [hiberniamarchingsociety.com](http://hiberniamarchingsociety.com)







# Springing Into The Season: Shuckers' Baseball is Around the Corner



Photo by Mike Krebs

By Garrett Greene  
Biloxi Shuckers

The days are about to get longer and the temperatures are warming, which means another marvelous summer is on the horizon at MGM Park. The Shuckers throw first pitch for their eighth season on April 11 against their I-10 rival, the Pensacola Blue Wahoos, and have a fun-filled summer on tap at the ballpark.

With daily promotions including T-shirt Tuesday, Military Wednesday, Thirsty Thursday, Fireworks Friday, Shuck Yeah Saturday and Fun Day Sunday, there is something unique happening at MGM Park every night for their 69 scheduled home games. Some of the highlights of the overall promotional schedule are Shuck Cancer Night on April 29, Saints Hall of Fame Night on June 2, Military Appreciation Night on June 3, and Women in Sports Night on August 12 featuring a Brittney Reese bobblehead giveaway to honor the three-time Olympic medalist and Mississippi native. The full promotional schedule, including specialty jerseys, various giveaways, theme nights and more, can be found online at [biloxishuckers.com](http://biloxishuckers.com).

A new year also brings a change in ownership for the Shuckers as the club was sold in early February to Shuckers Baseball, LLC, which is owned and operated by John Tracy. Tracy expressed his gratitude to former majority owner Ken Young for his stewardship of the club and is excited to build on the customer experience at MGM Park while providing more events at the ballpark for all ages. John is well-versed in Minor League Baseball after following the career of his son, Matt, who pitched at Ole Miss from 2008 to 2011 before being selected in the 24th round of the 2011 draft by the New York Yankees and playing eight years in the professional ranks, including debuting for the Yankees on April 11, 2015. The change in ownership represents a furthering of the Shuckers' commitment to the Mississippi Coast and the club is excited for what is on the horizon in Biloxi in the years to come.

Before the Shuckers' season gets rolling, the field will ring out with the distinct 'ping' of college baseball as the Hancock Whitney Classic returns to MGM Park for a third season. Yet again, the Diamond Dawgs of Mississippi State will have a two-

night engagement at MGM Park, taking on Nicholls State on Tuesday, March 14 before tussling with the Ragin' Cajuns of the University of Louisiana on Wednesday, March 15. Reserved Level tickets are all that remain for both nights, so fans are encouraged to purchase their tickets as soon as possible to secure their spot.

Finally, the 2023 Shuckers' roster looks like it will once again be loaded with talent. Teenage phenom Jackson Chourio, who is currently ranked as the #3 prospect in Minor League Baseball by Baseball America, is set to begin the season with the Shuckers. Chourio joins the likes of Mike Trout, Dansby Swanson and Giancarlo Stanton, who all ranked as the #3 prospect on Baseball America's list at one point and has the potential to join names like Vladimir Guerrero Jr, Kris Bryant, Corey Seager and Bryce Harper, who all ranked as the #1 prospect in baseball during their time in the Minor Leagues. With a franchise that has already produced a Gold Glover, two National League Relievers of the Year and a Cy Young Award winner, it's no surprise that 2023 should be packed with Major League caliber talent yet again.

► For more info: [biloxishuckers.com](http://biloxishuckers.com)



# Get the 411 on traffic

## **B**-Alert

Text **BILOXI** to **99411**  
for timely traffic updates.



## COVID-19 by the numbers

### Statewide overall

Population: 2.97 Million

#### Positive cases

# 981,020

(as of Feb. 6, 2023)

#### Deaths

# 13,257

(as of Feb. 6, 2023)

### Harrison County

Population: 208,080

#### Positive cases

# 65,507

(as of Feb. 6, 2023)

#### Deaths

# 710

(as of Feb. 6, 2023)

**Mississippi COVID-19 Hotline:**  
**877-978-6453**

**Fight the flu.**

Find a flu shot provider by visiting [www.msdh.ms.gov](http://www.msdh.ms.gov).

Data reported by Mississippi State Department of Health.

[biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us)

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Seniors enjoy fellowship at the Thanksgiving luncheon

## Biloxi offers senior programs year-round

Are you age 55 or older and looking for a way to stay active and involved? Well, the City of Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department has the program for you.

It's the Biloxi Senior Citizens Program, a program that offers weekday activities, most often for free, for seniors.

Each month, Gwen Johnson, the Biloxi senior specialist, puts together a monthly calendar of programs that are open to all senior citizens in Biloxi. Johnson works with the Harrison County East Biloxi Senior Citizen Center to host many of the activities including ceramic classes, arts and crafts, bridge, stretch and strengthen classes, Tai' Chi classes, pickleball, field trips, luncheons, and dances. They take place at the Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road, and the East Biloxi Senior Citizen Center, 461 Parker St.

The monthly calendar, as well as the monthly field trip listing, is posted on the city's website, [biloxi.ms.us/pr](http://biloxi.ms.us/pr), and displayed at the Donal M. Snyder Sr. Center and the Biloxi Parks & Recreation Officer on Hiller Dr.

For more information on the classes or to RSVP for one of the limited field trip spots, call Gwen Johnson at 228-388-7170 or [seniors@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:seniors@biloxi.ms.us).



Mayor Gilch chats with Jane and Ed Shambra at a recent luncheon



Seniors dancing at a sock hop luncheon for Cruisin' the Coast



Pickleballs play weekdays at the Snyder Center



Seniors posing for a photo op at a Mardi Gras event



# Don't "leaf" storm drains to clog

Chances are you've seen it done or even done it yourself: rake up and pile leaves near the curb in front of your home or sweep them into the street where you hope they'll be carried away by the wind.

This scenario often results in a major cause of flooding in the city – clogged or blocked storm drains.

These careless or unthinking actions negate the millions of dollars in improvements that the city is making citywide to drainage systems. Piling leaves or sweeping them into the street means that they will eventually find their way into the city's storm drains.

Either bag the leaves for pickup or compost them. A stopped-up storm

drain cannot carry run-off water as it is intended to do. When it rains, that water can flood streets, your property, or even your neighbor's property.

It is actually a violation of city ordinance to dump any material into storm drains, ditches, culverts, streams, or waterways (Sec. 9-1-15, Code of Ordinances, 1992).

If you see anyone dumping debris into storm drains, ditches, culverts, streams, or waterways, please contact the Public Works Department at 228-435-6271 or email Craig Ross, the citizens service representative at [cross@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:cross@biloxi.ms.us), or the Code Enforcement staff in the Community Development Department at 228-435-6270.

**Bag up the leaves**



# Learning the ins and outs of computing

By Bobby Gillon  
Gulf Coast Impact Investments

Welcome to the Biloxi campus of the Mississippi Coding Academies, the first on the Gulf Coast.

We are a growing team, currently looking for partners. Over the last two years, MCA has engaged with many agencies and organizations to support our coders with jobs at or before the end of our program offering a sustainable career path at no cost to the students.

MCA develops its 11-month curriculum around the specific coding, software, and professional skill needs of local businesses. The curriculum is aimed at "Breaking the Cycle – Minimum Wages to Technology Wages." It allows a viable career path for participants who may come from under-served families and are either not college-bound or found that college does not provide the desired economic independence. Most only have a high school education and are typically earning part-

time minimum wages. Starting salaries for MCA's graduate coders range from \$38,000 to \$45,000 a year. There are very few "free tuition" programs that can have such an immediate impact on the lives of individuals, the city, and the state.

In 2021, MCA announced the Biloxi location and more than 360 applications came flooding in. As the applications were reviewed, 30 individuals were accepted with 10 completing the program and obtaining certification. Within six months, seven of those

certified coders were fully employed with local companies. In September 2022, our second cohort began, and we expect to certify more than twenty coders by the end of this summer.

MCA depends on the generous continued support of our city council, our mayor, private businesses, state funding, and individuals. Donations and contributions are pivotal to MCA's success. It allows for an up-to-date curriculum using state-of-the-art equipment/software, allowing our coders to "learn by doing" at progressively more complex and challenging levels.

Let's stop the "brain drain" from our community; let's offer these students the best career opportunities on the Gulf Coast.



First group of academy graduates with Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich

**Interested in applying? The Biloxi Campus accepts applications year-round. The current class, 2022-2023, will complete the certification program on July 31, 2023. And the 2023-2024 class will begin on Aug. 15, 2023. Applications should be submitted no later than Aug. 1, 2023.**

► To apply, visit <https://mscoding.org/mca-biloxi-campus-application/> for online registration.



# VA remembers the sacrifices of Veterans

By Shaun Shenk  
Chief, Community and Public Engagement  
Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System

The Gulf Coast Health Care System (GCVHCS) honors all, and last month, we took the time to remember Black Veterans.

"It is a time to remember, recognize and revere the great sacrifice and selfless service of Black Americans to the United States. For decades, the second week of February was reserved for this observance, as it coincided with the birthdays of the luminaries Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

In the Armed Services, Black Americans have contributed to our nation's freedom since our very beginning. In fact, they have provided military service in every single war our nation has fought, from the American Revolution through Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the American Revolution, Black Americans served the colonies of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island in the militia and the Continental



## Biloxi VA TODAY

Army. During the Civil War, the all-Black 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment served to preserve the Union and extinguish the scourge of slavery. During World War I, the Harlem Hellfighters served on the front lines for six months. More than 170 received the Legion of Merit for their individual valor. During World War II, the U.S. Army's 761st Tank Battalion, nicknamed the "Black Panthers" after the unit's distinctive insignia, was assigned to General Patton's Third Army – at his request. Finally, In July 1948, President Harry Truman signed an executive order desegregating the military and requiring equal treatment and opportunity without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin.

Because of them, progress has been

made. But, for far too long, too many Veterans who fought to protect our rights and freedoms around the globe have had to fight brutal battles here at home for their own rights, freedoms, and benefits that they deserve. At VA, it's our job to make sure those fights are over – and that Black Veterans get the care and benefits they so rightly deserve.

We need to ensure that Black Americans – and people of every racial and ethnic group – enjoy opportunities to serve Veterans through a variety of rewarding and fulfilling careers here at the VA. We need to serve Black Veterans and Veterans of Color every bit as well as they have served our country. They have fought valiantly for us; we need to fight valiantly for them. It is on everyone here today to help make that happen.

We thank all who celebrated Black History Month with us. And may God bless our nation's Veterans; those in uniform and their families, caregivers, and survivors; and this wonderful country."

This monthly column is created by the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System.

## Get ready for Thunder Over the Sound Air and Space show

By Airman 1st Class  
Trenten Walters  
81st Training Wing Public Affairs

Prepare to feel the roar in your chest that screams freedom as jets zip over the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Keesler Air Force Base and the City of Biloxi are partnering to host the Thunder Over the Sound 2023 Air and Space Show, April 29-30.

Air shows provide an opportunity to showcase U.S. Air Force capabilities and allow civilians to meet the service members who serve and fly.

"Before I joined the Air Force I used to go to air shows and I'd watch the Thunderbirds," said Staff Sgt. Austin Guerra, Thunderbirds demonstration team advance crew chief. "I bought a replica F-16 Fighting Falcon at one of the air shows when I was younger and I forgot about it. Then, I joined the team and when I went back home I found it again and it was a Thunderbird."

"We are particularly excited about this air show, as it is the first one at Keesler Air Force Base since 2019," said Lt. Col. John Connors, Air Show director. "This also provides an opportunity to promote local area partnerships between the base and the



Keesler's Air & Space Show  
Performers: Trojan Phylers, Patty Wagstaff, Wings of Blue, Thunderbirds, Tora Tora Tora, and more!

surrounding community."

Additionally, the theme for this air show is Heritage and Honor. The air show will honor Keesler's history and today's mission, embracing innovative training and community partnerships.

"We have booked several heritage airframes that were previously assigned to Keesler Air Force Base for pilot training, such as the T-28 Trojan and C-21 Learjet," said Connors. "There will also be a re-enactment of the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Keesler, complete with Japanese Zeros and a large pyrotechnic display simulating bombings."

There will be civilian crowd viewing areas at both Biloxi Beach and the flight line at Keesler. Acts such as Tora! Tora! Tora!, the Trojan Phylers, Patty Wagstaff, and Chef Pitts are scheduled to be performing over

Keesler in the morning to early afternoon while the beach is planned to have several aircraft flyovers as well as the Thunderbirds aerobatic performance in the late afternoon.

Since 2009, this will be Keesler's sixth Air show. Make sure to save the date for Thunder Over the Sound 2023 Air and Space Show.

► See more photos at [www.keesler.af.mil](http://www.keesler.af.mil)  
Watch the Keesler update daily at 7:45 a.m.,  
1:45 p.m., and 7:45 p.m. on BTV.



# The infrastructure work in Biloxi

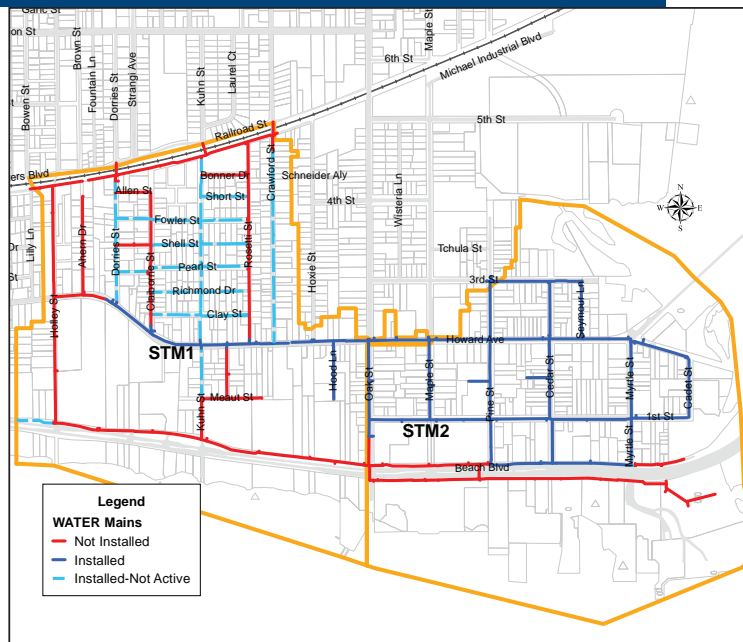
Pages 15, 16, and 17 contain maps that show the status of the city's two major infrastructure projects now underway. The information on these maps is compiled by the city's Engineering Department, based on reports from contractors and inspectors at each site. See detailed maps and video online at [biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/](http://biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/).

## St. Michael 1 & 2

The Necaise Brothers Construction contract began on Jan. 4, 2021 with 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.

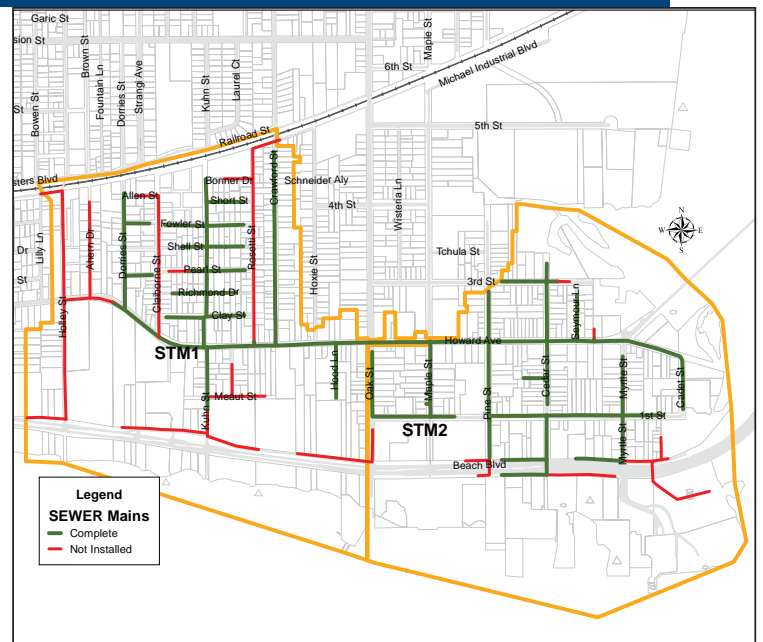
### Necaise Brothers Construction Water

Water Mains to be installed as of Feb. 15, 2023



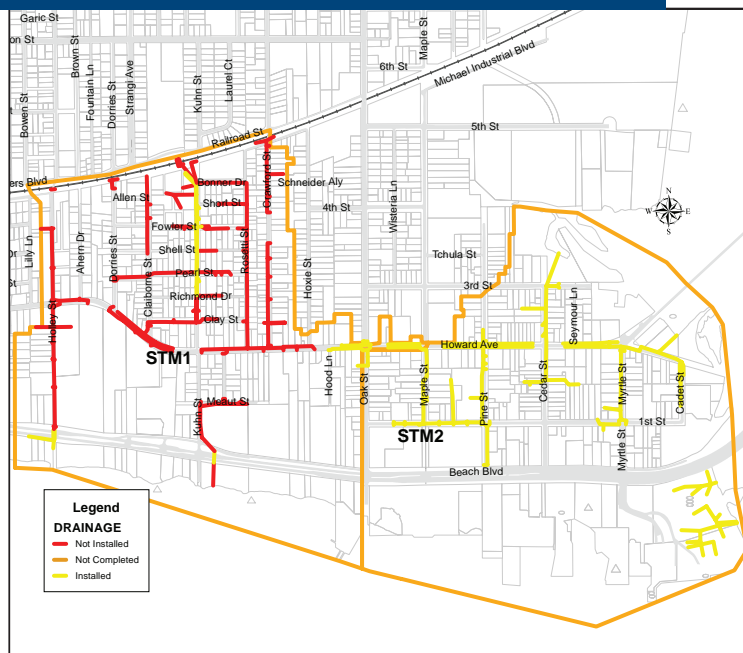
### Necaise Brothers Construction Sewer

Sewer Mains to be installed as of Feb. 15, 2023



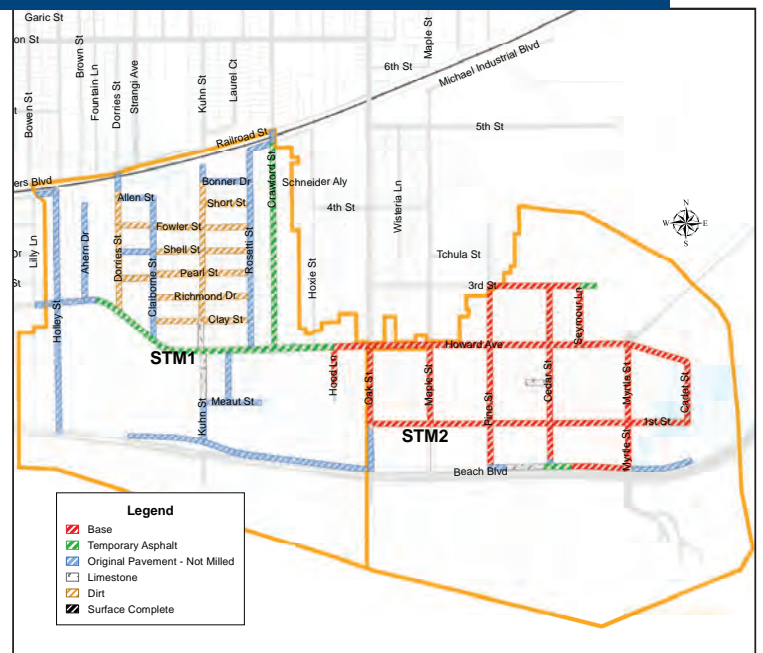
### Necaise Brothers Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of Feb. 15, 2023



### Necaise Brothers Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of Feb. 15, 2023





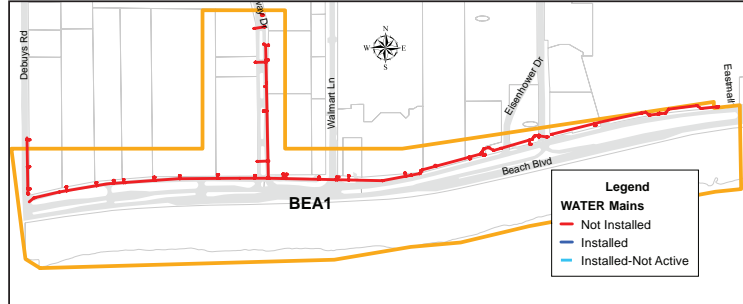
# Beauvoir 1, 2, & 3

Necaise Brothers Construction has been awarded the contract, a \$32 million, 1,080-day project to install new water, sewer, and drainage lines in West Biloxi, along U.S. 90 from Veterans to Debuys. The work began in July 2022.

## Beauvoir Phase 1

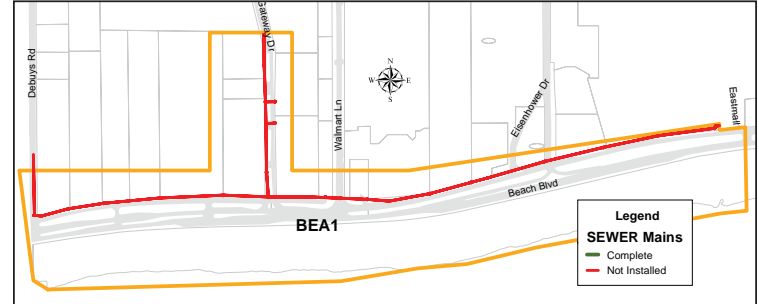
### Necaise Brothers Construction Water

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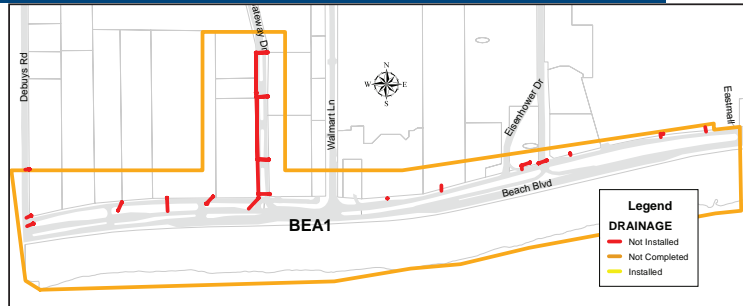
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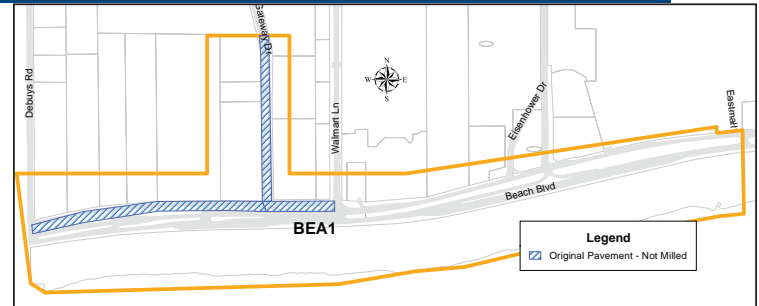
### Necaise Brothers Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of Feb. 15, 2023



### Necaise Brothers Construction Pavement

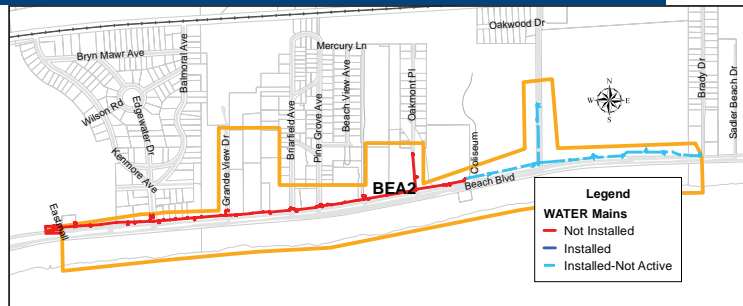
Roads to be paved as of Feb. 15, 2023



## Beauvoir Phase 2

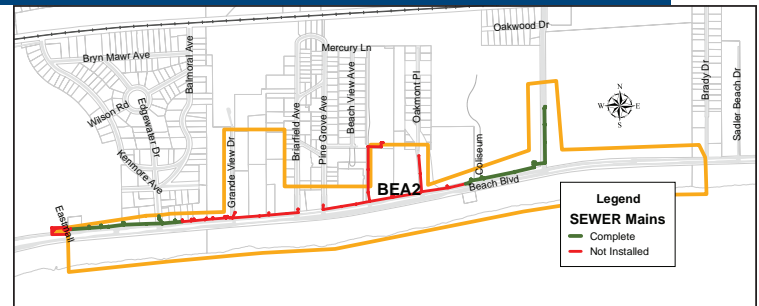
### Necaise Brothers Construction Water

Water Mains to be installed as of Feb. 15, 2023



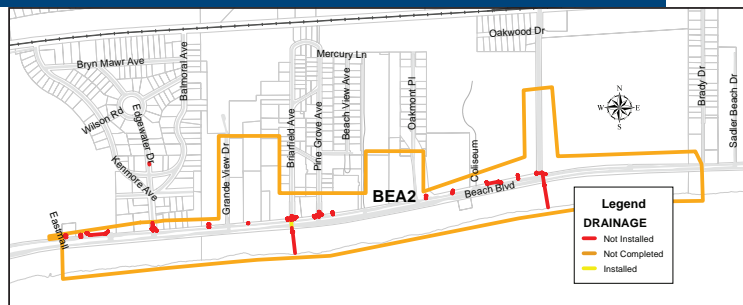
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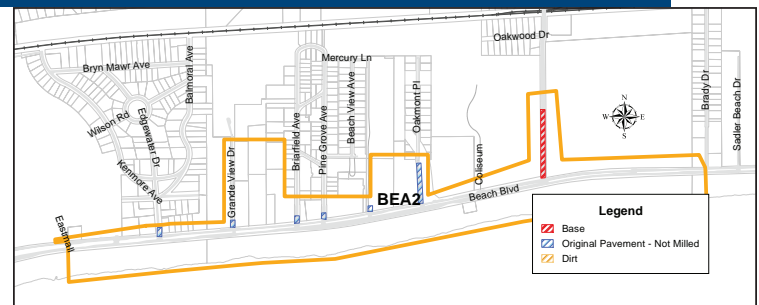
### Necaise Brothers Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of Feb. 15, 2023



### Necaise Brothers Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of Feb. 15, 2023

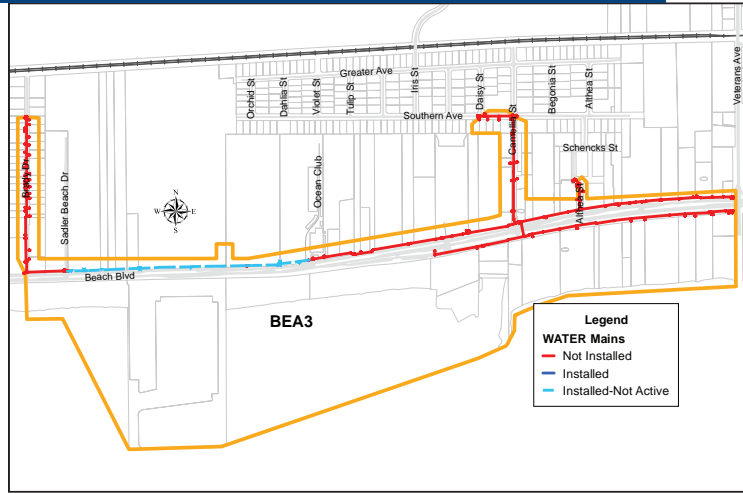




## Beauvoir Phase 3

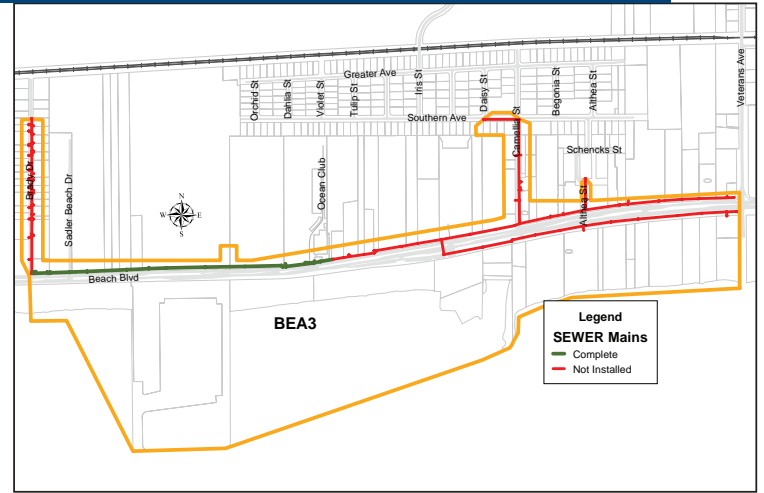
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Water Mains to be installed as of Feb. 15, 2023



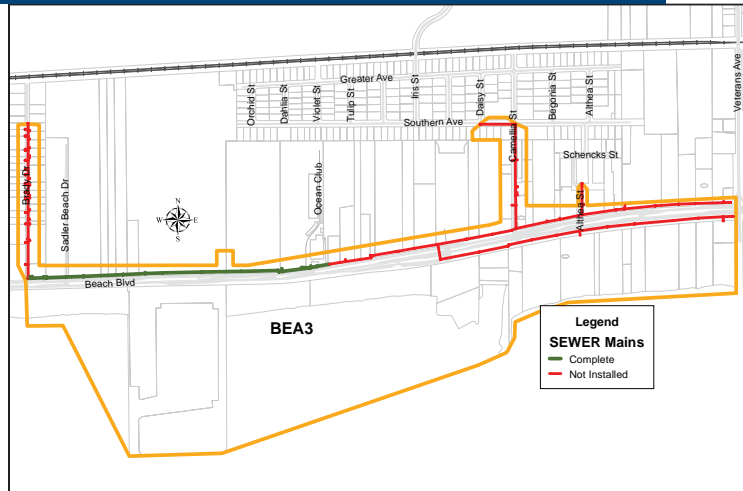
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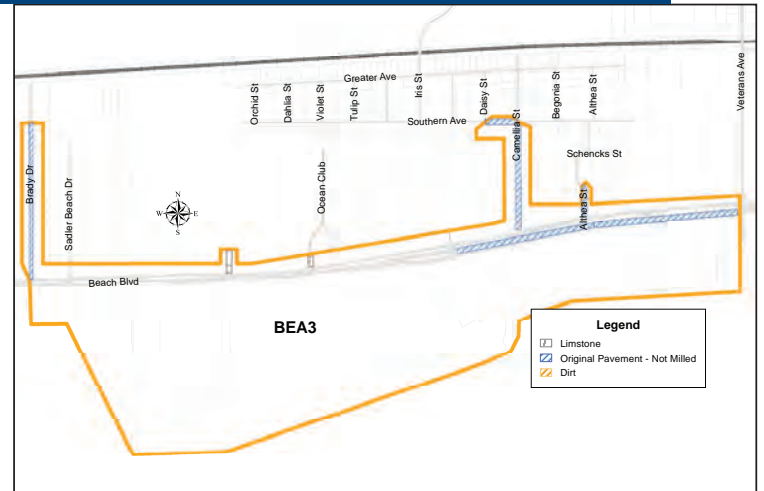
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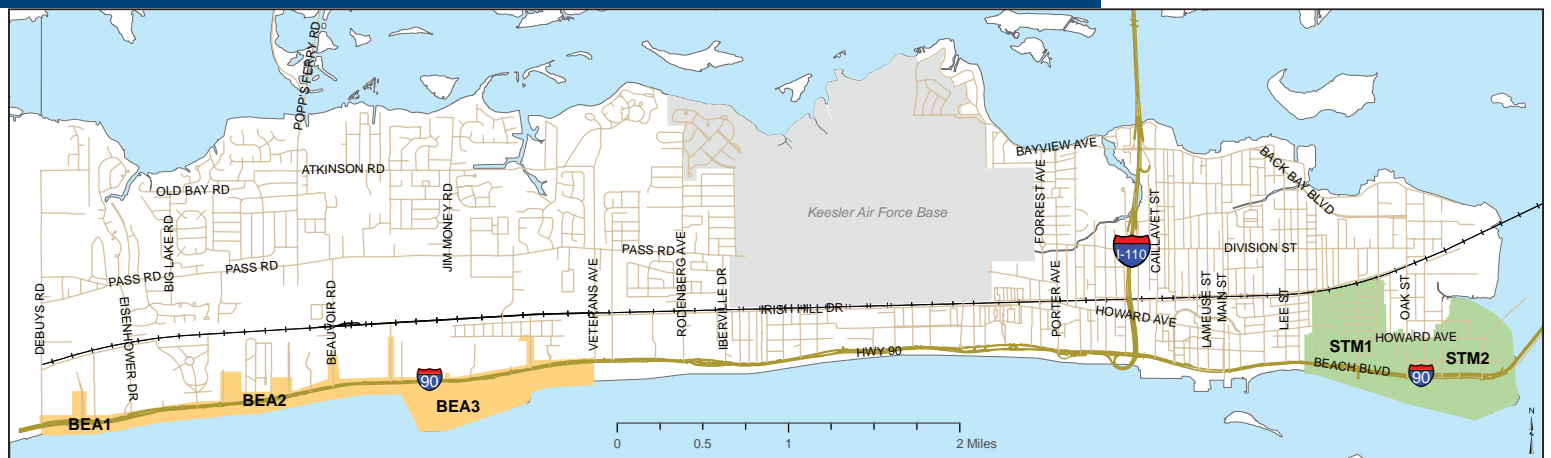


### Necaise Brothers Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of Feb. 15, 2023



## Areawide map of infrastructure work



► See the monthly infrastructure video report at [biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi](https://biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi).



# Random Notes



## Some things never change, thank goodness!

Last fall, Biloxians were surprised to hear that Ellzey's Hardware was closing its doors after over 100 years of providing hard to find hardware products. Folks were saying, "What are we gonna do? Where am gonna find those hard to find items I could always find at Ellzey's?"

Biloxi Main Street shared the good news that new owners, the Ellises, had a soft reopening recently and announce their grand opening is scheduled for March 11. It's so exciting to see a downtown Biloxi business icon renewed and ready for another hundred years!



### TIME CAPSULE:

## Shivering shrimpers!



On January 11, 1962, the Mississippi Gulf Coast experienced extreme winter weather with temperatures down to ten degrees Fahrenheit. This resulted in ice forming in the Mississippi Sound and creating this display of icicles seen on the boat. The two boatmen in this photograph are Douglas Lee Louis Ritter and D. Jean.

Photograph courtesy of the Joe Scholtes Collection.



## Sailing through time

The past greeted the present as the Pinta made her way through the Biloxi channel with Deer Island in the near distance looking on. This amazing replica is docked at the schooner pier in east Biloxi until April 2 offering tours daily. Here's a pelican's view of this beautiful ship resting comfortably at the dock.

## What they're reading: Community Development

With the economic growth happening at Popp's Ferry and Pass Road in mind, we asked staff at the city's Community Development Department what they are reading.

- **Bill Raymond**, historical administrator, City of Biloxi: "The Last Slave Ship: The True Story of How Clotilda Was Found, Her Descendants, and an Extraordinary Reckoning," by Ben Raines; "Young Mungo," by Douglas Stuart; and "Spare," by Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex
- **Jerry Creel**, Community Development director: "Billy Martin: Baseball's Flawed Genius," by Bill Pennington
- **Jennifer Polk**, plans examiner, City of Biloxi: "The Guest List," by Lucy Foley
- **Craig Balus**, commercial building code inspector: "Never Finished: Unshackle Your Mind and Win the War Within," by David Goggins
- **Tara Busby**, code enforcement administrator: "It Starts with Us," by Coleen Hoover





START YOUR 2023 ST. PADDY'S DAY CELEBRATION AT



# GRILLIN' ON THE GREEN

## GRILLING COMPETITION

Saturday, March 11

10 a.m.-5 p.m. - Biloxi Town Green

710 Beach Boulevard

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Starts at 3 p.m.

- ARTS & CRAFTS VENDORS
  - BBQ Cookoff
- BBQ Cookoff Awards start 2:45 p.m.
  - Food Plates start at \$7
  - Live Entertainment all day
  - Free Admission



Rhythm & Rain Trio – 10 a.m.



Symone French & The Trouille Troupe – Noon



Assumed Risk – 3 p.m.

Sponsored by:



Seven Seventy Two

[www.mainstreetbiloxi.com](http://www.mainstreetbiloxi.com) - 228-435-6339

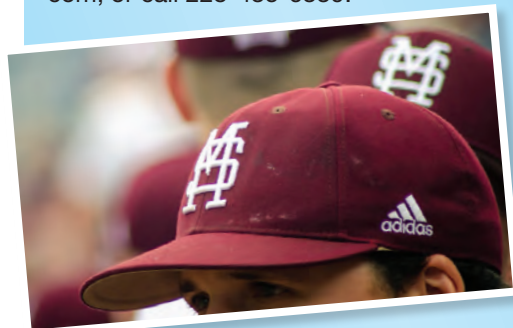


## Best Bets!

### First Friday ushers in a new season

The Biloxi Main Street monthly series, First Friday, returns at a new location. The festivities will take place under the I-110 overpass at the corner of Howard Avenue and Hopkins Boulevard. The affair is free, open to the public, and will include live entertainment by Magnolia Bayou at 5 p.m. and Black Water Brass at 7 p.m., door prizes, and more! For more information, visit Biloxi Main Street on Facebook, online at [mainstreetbiloxi.com](http://mainstreetbiloxi.com), or call 228-435-6339.

**BILOXI**  
— DOWNTOWN —



### College teams play ball at MGM Park

The Biloxi Shuckers team up with Hancock Whitney to bring the Hancock Whitney Classic to MGM Park on March 14 and 15. Mississippi State will square off in two games, one on March 14 at 6 p.m. with Nicholls State University and a second on March 15 at 5 p.m. with the University of Louisiana. Tickets for both games of the Hancock Whitney Classic are on sale at [biloxishuckers.com](http://biloxishuckers.com), [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com), or through the MGM Park Box Office.

**Biloxi Special Needs Baseball registration**, thru March 3, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 377 Hiller Drive. The league is open to all ages with physical and mental disabilities. Games will be played on Tuesdays beginning March 21 at the A. J. Sports Complex, 765 Wells Drive, and be played at 6 and 7 p.m. Registration is free and uniforms will be provided. Details: 228-388-7170, [programs@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:programs@biloxi.ms.us)

**First Friday and Downtown Block Party**, March 3, 5-9 p.m. (New Location), 932 Howard Ave. in the back near Fly Llama (same location as Llama Palooza). The extravaganza event in March will usher in the 2023 season! Entertainment by Magnolia Bayou at 5 p.m., and Black Water Brass at 7 p.m. Details: 228-435-6339

**Gallery 782 14th anniversary celebration**, March 3, 5:30-8 p.m., 773 Jackson St. Gallery 782 celebrates fourteen years as a co-op art gallery in the Biloxi Arts District. The public is invited to attend a gala reception, which includes food, beverages, and door prize drawings to win one-of-a-kind art! Meet the artists who produce paintings, pottery, fused glass, ceramics, wood, fine art, photography, metal casting, stained glass, jewelry, and much more! Details: 228-436-7782

**Spring Latino Festival**, March 4-5, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Blessed Seelos Catholic Church, 360 Lameuse St. This new festival will feature authentic food, dancing, and music. It is free for the public to attend and everyone is welcome. Details: 228-435-0007

**Shenanigans 5K/Fun Run – Sister Mary Jo Memorial Race**, March 4, 7 a.m.-noon, Hiller Park, 380 Hiller Park Dr. Nativity Blessed Virgin Mary Elementary School will host a 5K and fun run in memory of Principal, Sister Mary Jo Mike. Event also includes a post-run party immediately following the 5K. Online registration: <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/VgU0t7W2>; Race day registration: 7 a.m. 1-Mile Fun Run begins at 8 a.m. and the 5K begins at 8:30 a.m. Details: Jenny Baker, 228-243-0775 or [jtbaker@cctb.com](mailto:jtbaker@cctb.com)

**Bridal & Women's Expo and Sidewalk and Arts & Crafts Event**, March 4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Edgewater Mall, 2600 Beach Blvd. Free admission. Details: 228-860-5015, [www.clearvisionent.net](http://www.clearvisionent.net)

**Biloxi Shuckers Season Opener Blood Drive**, March 9, 1-7 p.m., MGM Park Stadium, 105 Caillavet St., in the Home Locker Room. Details: [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

**Irish Malarkey Party**, March 11, 4:30 p.m. The District Green, 785 Howard Ave. After the Parade Party! Wear your Irish green. Music provided by Halley Green. Details: [hiberniamarchingsociety.com](http://hiberniamarchingsociety.com)

**Annual Hibernia Society St. Patrick's Day 5K Run**, March 11, pre-registration begins at 8 a.m., and run start is at 9 a.m.; Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Presented by the Gulf Coast Running Club. Details: 228-380-7037 or [www.gulfcoastrunningclub.org](http://www.gulfcoastrunningclub.org); <http://www.hiberniamarchingsociety.com>

**16th Annual Grillin' On The Green**, March 11, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. Barbecue competition with over 20 competitors vying for more than \$6,000 in cash and trophies! Continuous entertainment featuring Rhythm & Rain at 10 a.m., Symone French & the Trouille Troupe at

## Best Bet!



### Glow, walk, and ride with the family

Gather the family and spend a night at The District Green on Howard Avenue for the Let's Glow! Gulf Coast, Walk, Run, and Ride Family Glow Night Out event on March 18 from 4:30-9 p.m. The event will include a block party with a DJ, food trucks, kids' activities, fun runs, bicycle rides, and more. Registration is \$20 for adults, \$10 for ages 3-14, and free for ages two and younger. Registration includes a t-shirt, a kid's glow station, pizza, and access to all events. Registration deadline is March 3. Details: [letsgogulfcoast.org/letsglow](http://letsgogulfcoast.org/letsglow)



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



# Stay in touch

**BNews:** Welcome to the 58th 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 228-435-6336.

**B-Alert:** For text advisories on traffic and severe weather, text BILOXI to 99411.

**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.

Cecilia Dobbs Walton, Affairs Manager  
cdobbswalton@biloxi.ms.us

John Majure, Public Affairs Specialist  
jmajure@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 . . . . . 435-6280
- 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

noon, and Assumed Risk at 3 p.m. BBQ Cookoff awards will begin at 2:45 p.m. There will also be over 80 arts and crafts vendors and the annual Hibernia Society St. Patrick's Day Parade will flow around the festival at 3 p.m. Free admission. Details: 228-435-6339

**Annual Hibernia Society St. Patrick's Day Parade,** March 11, 3 p.m., see Parade Route on page 9. Parade features bands, flag bearers, bagpipers, a horse-drawn carriage with the parade Grand Marshall and Colleen, and colorful floats. Free admission. Details: paulamck2121@gmail.com

**Vintage Bicycle Show & Ride,** March 11, 9 a.m. Biloxi Bicycle Works, 993 Howard Ave. Registration and setup begins at 9 a.m. and all must be registered by noon. Awards will be given after 1 p.m., then the vintage bicycles will ride through Biloxi before the St. Patrick's Day parade. There will also be a sunset ride after 5 p.m. Details: 228-400-0280

**Guided Trail Hike,** March 12, 10 a.m., 2109 Camp Wilkes Road. Free admission for members and \$5 for non-members. Details: www.campwilkes.org

**City of Biloxi Senior Citizens Program Field Trip,** March 14, 10 a.m., East Biloxi Senior Center, 461 Parker St. Limited spots. Open to ages 55 and older. The field trip is to the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art with lunch at the Trinity Café at the museum. Details and to RSVP: 228-388-2494, 228-297-3653, or 228-388-7170

**Mississippi State Bulldogs Baseball vs. Nicholls State,** March 14, **University of Louisiana** March 15, MGM Park, 105 Caillavet St. It's the Hancock Whitney Classic. Details and ticket information: Ticketmaster or shuckers.info/hancockwhitneyclassic

**Ward 2 Town Hall Meeting,** March 14, 5:30 p.m., Biloxi Civic Center, 578 Howard Ave. Details: fgines@biloxi.ms.us

**Biloxi State of the City,** March 16, 777 Beach Blvd. Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, Magnolia Ballroom. Doors open at 11 a.m. Program begins at 11:30 a.m. Presented by Biloxi Bay Area Chamber. Details: 228-435-6149 or email info@biloxibayareachamber.org

**Mississippi Senior Games Opening Ceremony,** March 17, 2023, Dr. Frank Gruich Sr. Community Center, 591 Howard Ave. Attendees must be 50 years old and registered to participate in the games. Details: 228-669-2582 or email msseniorgames@gmail.com

**Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence Drawdown Throwdown Beach Party Fundraiser,** March 18, Dr. Frank Gruich Sr. Community Center, 591 Howard Ave. Event includes a \$3000 Drawdown Throwdown Beach Party Fundraiser and dinner. Tickets: \$35. Details: bit.ly/drawdown23

**Let's Glow! Gulf Coast, Walk, Run, and Ride, Family Glow Night Out,** March 18, 4:30-9 p.m., The District Green, 785 Howard Ave. Registration fees: Adults: \$20; Kids ages 3-14: \$10, and free for ages two and younger. Registration includes t-shirts, glow station, pizza, and access to all events. Register deadline is March 3. Details: letsgogulfcoast.org/letsglow

**Bike Biloxi,** March 21, 6 p.m., downtown ride. Begins at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd., and ends with refreshments and food at a downtown restaurant at cyclists' expense. Helmets and lights recommended. Details: 228-435-6339.

**Main Street Book Club,** March. 23, 5:30 p.m., Jacked Up Coffee Bar, 999 Howard Ave. The book is "Inheritance" by Phillip Leven. The author will be on hand to sign books. Books are available at Biloxi Visitors Center. Details: 228-435-6339

**Keesler Air Force Base Farmer's Market,** March 24, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., 625 Marina Dr. Details: 228-376-3170, melissa.wedel.civ@health.mil

**7th Annual Gulf Coast Oyster Cook-Off & Festival,** March 25, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Point Cadet Plaza, 121 Cadet St. Event includes a Corvette car show, live entertainment, arts and crafts, Oyster cook-off, Outdoor Life Show, seafood and more. Admission: \$5-\$25, free for ages five and younger. Details: www.ClearVisionent.net

**Biloxi Breakfast with the Mayor,** March 28, 8 a.m. Merit Health, 150 Reynoir St. A Biloxi Chamber of Commerce event sponsored by Merit Health. Details: 228-604-0014



**Biloxi Little Theatre**  
220 Lee St., 228-432-8543, www.4blt.org  
• **The Red Velvet Cake War**  
March 3-5

**Center Stage**  
2670 Rue Palafox, 228-388-6258  
centerstagebiloxi.com  
• **The Belle of Amherst,**  
March 18-19

**Beauvoir, The Jefferson Davis Home & Presidential Library**  
2244 Beach Blvd., 228-388-4400, www.visitbeauvoir.org



**Biloxi Lighthouse & Visitors Center**

1050 Beach Blvd., 228-374-3105, biloxi.ms.us – Open daily, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

- **Lighthouse tours daily**, 9-10 a.m., weather permitting. Admission: \$5 for ages 12 and older; \$2 for ages 6-11; free for ages 5 and younger.

**Biloxi Schooners**

367 Beach Blvd., 228-435-6320, schooner@maritimemuseum.org. Open 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

- Walk-on sunset sails, admission: \$30 adults, \$15 ages 3-12
- Group charters available, up to 44 people
- **Pinta Replica Tours**, recurring daily until April 2

**Biloxi Shrimping Trip**

693 Beach Blvd., 228-392-8645, www.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 for tour availability

**Harrison County East Biloxi Senior Center**

461 Parker St, 228-435-4192, co.harrison.ms.us/departments/senior/services

- Open weekdays, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum**

792 Howard Ave., 228-314-4747, museum@coastalmardigras.com

- Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., closed Sundays and Mondays

**Kroc Center, MS Gulf Coast, The Salvation Army**

575 Division St., 228-207-1218

- **Creative Arts Academy**: Recurring weekly on Mondays

**Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum**

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

- Hours of operation: Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, noon-4 p.m.

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

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

- Check the website for events and studio classes at OOMA!

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

1046 Howard Ave., 228-435-6119, 228-435-6200, 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**, March 3, 10, 17, & 31. Doors open at 5 p.m.; Early Bird games at 6:30 p.m.; regular games at 7 p.m. Cash payouts. Concessions available. Kitchen pen until 8 p.m.

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

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

- **Karaoke with Kenny**, every Friday at 7 p.m.

**Joppa Shrine**

13280 Shriners Blvd., 601-917-1027

- **Steak Night**, March 10, 6-8 p.m. Last ticket sold 7:15 p.m. \$20, dine-in or carry out
- **Indoor Yard Sale**, March 25, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Free to attend

**Mississippi Coast Historical & Genealogical Society**

Details: 228-396-1543

**Our Lady of Fatima Parish**

1644 Pass Road, 228-539-2035 or 228-324-7071

- **Monday Bingo**, March 6, 13, 20, & 27; doors open at 5 p.m., Early birds at 6:30 p.m., regular games at 7 p.m.

**The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish**

871 Esters Blvd., 228-374-1717

- **Biloxi Bingo Mania**, Tuesday nights behind Nativity Cathedral; Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; Early bird games at 6:30 p.m.; regular games begin at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit Nativity BVM Catholic Elementary School.

**VFW Post 2434**

315 Tara Lane, 228-388-3887

**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
- **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.; Biloxi Community Development auditorium, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Community Market	1 MS Sea Wolves MS Coast Coliseum	2 Community Market	3 Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo – Biloxi Elks Lodge First Friday & Downtown Block Party 932 Howard Ave. in the back/near Fly Llama Red Velvet Cake War Biloxi Little Theatre Anniversary Celebration Gallery 782 MS Sea Wolves, Public Ice Skating, and Coast Con MS Coast Coliseum	4 Spring Latino Festival Blessed Seelos Catholic Church Shenanigans 5k/Fun Run Hiller Park Bridal & Women's Expo Edgewater Mall Red Velvet Cake War Biloxi Little Theatre MS Sea Wolves, Public Ice Skating, and Coast Con MS Coast Coliseum Johnny Mathis – Beau Rivage
5 Coast Con MS Coast Coliseum Spring Latino Festival Blessed Seelos Church Red Velvet Cake War Biloxi Little Theatre	6 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	7 Community Market Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	8	9 Community Market Biloxi Shuckers Season Opener Blood Drive MGM Park Stadium Get the Lead Out Hard Rock Live	10 Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Steak Night Joppa Shrine MS Sea Wolves MS Coast Coliseum Public Ice Skating MS Coast Coliseum Aaron Lewis Beau Rivage	11 Open Volleyball MS Coast Coliseum MS Sea Wolves, and Public Ice Skating MS Coast Coliseum St. Pat's 5k, Grillin' on the Green, Hibernia Parade, Irish Malarkey Party Downtown/Biloxi Town Green Vintage Bicycle Show Biloxi Bicycle Works Oscar Party – Ground Zero Little River Band – IP Casino Aaron Lewis – Beau Rivage
12 Open Volleyball MS Coast Coliseum Guided Trail Hike Camp Wilkes Road	13 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	14 Community Market Mississippi State Bulldogs Baseball vs. Nicholls State MGM Stadium Senior Citizens Program Field Trip East Biloxi Senior Center Ward 2 Town Hall Biloxi Civic Center Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	15 Mississippi State Bulldogs Baseball vs. University of Louisiana MGM Stadium	16 Community Market  Biloxi State of the City Beau Rivage Magnolia Ballroom	17 Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge  Mississippi Senior Games Opening Ceremony Dr. Frank G. Gruich St. Community Center	18 Open Volleyball MS Coast Coliseum Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence Drawdown Throwdown Beach Party Fundraiser Dr. Frank G. Gruich St. Community Center Let's Glow! Gulf Coast, Walk, Run, and Ride, Family Glow Night Out The District Green The Belle of Amherst Center Stage
19 Open Volleyball MS Coast Coliseum The Belle of Amherst Center Stage	20 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	21 Community Market Bike Biloxi Downtown Biloxi Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	22	23 Community Market Main Street Book Club Jacked Up Coffee Bar	24 Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Keesler AFB Farmers Market Marina Drive	25 Indoor Yard Sale Joppa Shrine Gulf Coast Oyster Cook-Off & Festival Point Cadet Plaza Monster Jam MS Coast Coliseum The Mavericks – IP Casino Gary Allan – Ruthless Tour Beau Rivage
26	27 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	28 Community Market Breakfast with the Mayor Merit Health Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	29	30 Community Market Matt Fraser: America's Top Psychic Medium Hard Rock Casino	31 Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	1





# March Schedule

Sparklight 56; Uverse 99 (follow prompts) or at [biloxi.ms.us/btv](http://biloxi.ms.us/btv)

Morning	
6 a.m.	"Down in Biloxi," by Rockin' Ray Fournier (4 min)
6:04 a.m.	Inside BTV
6:10 a.m.	Infrastructure report (5 min)
6:15 a.m.	Shuckers Insider
6:30 a.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)
7 a.m.	Biloxi Cooks!" St. Patrick's Day Fest (10 min)
7:30 a.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 a.m.	Keesler Update (15 min)
8 a.m.	Special presentation: "A Few Moments with Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich," followed by State of the City
9 a.m.	City Council meetings and other bonus public affairs programming (2 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)
1 p.m.	Biloxi Cooks!" St. Patrick's Day Fest (10 min)
1:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
1:45 p.m.	Keesler Update (15 min)
2 p.m.	Special presentation: "A Few Moments with Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich," followed by State of the City
3 p.m.	City Council meetings and other bonus public affairs programming (2 hours)
Evening	
6 p.m.	"Down in Biloxi," by Rockin' Ray Fournier (4 min)
6:04 p.m.	Inside BTV
6:10 p.m.	Infrastructure report (5 min)
6:15 p.m.	Shuckers Insider
6:30 p.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)
7 p.m.	Biloxi Cooks!" St. Patrick's Day Fest (10 min)
7:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 p.m.	Keesler Update
8 p.m.	Special presentation: "A Few Moments with Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich," followed by State of the City
9 p.m.	City Council meetings and other bonus public affairs programming (2 hours)
Midnight	National Anthem by Ronny Broussard (2 min)



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

## Seeing Biloxi through the Mayor's eyes



Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich has overseen the administrative functions of the city since a special election in 2015 and this month on BTV, you can hear more about the life of "FoFo" Gilich, his mayoral reign, and what he envisions for the future of Biloxi in this month's "A Few Moments with..."

Hear about his love for Biloxi and see his enthusiasm and passion for the city in this month's program.

"A Few Moments with Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich" airs on BTV daily in March at 8 a.m., 2 p.m., and 8 p.m.

And then on March 16, Mayor Gilich will present the annual State of the City Address at the Beau Rivage. The program will be recorded and air on BTV days after the presentation during the 8 a.m., 2 p.m., and 8 p.m. blocks.

Both programs will also be added to the city's YouTube channel and on-demand for free.

## A green 'Biloxi Cooks!'

Restaurateur and raconteur Bobby Mahoney guests in an encore presentation of "Biloxi Cooks!" airing daily in March. The segment, cohosted by William Sackett, recorded in 2021, features Mahoney's telling the story of Mary Mahoney's Old French House Restaurant.

See the replay daily at 7 a.m., 1 p.m., and 7 p.m. throughout March.



## This month's recipe:

### This month's recipe: St. Patrick's Day Feast

#### Ingredients:

- 2 Groebel's Corned Beef Briskets (Flats)
- 1 bottle of beer
- 2 cabbage heads
- 3 lbs potatoes, peeled and mashed
- 1 pint of sour cream
- 2 cups of milk
- 8 oz block of cream cheese
- 1 pkg Durkee/French's Fried Onions
- 1 pkg Hormel Bacon Pieces
- 8 oz Mozzarella cheese
- Apple Cider Vinegar
- Ground cloves
- Salt
- Pepper

#### Instructions:

##### Beef

- Place Corned Beef brisket in a roasting pan, fat side up. Sprinkle contents of seasoning packet on top of beef. Pour beer into pan until just below top of beef.
- Seal pan tightly with aluminum foil
- Place in 325 degree oven
- Cook time - 6 hours but at end of 2 hours then 4 hours, open cover and remove 1/2 of liquid surrounding beef. Add liquid to cabbage.

##### Cabbage

- Cut cabbage into desired size pieces. Wash and add to tall pot. Add enough water to cover cabbage. Add tablespoon of vinegar, 1/2 teaspoon of ground cloves and tablespoon of salt.
- Simmer cabbage until tender adding beef braising liquid for seasoning

##### Potatoes

- Peel, boil and mash potatoes when done. Note: Instant potatoes will work, follow instructions on box.
- Add milk, cream cheese, and sour cream and whip until creamy. Add French's Onions and Hormel Bacon Pieces. Mix well; add salt and pepper to taste.
- Put potatoes in baking dish, top with Mozzarella cheese and bake alone for 45 minutes at 325 degrees.

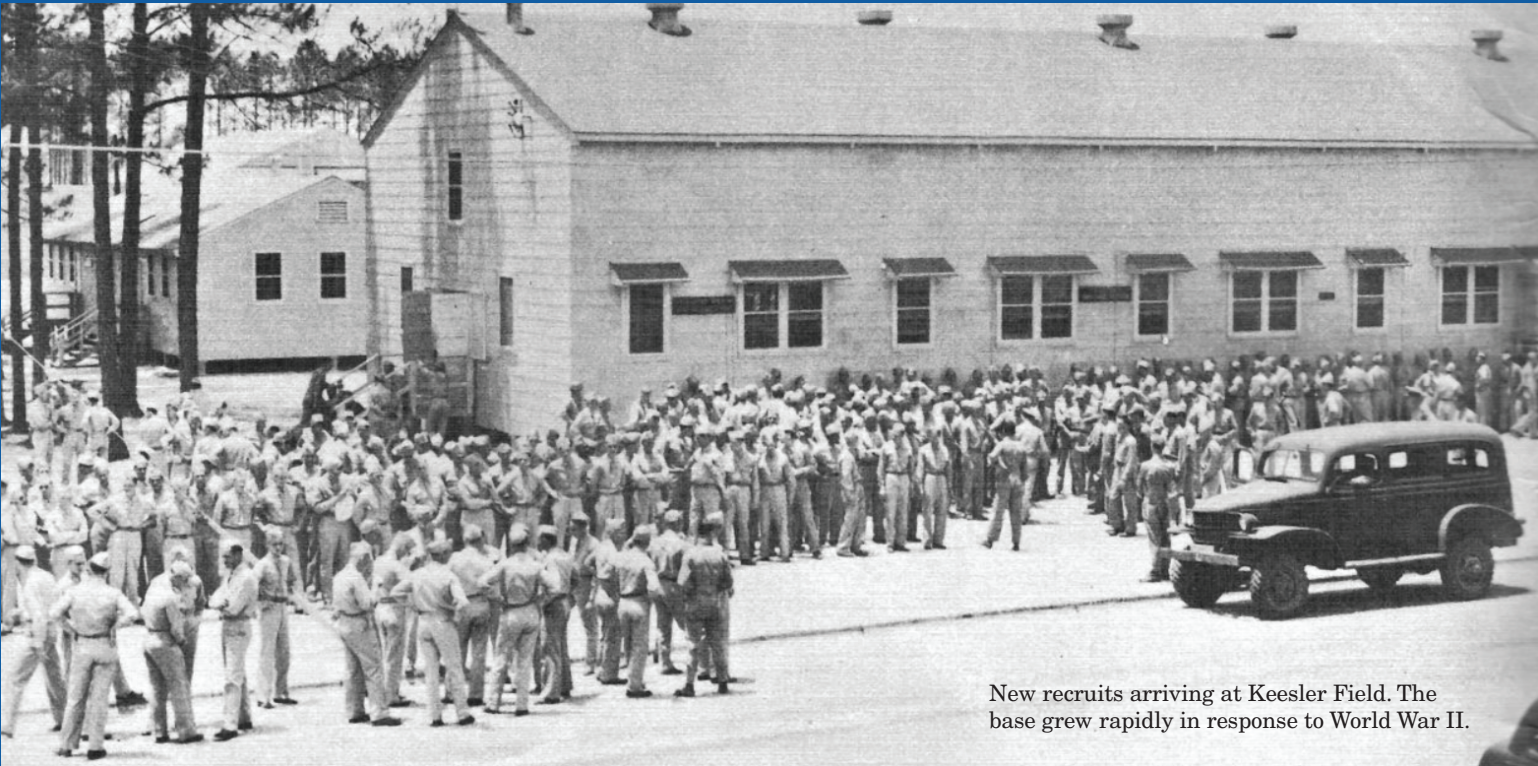




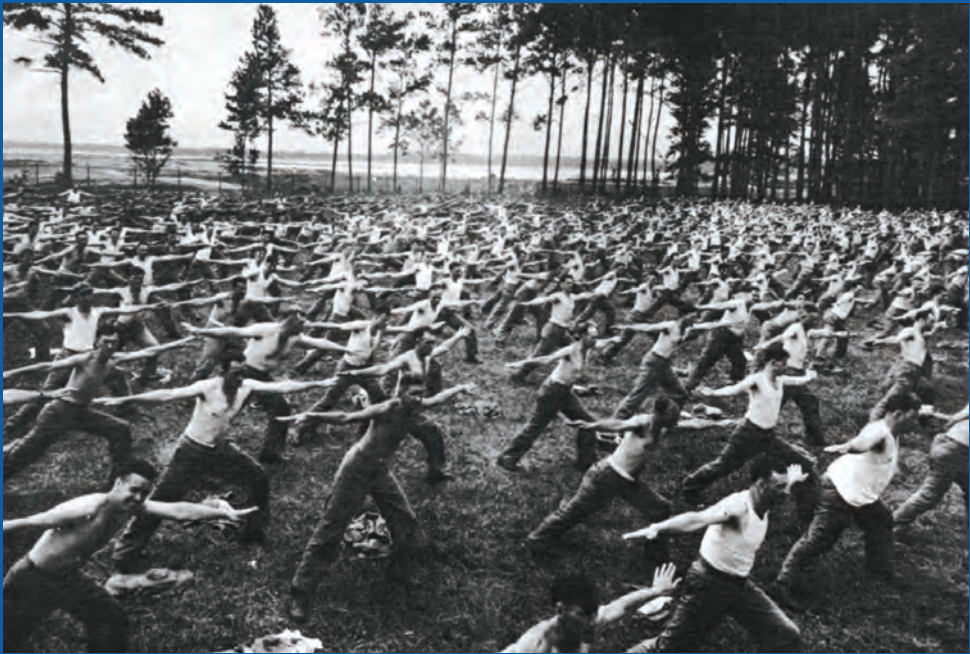
# "Keep 'Em Flying!"

## Keesler Field

By Paige Gutierrez



New recruits arriving at Keesler Field. The base grew rapidly in response to World War II.



➤ Basic training calisthenics at Keesler Field, with Biloxi's Back Bay in the background.

✦ Classwork, AAFTS inspection branch.



➤ Pictured here is Keesler Field's first class of African American airplane mechanics, who graduated in August 1944. Over 7,000 African American troops, including Tuskegee Airmen and others – were stationed at Keesler by late 1943, including pre-aviation cadets, radio operators, aviation technicians, bombardiers, and aviation mechanics. The military was segregated until after July 26, 1948, when President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981, which ordered full integration of the armed forces. Source: KAFB's "History of KAFB"; National Archives; photo from Air Force Historical Research Agency.

Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi began with the activation of Army Air Corps Station No. 8, Aviation Mechanics School, on June 12, 1941. Later that month the Army Air Corps became the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF). On August 25, 1941, the base was officially named "Keesler Army Airfield," and was commonly referred to as "Keesler Field." Construction of buildings and other facilities was largely completed by June of 1942, and the population of Keesler had grown quickly with the addition of basic training as part of the base's mission.

New recruits arriving at Keesler Field received a forty-page pictorial guidebook to their new home. The introduction to the guidebook, dated 1942, reads as follows:

"From the very beginning, only one thing was expected of Keesler Field. That was a steady flow of highly trained airplane mechanics, men qualified for the important task of keeping this nation's warplanes in first-rate fighting condition.

Today, as one of the great schools in the Army Air Force's Technical Training Command, Keesler Field has lived up to that expectation and established itself as a fitting memorial to the late Second Lieutenant Samuel R. Keesler of Greenwood, Miss., who died a hero in World War I, and for whom the field was named.

Keesler Field grew from an old golf course, ball park, airport, Naval Reserve Park and swampy woodland on the outskirts of Biloxi, Miss. Ground was first broken June 13, 1941, before war clouds burst over the Pacific. In February, less than eight months later, it made its first direct reply to the bombing of Pearl Harbor with the graduation of several hundred mechanics, the first to complete the intensive 19-week course in the AAFTS.

Keesler's work did not end there, however. In addition to supplying thousands of mechanics, it teaches new men the basic fundamentals of warfare in its Basic Training Center.

Regardless of their duties here or overseas, the men of Keesler Field have the same goal in mind – they intend to "Keep 'Em Flying!"

In 1947, the United States Air Force was created as a separate branch of the armed services. Keesler Field became Keesler Air Force base in 1948.

Photos by Air Force's Technical Training Command, 1942, unless otherwise noted.

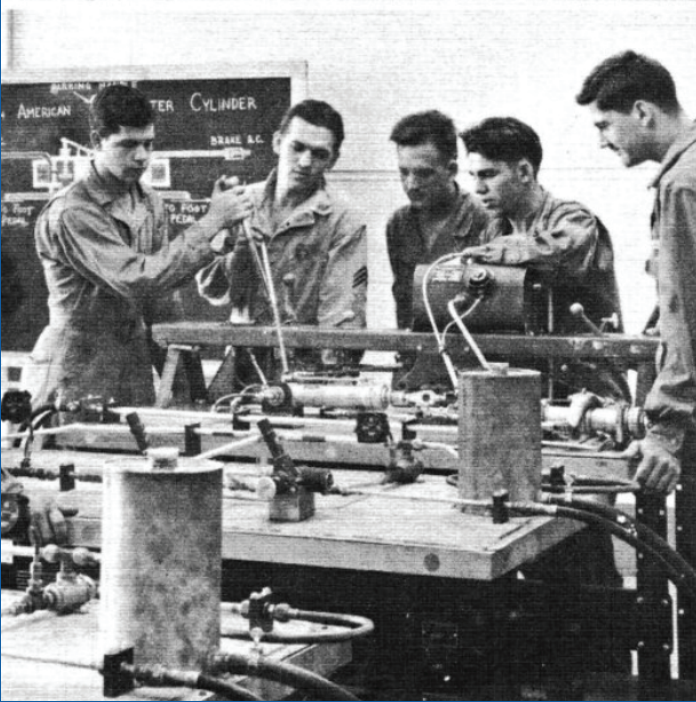


✦ First B-24 Liberator bomber arrives at Keesler, fall of 1942, when specialized B-24 maintenance training program began.

Lt. Samuel R. Keesler



✦ Hydraulics class.





# BNews Monthly

MARCH 2023

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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