

BNews Monthly

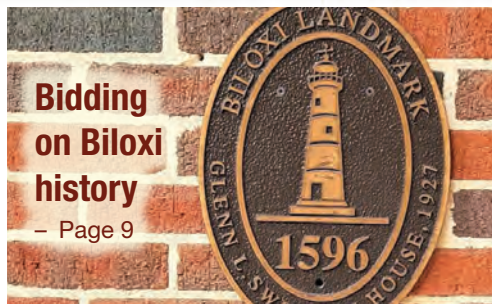
MAY 2023

A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi



Full plate at MGM Park

– Page 10



Bidding on Biloxi history

– Page 9



Responding to the storm

– Pages 12-13



Three times a charm

– Page 6



Celebrating 5 years of BNews

– Page 2



Linking to the past

– Page 8

The Hotel Buena Vista, convention is on the Old



Smooth sailing on Main Street

– Page 4



Spring Break impact

– Page 4



Keeping Biloxi Cool

– Back in the Day, Pages 26-27

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Thank you. Thank you very much

"If you're going to do this," he said, stabbing his index finger on the mockup of a proposed city newsletter, "you're going to call it 'NEWS,' 'BNews.' Otherwise, you're not going to do it, you dig?"

And with that flash of Da Look, with that imprint of who's in charge, Hizzoner, Andrew "FoFo" Gilich, gave the OK

five years ago this month for "BNews Monthly," a compendium of what's happening in Biloxi. The first issue of the citywide newsletter was published on June 1, 2018.

To his credit, the name "BNews" was Hizzoner's solitary imprint on the newsletter. We still prefer "Bmail Monthly," a nod to our sister e-news operation, but today we're here to say thank you.

Thank you to the mayor, the budget-approving City Council, the reading public, and our advertisers who make this \$250,000-a-year operation possible (more on that later).

The original intent holds true and through today: to keep citizens of Biloxi aware of the activities of their city government and their community, to instill a sense of community, and to create an appreciation and understanding of our history and culture.

On these pages, you've seen the words of Biloxi native and astronaut Fred Haise, "The Boys from Biloxi" novelist John Grisham, and Mississippi political legend Trent Lott. Each month, you step back in history with Back in the Day. You get the latest listings on BTv: Biloxi Television, and, of course, there's the Community Calendar, painstakingly compiled by the city's Downtown Services Division. And yes, you get some news.

At the same time, "BNews" incorporates the state- and federal-mandated notices that the city is obligated to communicate to its residents each year. You can see one example in this issue on page 14: the notice about the value of having flood insurance ("Do you have flood insurance?"). Next month, you'll see the storm and flood issue, with news you can use to help prepare for hurricane season, which begins June 1. The July issue will include the annual water quality report.

Having a "BNews" in your mailbox or P.O. box is a benefit exclusive to Biloxi residents

Bmail Monthly

JUNE 2018

A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi

Storm season may see above-average number of storms

The early predictions are in: A total of 14 named storms, seven hurricanes with three major hurricanes expected for the 2018 hurricane season, but Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich reminds Biloxians of an important fact: It only takes one.

The 2018 predictions, made annually by Colorado State University Tropical Meteorology Project, are slightly above the 30-year average of 12 named storms, and follow up on last year's disastrous hurricane season that included storms such as Harvey, Irma and Maria. One storm, Hurricane Nate, actually struck Biloxi and the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Hurricane season begins June 1 and runs through Nov. 30. Historically, August has been the prime month for hurricanes, including Katrina in 2005 and Camille in 1969.

"For all of the predictions that we see every year, and for all of the real-time information supplied by the Hurricane Hunters, we must remember that hurricane forecasting is not an exact science," said Gilich who was born a month after the Hurricane of '47. "We are asking our residents to prepare not only for storms but for the everyday risk they face from flooding.

"There are plans that you can make now and steps that you can take now so that you protect your family, your business and your home."

Among the most important steps: Have a hurricane kit with emergency supplies and have a plan for what you or your family will do if a storm threatens.

Inside: How to prepare, Pages 9-11
Online: Storm & Flood info at biloxi.ms.us

Oscar Renda: Dry weather has meant good progress

Oscar Renda Contracting, the firm overseeing the 55 miles of infrastructure work in east Biloxi north of the CSX railway, is aiming to have Division Street paved from one end to the other in October.

Superintendent John Cowart made the announcement after noting weather and additional workers have helped the project



The "Bmail Monthly," which, by executive order, went public as "BNews Monthly" 5 years ago next month. See all issues online at biloxi.ms.us/bnews

and business owners. It is not delivered in print anywhere in the world outside of Biloxi. Sorry to those who have asked over the years. You have to live in Biloxi or read it online.

Yes, it's only in Biloxi, but man, does it cover Biloxi. Each month, our partners at the U.S. Postal Service deliver nearly 25,000 copies, enough to supply every postal customer in Biloxi. Hands down, that's the largest circulation of any local print publication. And on those occasions when the post office may miss one or two of the deliveries, we hear about it. We appreciate that loyalty.

The first "BNews" had a familiar lineup of issues: an update on infrastructure work and the opening of the Popp's Ferry Causeway Park bait shop and parking area.

No subject has been taboo. Truth is, we launched "BNews" at the time of the "North Project," and we've continued to include infrastructure updates as well as other timely reminders. The April issue, for instance, had the Black Spring Break traffic plan. This month, you'll read the follow-up to the event and the incidents it spawned. We appreciate and respect the freedom

afforded on these pages as well as on BTv and in cyberspace in general. Everything here is designed to give you, Biloxi residents and business owners, a front-row seat for All Things Biloxi.

The fifth anniversary of "BNews Monthly" arrives just as the mayor and City Council begin formulating the municipal budget for the next year.

And about those "BNews" costs. On the surface, it's a quarter-million dollars a year. However, advertising brings in about \$140,000 a year (thank you to those civic-minded businesses on these pages). And if you add in the \$80,000 the city would have to spend a year to design, print, and deliver a host of mandated notices to the public, we're delivering this full-color and glossy newsletter to you and everyone else in Biloxi each month for about the cost of a first-class postage stamp.

That's the beauty of it all, and it's what you should expect from your city government. Transparent, relevant, and cost-efficient.

6th Annual

Biloxi

Lighthouse Arts & Crafts Fair

May 6, 2023

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Biloxi Visitors Center
1050 Beach Blvd.**

- Free Lighthouse Tours every 30 minutes
 - Admission is free • Door prizes
- Free Mother's Day crafts for children



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Main Street crossing upgrades have begun

Long-awaited upgrades have begun at the Main Street railroad crossing. In mid-April, the Main Street crossing closed to traffic so that contractors could elevate the roadway directly north and south of the tracks and then create a gradual slope back down to the existing roadway on both sides. The work is expected to lessen the steepness at the crossing and decrease the chances of vehicles getting caught on the tracks. The work is expected to wrap up in mid-June.

In addition, the Holley Street crossing is now permanently closed. The closure is part of the project to close some crossings in East Biloxi where newly two dozen crossings are.



Spring Break: traffic, safety, and future

Spring breakers saturated roadways and businesses throughout Biloxi in mid-April for three days to enjoy what the coast has to offer. But a number of incidents across the city from Woolmarket to Point Cadet caused concern regarding the 2023 event.

“This is an event that has been thrust upon Biloxi for a couple of decades now” Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich said. “Public safety is our responsibility for our residents and visitors and we are in our after-action analysis.”

The initial numbers from the Biloxi Police Department showed that officers responded to 669 spring break calls for service – in addition to the overall 2,160 calls for service last week. There were over 60 vehicles towed and 40 arrests including 19 felonies. The offenses ranged from traffic, drug, and firearm violations, to drunkenness, permit violations, officer assaults, and shootings.

“We dealt with a number of incidents that we usually don’t have to deal with during spring break,” Biloxi Police Chief John Miller said. “We are investigating several activities.

“Let me assure everyone that the City will do everything in its power to prevent the problems that we have just experienced from occurring again. This won’t happen again.”

We had five shooting victims, including a Biloxi Police Officer, one homicide, and several assaults that took place over the weekend all while trying to keep traffic moving.”

The city’s traffic plan, which is used for special events throughout the year that impact U.S. 90, kept traffic flowing, often slowly, throughout the weekend. Heavy traffic was seen on the roadways Saturday night and throughout Sunday. In fact, police never had to limit U.S. 90 to two-lane traffic between Cowan Road and I-110.

So, what is next? City officials are assessing the impacts of the spring break activities on the city, its residents, and its citizens.

Mayor Gilich reported on the issues at the city council meeting immediately following the weekend.

“We are working closely with Chief Miller and other officials from tourist destinations that have had the same problems with similar events,” Mayor Gilich said. “The intent is for the Administration and Council to devise a plan to strengthen or replace ordinances to ensure that events that pose a threat to our community and our national reputation are no longer welcome. This will include no-permit zones, curfews, further restrictions of parking, traffic, and concert limitations.”

Added Mayor Gilich: “Let me assure everyone that the City will do everything in its power to prevent the problems that we have just experienced from occurring again. This won’t happen again.”



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Three new trucks join Biloxi Fire fleet

The Biloxi Fire Department's fleet is growing and advancing. The department has received three new fire trucks that were custom-built with Biloxi Firefighters in mind.

The new trucks, a \$1.725 million investment funded by the city, arrived in late March after extensive research, planning, and 12 months of production.

"Shortly after Chief Davis and I were appointed to oversee the department in August of last year, we took on the task of replacing three of our aging engines," Biloxi Fire Chief Nick Geiser said. "We toured different manufacturers and looked at ways to improve the trucks for the firefighters."

The trucks, built by Pierce, will employ lower hose access points lessening climb injuries, finished compartments with paint to reduce aluminum dust allowing tools to stay cleaner, mirrors on doors for better views of traffic, storage for ladders preventing catch hazards when traveling, and a hard top over the hose bed instead of a tarp that often deteriorates

from the sun. The hard top offers a walkable surface and when opened, it offers protection and reduces fall hazards when loading hoses for storage. In addition, an air horn has been added on each truck for nonverbal communication between firefighters on the truck and those fighting a fire, a non-reflective surface was installed on the control panels, and a water gauge was placed on the side of the trucks for visibility.

The public will also notice black striping instead of white striping and a red line flag on the grill of each of the new trucks. One of the trucks, Engine 7, bears the Biloxi Public Schools' logo.

"We partnered with the schools and we have their Biloxi Indian arrowhead on the truck," Chief Geiser said. "You will be seeing it at every football home game and at all our recruiting efforts."

The three trucks will replace older trucks at stations 7, 8, and 10 and will go into service after all the tools are installed and each truck is certificated by the state rating bureau.

Kids fire academy: The Biloxi Fire Department is accepting applications for youngsters ages 7-12 to attend its

hugely popular educational fire camp. The year's Beginner Fire Academy for Kids is June 5-8 and Advanced camp is June 12-15, both from 8 a.m. to noon at the Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center on Porter Avenue. Spots are limited. Details: 228-435-6209, biloxi.ms.us/fire



Avoid the crash: Thousands get timely traffic advisories regularly from the city. To avail yourself of the free text messages, text BILOXI to 99411.



Dog parks:

The city has two dog parks, one on Popp's Ferry and one in Hiller Park.

Both are open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, visit online at biloxi.ms.us or call Biloxi Parks & Rec. Department at 228-388-7170.

Golf cart registration: Is your golf cart legal in Biloxi? All golf carts, or low-speed vehicles, must be registered and display a registration decal. Registration must be renewed annually at the Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center, 170 Porter Ave. Details: biloxi.ms.us/golfcart



Council live: Biloxi City Council meetings are streamed live. Just go to the city's website at biloxi.ms.us during a city council meeting and click the LIVE tab at the top of the website. Meetings are normally held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. and on the third and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 1:30 p.m.



The Biloxi Police Department held a swearing-in ceremony for eight new police officers on April 12 at the Lopez-Quave Public Safety building on Porter Avenue. Chief John Miller welcomed James "Caleb" Carter, Ashia Cofey, Jonathan Johnson, Gabrielle Jordan, Dayana Lyons, Frederick Murphy, Joshua Murphy, and Destinee Peacock and is proud to have them. The Municipal Courtroom was filled with family members and future police coworkers, all there to support these brave men and women as they took an oath to protect and serve.

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Qualifications:

- ✓ Child must be 4 before Sept. 1, 2023
- ✓ Child must be potty-trained
- ✓ Parents are responsible for transportation daily

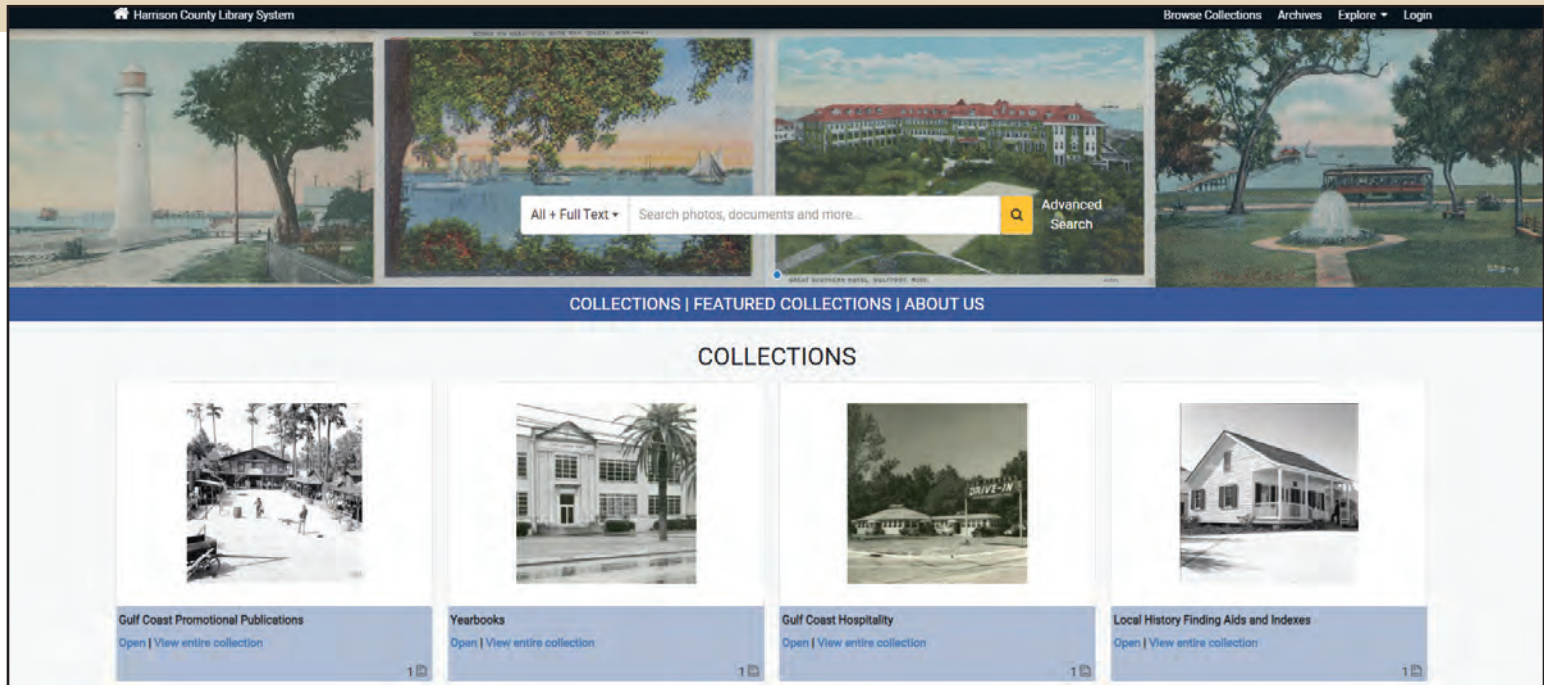
Online registration begins June 5 @
biloxischools.net

In-person residency verification is July 10-14

Under the Early Learning Collaborative Act, individuals or corporations who make a donation to support the Biloxi Early Learning Collaborative will receive a dollar for dollar MS state income tax credit.

For more information about tax credit, please email melanie.nelson@biloxischools.net

Biloxi history at your fingertips



By Mandy Lawrence Hornsby
Librarian, Local History and
Genealogy Department
Biloxi Public Library

The Local History and Genealogy Department has launched its first digital archive. The digital archive, hosted by the Auto-Graphics Montage platform, is a way for Biloxi history enthusiasts far and wide to view historic collection from the comfort of their own devices.

The digital archive went live March 18 with over 200 items organized into nine different collections. The new digital platform allows patrons to search, browse, and view historic items currently housed in the Local History and Genealogy Department.

Digital archives are essential for both relevance and preservation in modern archives that are both rare and unique. From the overwhelming positive response to historic photographs posted by the library on social media, it was obvious that digital access to items were in high demand.

Both the Local History and Harrison County Library System headquarters librarians took the next step and worked to find the appropriate user-friendly platform to create a digital archive. Once the platform was chosen, initial collection and uploading process took place. Items that were already digitized and most likely to answer common research questions were loaded first. Then, the more delicate, smaller items were selected. These are items such as antique menus and brochures. Biloxi relevant items were also initially chosen for the digital

archive. Those include Biloxi High School yearbooks, internment records for the Old Biloxi Cemetery, Biloxi Streets Cross-Reference Listings of 1989, and many nostalgic items. Other collections and media related to Mississippi Gulf Coast history will be added in stages to the platform on a continuous basis.

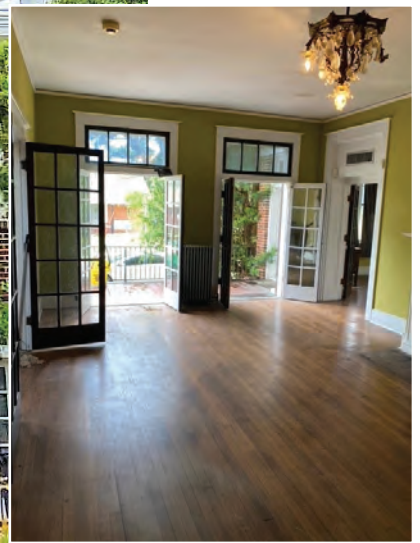
Users wishing to view the digital archive can access from the Harrison County Library System's main website under the "eservices" menu or the button on the Local History and Genealogy Department's page. The web address, <https://hcols-montage>.

auto-graphics.com/, typed into a browser will also bring users straight there.

The service is free with no library card information or user accounts needed. The Local History and Genealogy Department is excited to share this next step in modern preservation with the community. Collections from the digital archive can be viewed in person at the department as well.

Please keep an eye out on the department's social media platforms for upcoming programs and genealogy classes beginning this summer.





City seeks new owner for Swetman House

The City of Biloxi is taking bids from those interested in purchasing a Biloxi Landmark, the Swetman House.

The home, a nearly century-old home located at 1596 Glenn Swetman St., was deeded to the City of Biloxi in the late 1990s by the Swetman family. The city has decided to seek a new owner of the house and property and will open bids on May 3 at 10 a.m. at Biloxi City Hall.

Interested parties should complete a submission form detailing their plan for the property, including any renovations or improvements, their proposed purchase price, and the proposed timeline to occupy the home.

The property was the home of businessman Glenn Swetman and his wife, June. They had envisioned it as a neighborhood museum. Over the years, the property has been used by numerous organizations and non-profits.

The Georgian Revival home was built in 1926 by the promoters of the Miramar Subdivision, Home Haven of the Gulf, Inc. It is 3,293 square feet and includes a fallout shelter. The home is listed with the

National Register of Historic Places and was designated as a Biloxi Landmark in May 2003.

The Swetmans had a fondness for collecting things. The collections included valuable antiques, walking canes, uranium

glassware, and Japanese woodblock prints.

In 1982, the Swetmans arranged to donate the house to the city and after both of their deaths, the city took control of the home in the late 1990s. The contents of the home were donated to the Peoples Heritage Foundation.

Swetman was a businessman and banker who worked his way up the ranks at The Peoples Bank from a clerk to president. Swetman was a charter member of the Biloxi Lions Club, a charter lifetime

member of the Biloxi Yachty Club, and served as the director of the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce. Swetman was also part of a committee credited with saving the Magnolia Hotel from demolition after it was damaged by Hurricane Camille.

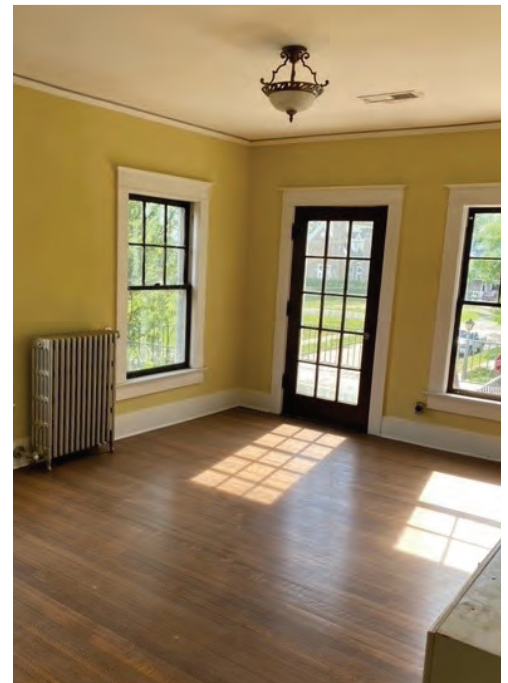
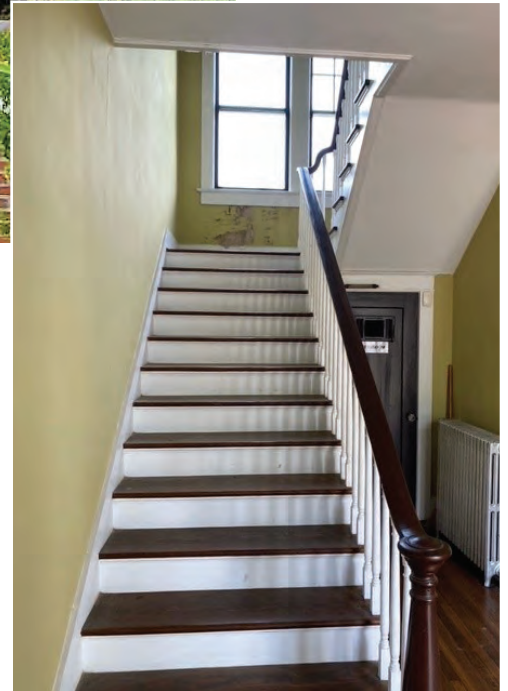




Photo by Sierra Gatz



Photo by Joshua Sumrall

A full slate at MGM Park gives fans plenty of chances to get in on the fun!

By: Javik Blake
Biloxi Shuckers

Already one month into the 2023 Biloxi Shuckers season, the team has blasted off with a fun-filled month at MGM Park, and the team is back home throughout the month of May with promotions, fun, giveaways and entertainment!

April's home slate was marked by a massive home crowd on Opening Night, which was capped off by a two-run walk-off home run from new top prospect Jackson Chourio in front of over 3,200 fans. Chourio, the first Brewers prospect to be named the top overall prospect in the game, has been a star with the Shuckers on the field. He's been joined by fellow Brewers top-30 prospect Tyler Black in the lineup, who smashed a home run and a double for his first two hits in Double-A.

At the ballpark, the Shuckers celebrated their first two Friday home games with the best fireworks show on the coast and welcomed in Chase and Skye from Paw Patrol. Tyler's Amazing Balancing Act also wowed fans during the home slate's first weekend.

On Jackie Robinson Day, the Shuckers celebrated Biloxi's Southern Negro League team by awarding the first annual Roselle Horne Spirit Award to Kay Horne, the daughter of Roselle, who owned the team. As the calendar turns to May, the Shuckers have 14 home dates with the Rocket City Trash Pandas, Montgomery Biscuits, and the Pensacola Blue Wahoos. The 14 home games mark the most of any month this season.

Daily specials highlight the month, including T-Shirt Tuesday and Brew Crew Tuesday presented by F.E.B Distributing where fans can receive a special Shuckers t-shirt each week and purchase a 20-ounce souvenir tumbler at the first and third base beer gardens. Military Wednesday presented by Keesler Federal Credit Union sees \$3 discounts on Dugout Box and Reserved Level tickets for military members. Fans can then enjoy \$2 Yuengling drafts, hot dogs and sodas with \$4 select draft beer specials for Thirsty Thursday presented by Yuengling, Coca-

Cola & Kicker108. MGM Park then lights up on Friday nights with fireworks before Shuck Yeah Saturday and Fun Day Sunday. Kids can also run the bases after every game during the month!

The Shuckers are set to play an Education Day game on Wednesday, May 10 against the Rocket City Trash Pandas as part of a packed home stand. Saturday, May 13 is Boy Scout Night at the ballpark with a Shuckers Home Replica Jersey Giveaway for the first 1,000 fans presented by the Mississippi Forestry Commission.

Fans can then bring their four-legged friends to the ballpark on Wednesday, May 24 as the Shuckers take on the Montgomery Biscuits. Fans and their pups can hang out on the MGM Park berm for just \$8.

Memorial Day Weekend at MGM Park blasts off with a special Fireworks Friday presented by Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Biloxi. The month caps off with a team poster giveaway presented by Mele Printing on Sunday.

Fans can purchase their tickets at biloxishuckers.com and the MGM Park Box Office throughout the month!

► For more info: biloxishuckers.com

► Javik Blake is the Media Relations Manager and voice of the Biloxi Shuckers. See "Shuckers Insider" daily on BTV at 6:15 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.

Shuckers

May 2023

- MAY 9** T-Shirt Giveaway + Brew Crew Tuesday
Shuckers Pop Art Shirt presented by The Peoples Bank
Brew Crew Beer Specials presented by F.E.B. Distributing
- MAY 10** Military Wednesday + Education Day
presented by Keesler Federal Credit Union
- MAY 11** Thirsty Thursday
presented by Yuengling, Coca-Cola + Kicker 108
- MAY 12** Fireworks Friday
presented by Floor Co.
- MAY 13** Shuck Yeah Saturday ft. Home Replica
Jersey Giveaway + Boy Scouts Night
presented by MS Forestry Commission
- MAY 14** Fun Day Sunday + Team Poster Giveaway
presented by Mele Printing including Pre-Game Player
Autographs and Post-Game Catch On The Field
- Happy Mother's Day!*
- MAY 23** T-Shirt Giveaway + Brew Crew Tuesday
Neon T-Shirts presented by Pine Belt Dermatology
Brew Crew Beer Specials presented by F.E.B. Distributing
- MAY 24** Military Wednesday + Bark in the Park
presented by Keesler Federal Credit Union
PRE-GAME HAPPY HOUR @ THE BEER GARDEN UNTIL 6:15PM
- MAY 25** Thirsty Thursday
presented by Yuengling, Coca-Cola + Kicker 108
- Memorial Day Weekend*
- MAY 26** Fireworks Friday
presented by Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Biloxi
- MAY 27** Shuck Yeah Saturday
EDUCATOR APPRECIATION NIGHT
- MAY 28** Fun Day Sunday + Team Poster Giveaway
presented by Mele Printing including Pre-Game Player
Autographs and Post-Game Catch On The Field
- MAY 30** T-Shirt Giveaway + Brew Crew Tuesday
Classic Baseball Tees presented by Keith's Heating + Air Conditioning
Brew Crew Beer Specials presented by F.E.B. Distributing
- MAY 31** Military Wednesday
presented by Keesler Federal Credit Union

Full Promo Schedule
SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE:

BILOXISHUCKERS.com



CITY OF BILOXI PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice Of Public Hearings & Public Service Applications 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan

HUD has awarded the City of Biloxi a 2023 CDBG Entitlement Grant allocation of \$404,451 and anticipates generating estimated program income of \$175,784 for 2023 activities, based on previous years' resources.

The City of Biloxi will conduct two public hearings to give Biloxi residents opportunity to:

- Present oral or written input about City housing, community development and supportive housing needs; and
- Participate in development and implementation of the 2023 CDBG Action Plan, a component of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

Both hearings will be held in the Community Development Auditorium, at 676 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 23, 2023 and 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 21, 2023.

Residents are urged to attend, particularly low, very low, extremely low income and public housing residents, minorities, and those with mobility, visual, and hearing impediments. If special accommodations are needed for the hearings, please contact the City's Federal Programs Manager at least 72 hours prior to the hearings at 228-435-6269 or spickich@biloxi.ms.us.



Applications for PY2023 CDBG public services funds will be available on the City's website www.biloxi.ms.us/cdbg on May 1, 2023 for agencies to complete and submit prior to the 4 p.m., Thursday, May 25, 2023 deadline.

Information about the application process and eligible use of funds also is available online.

Information about Biloxi's CDBG Program can be found at <http://www.biloxi.ms.us/cdbg/>



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Biloxi first responders support Rolling Fork



While the magnitude of Katrina and the EF4 tornado may be different, they share similarities in terms of the emotional impact on each of our communities.



By Capt. Louis Moran
Biloxi Police Department

March 24 is a day that will forever be etched in the memories of the people of Rolling Fork and Silver City, and later Amory, Mississippi. In the early hours of the night, the dark skies unleashed a monstrous EF4 tornado upon the communities who had little time to react and were not prepared for what they would experience. With winds reaching up to 170 miles per hour, the tornado tore through the landscape, leaving a trail of devastation in its wake. Homes were reduced to rubble, trees were twisted and uprooted like matchsticks, and the once-quiet communities were left unrecognizable.

The sheer force of the tornado was awe-inspiring and terrifying. The deafening roar of the wind and the sound of structures being ripped apart was described by survivors as sounding like a thousand freight trains crashing at once. Most people didn't have time to seek shelter and if they did, where would they go? The tornado carved a path of destruction skipping nearly 60 miles long and one mile wide, leaving behind a landscape of destruction that will take years to rebuild.

The people of Rolling Fork and Silver City, known for their tight-knit communities, were left reeling in shock and disbelief. Families were displaced, lives were lost,

and the emotional toll was immeasurable. The tornado spared no one, leaving behind heartbreak, fear, and uncertainty.

In the aftermath of the tornado, even as state, federal, and non-governmental organizations began organizing their own responses, the community of Rolling Fork began the recovery process.

Those who have experienced a disaster of this magnitude knowing that the scars left behind by the traumatic event are not only physical but also emotional. The grief of losing loved ones, the shock of losing homes and possessions, and the fear of the unknown future weigh heavily on the hearts and minds of survivors.

After the initial shock, the spirit of resilience seemed to shine bright, as people said they refused to be defeated by the tornado's fury.

Biloxi is all too familiar with coping with natural disasters. Seventeen years on, we are still reminded of Hurricane Katrina and the destruction she brought. While the magnitude of Katrina and the EF4 tornado may be different, they share similarities in terms of the emotional impact on each of our communities.

Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc on Biloxi and the Mississippi Gulf Coast in August 2005. The storm surge and powerful winds caused near-total destruction all along the immediate coastline, resulting in the loss of homes,

businesses, infrastructure, and lives. The scale of devastation was unprecedented, and the emotional toll on the community was immense. Surviving and recovering from that disaster gave Biloxi a keen understanding of what Rolling Fork could anticipate and what support they would need.

As Biloxi benefitted from the support of other communities around the country in our time of need, many here feel an obligation to help others in their time of need. The strength of the human spirit can reinforce people as they come together to support each other, offer comfort, and lend a helping hand.

With Biloxi's lived experience, we understand that resiliency is key in that long path to recovery. Small communities with limited resources are particularly vulnerable in these situations, and it is in just these situations the value of volunteering and



supporting those communities becomes critical to jumpstart that resiliency.

In the first week of April, the Biloxi Police Department responded in support of a

Joint Disaster Response Team led by Sheriff Troy Peterson and the Harrison County Sheriff's Department, along with the Gulfport and Long Beach Police Departments. The mission of the Joint Disaster Response Team was to

collect, transport, and distribute disaster relief supplies to the communities of Rolling Fork and Silver City. The team provided an estimated 2,500 much-needed hot meals to the residents of Rolling Fork over the course of four days – enough meals to feed half of the community's entire population each day.

In addition to supporting the Rolling Fork community, the Biloxi Police Department also sought out faith-based organizations, local and regional charitable organizations,

and national non-profit humanitarian organizations to establish immediate local partnerships and facilitate clothing and food distribution to other areas within Sharkey County affected by the tornado.

The City of Biloxi and its Police Department have long promoted a culture of volunteerism within its ranks and through the department's Community Relations Division, it strives to foster positive change through outreach. Biloxi understands the road to recovery can be long and challenging, and that's where we can make a significant impact – paying it back for the support we received after Hurricane Katrina.

Team members, sworn officers, and civilian employees alike, volunteer for unique deployments to these austere environments. Teams are often comprised of professionals in emergency management, planning and logistics, law enforcement, and others with specialized skills. With their skills, time, and dedication, volunteers can step into a quickly evolving environment and provide much-needed assistance and support to those affected by a disaster.

One of the greatest values of volunteering with Disaster Response Teams in the aftermath of a disaster is the human connection it brings. Volunteers communicate hope for the affected communities by providing comfort and reassurance during a time of immense stress and grief. They bring with them

compassion and offer a helping hand to assist survivors in feeling supported and cared for. Human connection can make a profound difference in the healing process and help communities come together to rebuild.

Small communities with limited resources are particularly vulnerable in the aftermath of a disaster. They may not have the necessary infrastructure or resources to deal with the recovery on their own. This is where external support becomes critical. Volunteers can help bridge the gap by collecting resources such as food, water, clothing, and cleaning supplies. Survivors' immediate needs are often clearing debris and repairing homes while volunteers can provide simple labor to help small communities get back on their feet and rebuild their lives faster, creating a ripple effect of positive change.

As the days turn into weeks and weeks turn into months, the people of Rolling Fork and Silver City will slowly begin to rebuild their lives and their communities as we once did. Homes will be rebuilt, debris will be cleared, and the scars on the landscape will start to heal. But the emotional scars will not be easily forgotten. The EF4 tornado left an indelible mark on the people of Rolling Fork and Silver City. It has forever changed their lives and their communities. As with Katrina, it reminds us of the fragility of life and the power of nature.

Biloxi's experience with Hurricane Katrina tested the resilience of our community, and Rolling Fork's EF4 tornado was a proportionally devastating event that will test their own resilience. With time, support, and determination, both communities will show remarkable resilience in their journey toward emotional recovery and rebuilding their lives.

As Biloxi moves into Hurricane season, we are reminded of the basic steps we can take to prepare. It is crucial to be prepared and take proactive measures to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your property before, during, and after a hurricane.

Being prepared and taking proactive measures before a hurricane can save lives and reduce property damage. Stay informed, make a plan, stock up on supplies, protect your property, evacuate, stay safe during the storm, and exercise caution after the storm. Stay vigilant and follow the instructions of local authorities to ensure your safety during hurricane season.



► See Storm & Flood Preparedness info online at biloxi.ms.us/stormandflood.

This FEMA-mandated notice helps keep Biloxi flood insurance rates low.

Do You Have Flood Insurance?

It's that time of year again. Hurricane season is just around the corner, and the City of Biloxi is recommending that you purchase flood insurance. Here are a few facts that should move you to action:

- Everyone is vulnerable to flooding. More than 20 percent of the claims in the National Flood Insurance Program are from outside identified flood zones, and claims outside the flood risk area account for a third of disaster assistance for flooding.
- It takes 30 days for a flood insurance policy to take effect, and policies will not be sold when a hurricane is in the Gulf.
- In a high-risk area, your home is more than twice as likely to be damaged by flood than by fire.

The City of Biloxi encourages you to call your insurance agent and buy flood insurance.

Questions? Contact Rick Stickler or Kristin Greger with the City of Biloxi, 228-435-6280.

rstickler@biloxi.ms.us kgreger@biloxi.ms.us



B Smart: Scan to visit the city's online Storm & Flood Preparedness section.

LAWN CARE

Caring for landscaping and lawns on property that is miles from any water body may seem little to do with water pollution but many of these activities can be quite detrimental to water quality. Normal landscape and lawn maintenance activities can be major contributors to storm drain pollution. Soils, yard wastes, overwatering, and chemicals become part of the urban runoff mix that winds its way through streets, gutters and storm drains before entering our rivers, bays and gulf.

Contact the City of Biloxi Stormwater Management at 228-435-6280 or stormwater@biloxi.ms.us

Fertilizing & Pesticides

- Use fertilizers sparingly and don't apply before a heavy rainfall.
- Before adding fertilizer have your soil tested so you apply only what is needed.
- Nutrients from fertilizers promote algae blooms and excessive plant growth, which depletes oxygen, making it unavailable to fish and other aquatic life.
- Consider leaving lawn clippings on your lawn as a natural fertilizer.
- Pesticides and herbicides don't just kill garden pests, they also harm beneficial insects, aquatic plants and fish that live in our waterways.
- Read all labels and apply according to the directions.

Watering

- Avoid overwatering. Don't let water run out into the street.
- Use efficient irrigation methods such as soaker hoses and microsprinklers.

- If you have a spray head sprinkler system, consider adjusting your water method to a cycle and soak. Instead of watering for 15 minutes straight, breakup the session into 5 minute intervals allowing water to soak in before the next application.

Yard Waste

- Yard waste such as leaves and grass are pollutants in our waterways because during decomposition they absorb oxygen needed by fish and aquatic animals.
- Never blow or sweep grass or lawn clippings into the streets for storm drains. They should be swept, bagged and disposed of properly. Not only are they pollutants in the waterways but they clog storm drain systems causing flooding.
- Consider recycling your yard wastes by starting a compost pile.

81st Training Wing has a new commander

By Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Davis
81st Training Wing Public Affairs

Team Keesler has a new commander of the 81st Training Wing who was officially welcomed during the Assumption of Command ceremony at the Levittow Training Support Facility on March 23.

Col. Billy Pope returned to Keesler to take command of the 81st TRW in a ceremony officiated by Maj. Gen. Michele Edmondson, Second Air Force commander.

Pope and his family were previously stationed at Keesler when he served as the 81st Communications Squadron commander from June 2014 to July 2016. Pope received his commission in 2001 through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Redlands. He has served in numerous capacities within the Communications and Cyber Operations career fields including cyberspace strategy, offensive and defensive cyber operations, and joint special operations communications. Pope previously commanded at the group level and has held positions at service headquarters, joint combatant command,

major command, and installation levels within the continental United States and abroad.

Coming from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland serving as both 688th Cyberspace Wing Intelligence and Operations director, and 690th Cyberspace Operations Group commander, Pope will take

on the Keesler mission, overseeing 12,000 airmen and civilians and providing technical training for officers, enlisted, and civilians of the U.S. Air Force, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserves, other service branches and international students from allied nations.

Pope is the 50th commander to lead the installation since its activation in 1941. Today, Keesler technically trains and develops 28,000 students, annually.

"I could not be more thrilled for the opportunity to put my own shoulder under our tremendously important load that we carry on behalf of the Department of the Air Force," said Pope. "The future of our force...and in many ways, the future of our nation rests in our ability to train, develop, and retain the Airmen and Guardians who form the backbone of our nation's defense."

U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Michele Edmondson, Second Air Force Commander, passed the guidon to Col. Billy Pope, 81st Training Wing Commander, symbolizing the passing of command. (U.S. Air Force photo by Kemberly Groue)



► See more photos at 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

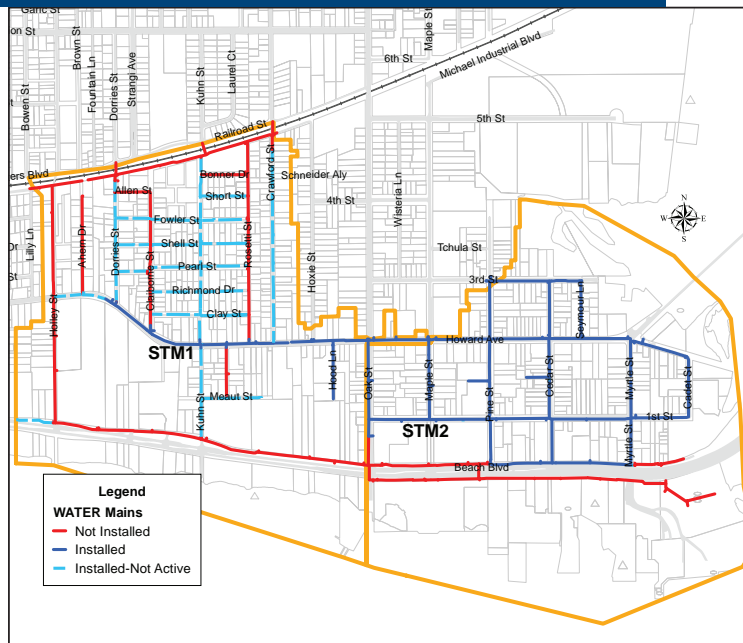
Pages 16 and 17 contain maps that show the status of the city's two major infrastructure projects now underway. The information on these maps is compiled by the city's Engineering Department, based on reports from contractors and inspectors at each site. See detailed maps and video online at biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/.

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.

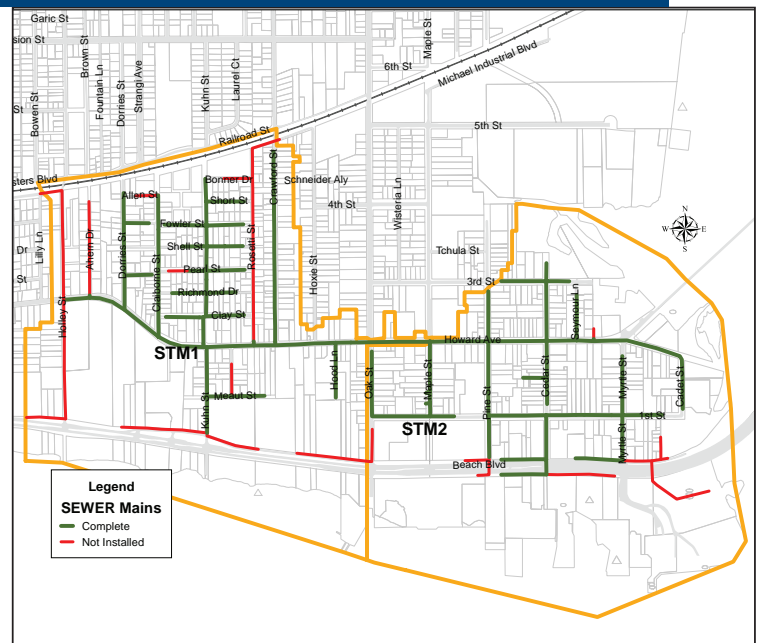
Necaise Brothers Construction Water

Water Mains to be installed as of April 15, 2023



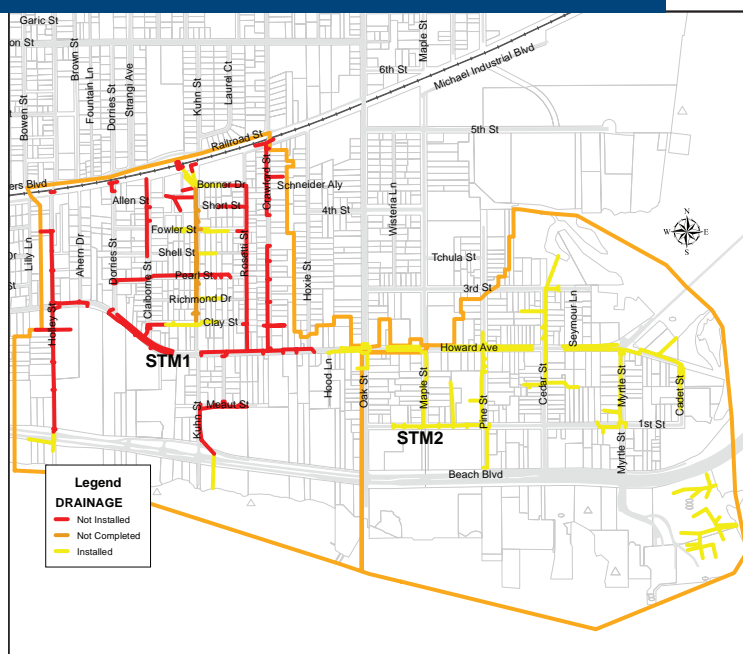
Necaise Brothers Construction Sewer

Sewer Mains to be installed as of April 15, 2023



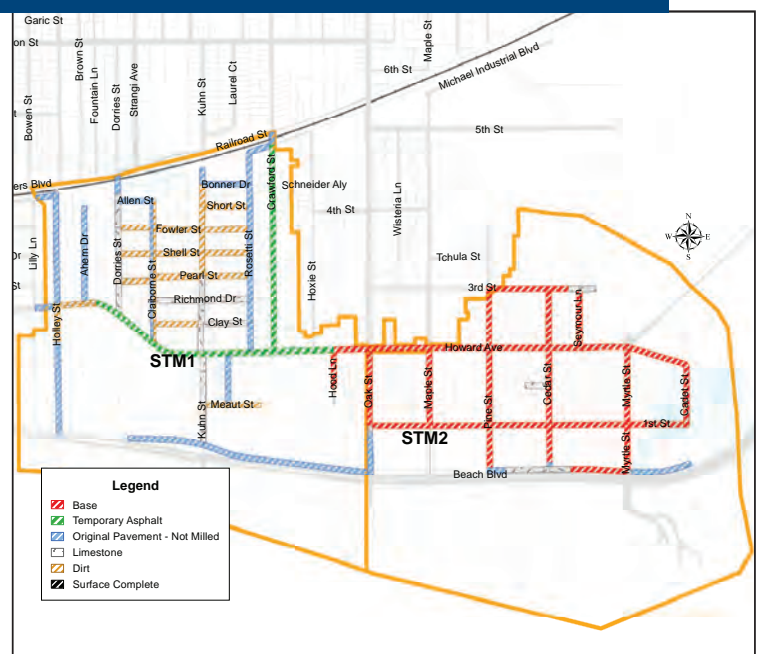
Necaise Brothers Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of April 15, 2023



Necaise Brothers Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of April 15, 2023



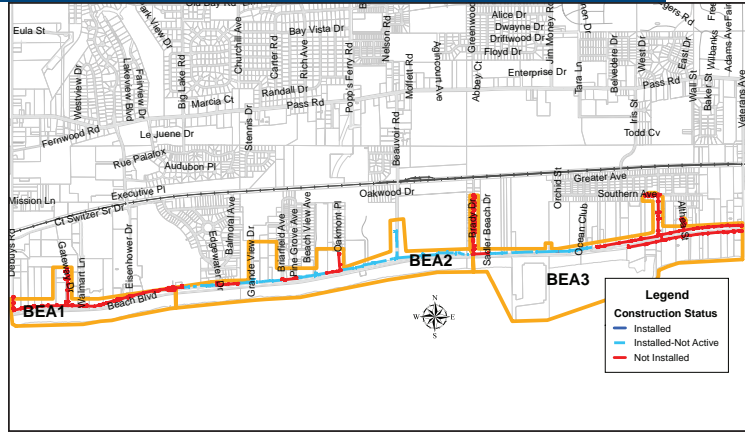
Beauvoir 1, 2, & 3

(Combined maps)

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.

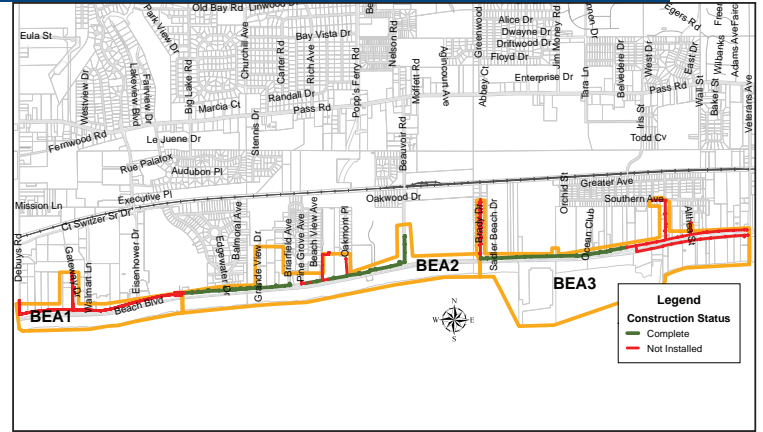
Necaise Brothers Construction Water

Water Mains to be installed as of April 15, 2023



Necaise Brothers Construction Sewer

Sewer Mains to be installed as of April 15, 2023



Necaise Brothers Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of April 15, 2023

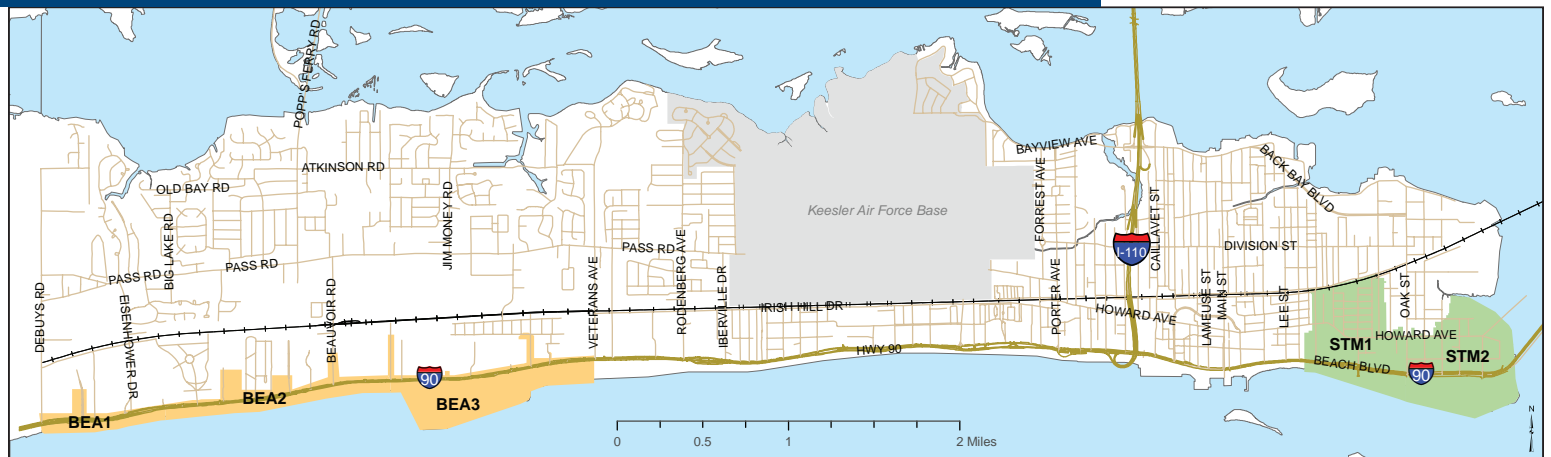


Necaise Brothers Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of April 15, 2023



Areawide map of infrastructure work



► See the monthly infrastructure video report at biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi.

Random Notes



TIME CAPSULE:

Spring is in the air!



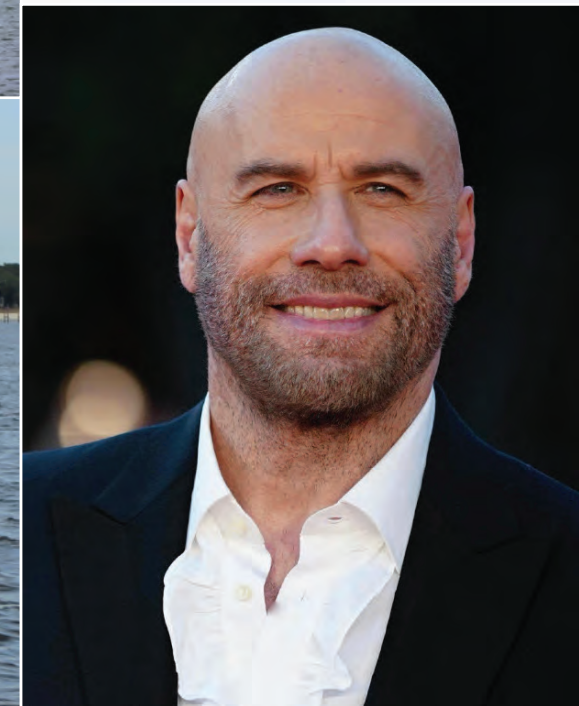
Riding along the coast has been a favorite pastime for Mississippi Gulf Coast residents and tourists for over a century. Long ago, the roadway was made of oyster shells, and for a while, even a trolley line ran along the coastline. This photograph shows ladies enjoying the view by the Biloxi Yacht Club in the 1920s. The simple pleasures of coastal living are timeless.

Photograph from the Joe Scholtes Collection at the Local History and Genealogy Department.



Lights, Camera, BOOM!

Award-winning actor John Travolta has been filming a high-flying heist movie in South Mississippi, with explosive action captured here in Biloxi. The filming of 'Cash Out 2' along the Biloxi beach brought out hundreds of spectators excited to catch a glimpse of the action, and they were not disappointed!



New beginnings after 50 years



The Southern Coastal Federal Credit Union has relocated to the heart of the city that they have served for five decades. This year marks the Southern Coastal FCU's 50th anniversary and on March 22 the credit union hosted an anniversary celebration and ribbon cutting at its new location, 677 Dr. MLK Jr Blvd. The credit union was created by Mayor Jerry O'Keefe and city commissions as an asset to city employees in 1973. They now offer their services to the public.

A sport that spans all generations

One of the fastest-growing sports sweeping the country is pickleball. Pickleball began as primarily a retiree sport but has rapidly developed into a sport enjoyed by all ages. With the increased interest comes a demand for more pickleball courts, and Biloxi is in full swing ahead to meet that demand. Here's a bird's eye view of the pickleball courts at the Popp's Ferry Recreational Complex.



A group of 32 people visiting from Milledgeville, GA, arrived Monday, April 17, to play pickleball in Biloxi.

2023 Preservation in May

CELEBRATING AND HONORING BILOXI'S HISTORY



May 4 SNEAK PEEK

Mississippi Gulf Coast Historical and Cultural Exposition

5:30-7 p.m. at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd.

Preview the annual Mississippi Gulf Coast Historical and Cultural Exposition where historical and cultural organizations from all along the Coast share the history and traditions of our region.

The expo will be open May 5 and 6, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

May 11 DOWNTOWN MURAL WALK

5:30-7 p.m. – The tour gathers at the Bond House, 932 Howard Avenue

Take a guided tour of the public murals throughout downtown Biloxi to learn the stories behind these unique works of art.



May 18 BILOXI: THE SEAFOOD CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

5:30-7 p.m. at the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum, 115 First Street

This community has always relied on the water as a source of food, livelihood and recreation. This event celebrates seafood and the traditions and techniques developed in collecting and enjoying the Gulf's bounty.



May 25 MEMORIAL MASS

Memorial Mass for Deceased Fishermen and Cultural and Heritage Boards Presentations

Mass at St Michael Catholic Church begins at 6 p.m.

with board presentations to follow in the Parish Life Center, 177 First Street

As long as our area has been populated, gathering the Gulf's bounty has been a source of sustenance and livelihood for many in our community. To remember and honor the individuals who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in pursuit of a living on the water, the annual Blessing of the Fleet celebration, which began in 1929, kicks off with a mass at St Michael Catholic Church. Following the mass, the Shrimp Queen Pageant contestants will display their cultural and heritage boards in the Parish Life Center next to the church.

The Cultural and Heritage Boards are an integral part of the Shrimp Queen Pageant, an 85-year-old Biloxi tradition.



Participants at the Preservation in May programs will be given a Biloxi Passport through History which can be stamped at each event. For everyone who collects at least three stamps and attends the May 25 program, will receive a special gift.

All events are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call (228) 374-3105.

Visit online at
biloxi.ms.us



Sign up for BMail
at biloxi.ms.us

For B-Alerts, text
BILOXI to 99411

Preservation in May is organized by the City of Biloxi, Biloxi Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Biloxi Main Street District, and Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area.



Best Bets!

Let's play ball

Biloxi Shuckers Baseball games at MGM Park, 105 Caillavet St.

- VS. Rocket City Trash Pandas, May 9-14, 6:35 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 6:05 p.m. Saturday and 1:05 p.m. Sunday
- VS. Montgomery Biscuits, May 23-28, 6:35 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 6:05 p.m. Saturday and 5:05 p.m. Sunday
- VS. Pensacola Blue Wahoos, May 30-June 4, 6:35 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 6:05 p.m. Saturday and 5:05 p.m. Sunday

Expect the usual array of between-innings antics and outstanding promotions.

Tickets start as low as \$8 if you buy in advance. Reserve your seats online at www.biloxishuckers.com.



Biloxi Community Market

A fresh celebration

The Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department will officially open the 2023 Charles R. Hegwood Market Community Market season on Tuesday, May 2 from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. The market, located at the corner of Howard Avenue and Hopkins Boulevard, includes dozens of vendors set up selling produce, jams, honey, jellies, homemade baked goods, homemade crafts, plants, and more. The market is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., weather permitting. And during the season, Parks & Rec. Department will also host a series of festivals: June 15, July 6, Sept. 7 & Oct. 12 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Details: 228-388-2443, tcowart@biloxi.ms.us

Biloxi Shuckers Baseball, MGM Park, 105 Caillavet St., Admission prices begin at \$13. Details: 228-233-3465

- VS. Rocket City Trash Pandas May 9-14, 6:35 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 6:05 p.m. Saturday and 1:05 p.m. Sunday
- VS. Montgomery Biscuits, May 23-28, 6:35 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 6:05 p.m. Saturday and 5:05 p.m. Sunday
- VS. Pensacola Blue Wahoos, May 30-June 4, 6:35 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 6:05 p.m. Saturday, 5:05 Sunday



Charles R. Hegwood Community Market Season Opening, May 2, 6 a.m.-2 p.m., under the I-110 overpass at the corner of Howard and Hopkins. Details: 228-388-7170

4th Annual Robert McKeithen Memorial

Blood Drive, May 2, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767.

Annual Preservation in May Events, May 4, 11, 18, & 25, various locations and times. The event is a community month-long salute to Biloxi's history. Free admission. See more on page 20. Details: 228-374-3105



First Friday and Downtown

Block Party, May 5, 5-9 p.m., Under the I-110 Interstate on Howard Ave. Celebrate Cinco de Mayo

with arts and crafts vendors and fun activities. Entertainment by Mark Schloegel Trio at 5 p.m. and Blackwater Brass at 7 p.m. Free admission. Details: 228-435-6339

Ties & Tiaras - Parent & Child Dance, May 6, 4-6 p.m., Kroc Center MS Gulf Coast, 575 Division St. This event was formerly known as the Daddy & Daughter Dance. Parents can enjoy a Hollywood glamorous evening out with their child. There will be a live DJ, prizes, and dinner. Open to children of all ages. Admission: \$25.00 per parent/child couple. Details: 228-207-1218

Annual Mississippi Gulf Coast Historical and Cultural Exposition, May 5-6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Cultural and heritage groups will offer exhibits, demonstrations, lectures, and fun. Details: 228-374-3105

Biloxi Lighthouse Festival, May 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Visitors Center staff will offer free tours of the Biloxi Lighthouse, along with family activities. There will be arts and crafts vendors downstairs and on the front lawn. Door prizes and free Mother's Day crafts for children. Details: 228-374-3105 or braymond@biloxi.ms.us



Best Bet!



A shrimp blessing

The 94th Annual Blessing of the Fleet, a long-time tradition, kicks off with a poster unveiling on May 10 at 6 p.m. at St. Michaels Parish Life Center in East Biloxi. Then, on May 27, an evening coronation of the Shrimp King and Queen will be held at 6 p.m. at the Biloxi Civic Center (tickets required). The actual Blessing of the Fleet with the dropping of a wreath will begin at 2 p.m. on May 28 in the Biloxi Channel. The boat parade will include a best-decorated contest for cash prizes - \$1,000 for 1st place, \$500 for 2nd, and a \$500 participation award to a selected working boat. The public can watch the parade from the waterfront along U.S. 90 from the Biloxi Lighthouse to the Biloxi Bridge. Details: <https://www.facebook.com/biloxiblessingms>; 228-365-1627 or 228-435-6339

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

Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the 60th 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

Rock-N-Roll Open Car, Jeep, Truck & Bike Show, May 6, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Point Cadet Plaza, 121 Cadet St. Enjoy hundreds of cars, jeeps, bikes, trucks, live entertainment, food, arts & crafts vendors, kid's activities, fishing rodeo, and more! Car show judging begins at 11 a.m. with 24 categories, 24 winners, and 24 guitars awarded. Miss Rock-N-Roll Bikini Contest at 2 p.m. Details: www.clearvisionent.net or 228-860-5015

Inaugural Red & Blue Festival, May 7, 12-6 p.m. Ground Zero Blues Club, 814 Howard Ave. Biloxi Businessmen Club and Ground Zero Blues Club host a fundraiser for the Biloxi Police & Fire Departments. Event includes local vendors, silent auction, indoor/outdoor festival, Six String Andrew, Kashus Culpepper, Hank Berumen, Serabee, Mike Halat, Billy Miller & Brenna Royball, Miles Sharp, Mayor "FoFo" & Billy Hughes, and Isis. Details: 228-910-6600

Veterans Outreach "First Annual Benefit Ride," May 13, 11 a.m.- 5 p.m. Point Cadet Plaza, 121 Cadet St. Details: 228-424-1784

Bike Biloxi, May 16, 6 p.m., downtown bike 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 are recommended. Details: 228-435-6339

Tyrus Live, May 18, 7:30 p.m., Biloxi Civic Center, 578 Howard Ave. Tyrus Live Comedy Tour. Details: Linktr.ee/tyrussmash

Keesler Air Force Base Farmer's Market, May 19, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., 625 Marina Dr. Details: 228-376-3170, melissa.wedel.civ@health.mil

Loaves and Fishes Pickleball Tournament, May 20, 8 a.m., Popp's Ferry pickleball courts, 2150 Popp's Ferry Road. Entry fee: \$25-\$35. Details: loavesbiloxi.com 37th

Annual Gorenflo's Cobia Tournament, May 20-21, Point Cadet Marina, 119 Beach Blvd. Fishing tournament with sports anglers converging on the Mississippi Gulf Coast for cash prizes. Details: 228-432-7387 or visit www.gorenflostackle.com

Pickleball Senior Health & Wellness Fair, May 23, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Rd. Learn how to play pickleball at 10:30 a.m. There will be open play and an exhibition, a senior health and wellness fair, door prizes and free wellness exams. Free admission. Details: ldavis@smpdd.com, or 228-868-2311

Main Street Book Club, May 24, 5:30 p.m., One Thirty One Lameuse. The May book is "Book Lovers" by Emily Henry. Call Biloxi Main Street for more information: 228-435-6339.

Blessing of the Fleet Coronation of the Shrimp King and Queen – May 27, 6 p.m., Biloxi Civic Center, 578 Howard Ave. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door. Tickets: \$10 a person, includes a plate of boiled shrimp. Entertainment featuring "Ty Taylor & Gram Rea" will begin immediately following the Shrimp Queen Pageant. Details: <https://www.facebook.com/biloxiblessingms>; 228-365-1627 or 228-435-6339

94th annual Blessing of the Fleet, May 28, 2 p.m., Biloxi Channel. Boats parade the Biloxi Channel near the Beau Rivage Casino to the east. Shrimp and recreational boats are welcome to receive a blessing for a safe and bountiful season. Cash prizes/awards: \$1000-1st place best-decorated boat, \$500-2nd best-decorated boat, and \$500.00 participation award to a selected working boat. Boat participants do not need applications. Details: <https://www.facebook.com/biloxiblessingms>; 228-365-1627 or 228-435-6339



Biloxi Little Theatre
220 Lee St., 228-432-8543,
www.4blt.org
• **Women Playing Hamlet**
May 12-14 & 19-21

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

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
• **Billy Creel Wooden & Classic Boat Show,** June 3-4

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

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

Harrison County East Biloxi Senior Center

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

- Open 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

KAFB Farmer's Market

625 Marina Dr., 228-376-3170, melissa.wedel.civ@health.mil

- Open 1000-1300, Marina Park, May 19

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.
- Registration for Sea-n-Sail Adventure Camp, email outreach@maritimemuseum.org

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**, May 5, 12, 19, & 26. 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 open until 8 p.m.

Fleur de Lis Society of Biloxi (French Club)

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

- **Seafood Dinners**, Fridays at 6 p.m.
- **Karaoke with Kenny**, Fridays at 7 p.m.

Joppa Shrine

13280 Shriners Blvd., 601-917-1027

- **Steak Night**, May 12, 6-8 p.m. Last ticket sold 7:15 p.m. \$20, dine-in or carry out

Mississippi Coast Historical & Genealogical Society

- May 20, 11 a.m., meeting Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd., Details: 228-396-1543

Our Lady of Fatima Parish

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

- **Monday Bingo**, May 1, 8, 15, & 22; 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. Details: 228-374-6472

VFW Post 2434

315 Tara Lane, 228-388-3887

- **Meetings** held 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. Details: 228-324-7071 or 228-539-2035

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

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6 a.m.-2 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
	1 Creative Art Academy Kroc Center Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	2 Community Market <i>Season Opening</i> Robert McKeithen Memorial Blood Drive Biloxi Visitors Center Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	3	4 Community Market Preservation in May Event: Reception Biloxi Visitors Center	5 Seafood Dinners/ Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Historical/Cultural Exposition Biloxi Visitors Center First Friday & Downtown Block Party Under I-110 on Howard Ave.	6 Ties & Tiaras Dance Kroc Center Historical/Cultural Expo – Biloxi Visitors Center Lighthouse Arts & Crafts Festival – Biloxi Visitors Center Rock-N-Roll Open Car, Jeep, Truck & Bike Show Point Cadet Plaza CPR Fest – MS Coast Coliseum Tracy Morgan – Beau Rivage Buckcherry – IP Casino
7 Inaugural Red & Blue Festival Ground Zero Blues Club	8 Creative Art Academy Kroc Center Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	9 Community Market Shuckers vs. Trash Pandas MGM Park VFW Post 2434 Meeting Tara Lane Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	10 Shuckers vs. Trash Pandas MGM Park	11 Community Market Preservation in May Event: Downtown Mural Walk Shuckers vs. Trash Pandas MGM Park MNA Coin & Currency Show MS Coast Coliseum	12 Seafood Dinners/ Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo – Biloxi Elks Lodge Steak Night – Joppa Shrine Shuckers vs. Trash Pandas MGM Park Women Playing Hamlet Biloxi Little Theatre MNA Coin & Currency Show MS Coast Coliseum	13 Veterans Outreach First Annual Benefit Ride Point Cadet Plaza Shuckers vs. Trash Pandas MGM Park Women Playing Hamlet Biloxi Little Theatre MNA Coin & Currency Show MS Coast Coliseum
14 Women Playing Hamlet Biloxi Little Theatre Shuckers vs. Trash Pandas MGM Park	15 Creative Art Academy Kroc Center Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	16 Community Market Bike Biloxi Downtown Biloxi Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	17	18 Community Market Preservation in May Event: Seafood Capital Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum Tyrus Live Biloxi Civic Center Alice Cooper Beau Rivage	19 Seafood Dinners/ Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Women Playing Hamlet Biloxi Little Theatre Brooks & Dunn MS Coast Coliseum KAFB Farmer's Market Marina Drive	20 Gorenflo's Cobia Tournament Point Cadet Marina Loaves & Fishes Pickleball Tournament 2150 Popp's Ferry Rd. Women Playing Hamlet Biloxi Little Theatre Mississippi Coast Historical & Genealogical Society Meeting Biloxi Visitors Center
21 Gorenflo's Cobia Tournament Point Cadet Marina Women Playing Hamlet Biloxi Little Theatre	22 Creative Art Academy Kroc Center Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	23 Community Market Pickleball Senior Health & Wellness Fair Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center Shuckers vs. Biscuits MGM Park Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	24 Main Street Book Club One Thirty One Lameuse Shuckers vs. Biscuits MGM Park	25 Community Market Preservation in May Event: Memorial Mass St. Michael Catholic Church Shuckers vs. Biscuits MGM Park 311– Hard Rock Casino	26 Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Shuckers vs. Biscuits MGM Park Travis Tritt – IP Casino	27 Blessing of the Fleet Coronation of the Shrimp King and Queen Biloxi Civic Center Shuckers vs. Biscuits MGM Park
28 94th Annual Blessing of the Fleet Biloxi Channel Shuckers vs. Biscuits MGM Park	29 <i>Memorial Day</i>	30 Community Market Shuckers vs. Blue Wahoos MGM Park Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	31 Shuckers vs. Blue Wahoos MGM Park	1 Shuckers vs. Blue Wahoos MGM Park	2 Shuckers vs. Blue Wahoos MGM Park	3 Shuckers vs. Blue Wahoos MGM Park

BTV May 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.	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!" Cora's (6 min)
7:30 a.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 a.m.	Keesler Update (15 min)
8 a.m.	Fred Haise Statue Dedication (56 min)
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!" Cora's (6 min)
1:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
1:45 p.m.	Keesler Update (15 min)
2 p.m.	Fred Haise Statue Dedication (56 min)
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!" Cora's (6 min)
7:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 p.m.	Keesler Update
8 p.m.	Fred Haise Statue Dedication (56 min)
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.

Fred Haise statue dedication encore

Fred Haise had his day in Biloxi with the dedication of a nine-foot statue in his likeness during a ceremony on Feb. 13, 2022.

Biloxi honored its most-famous native – celebrated fighter pilot, test pilot, and Apollo 13 astronaut – at the statue site, south of the Biloxi Lighthouse. The statue is a bronze likeness of a smiling Haise garbed in his astronaut suit and cradling his space helmet.

You can see the 50-minute replay presentation of the dedication daily at 8 a.m., 2 p.m., and 8 p.m. on BTV: Biloxi Television. BTV is available on Sparklight channel 56 or U-verse 99 in Biloxi or online anywhere at biloxi.ms.us/btv.

A preview of the Shuckers 2023 season

Javik Blake, the voice of the Biloxi Shuckers, previews the new season on Shuckers Insider, airing daily at 6:15 a.m. and 6:15 p.m. on BTV. The program is also available on demand on the city's YouTube page.



Cora's is cooking on BTV

"Biloxi Cooks!" checks out the board of fare at Cora's, the restaurant inside the White House Hotel in Biloxi in this month's replay of "Biloxi Cooks!" You'll also learn about the restaurant and its namesake, as well as the history of the iconic hotel.

See "Biloxi Cooks!" daily at 7 a.m., 7 p.m., and 1 in the afternoon.



This month's recipe:

Chow Chow

Cora's Restaurant, White House Hotel

Ingredients:

- 3 cup diced bell peppers
- 2 cup grated cabbage
- 2 cup diced onions
- 1 cup diced green tomato
- 1 each jalapeño, minced
- 1 TB kosher salt
- 1 tsp mustard seeds
- 1/2 tsp celery seeds
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 tsp crushed red pepper
- 1/2 tsp ground mustard
- 1/4 tsp ginger
- 1/4 tsp turmeric

Instructions:

1. In a mixing bowl, combine peppers, cabbage, onions, green tomatoes, jalapeno, and kosher salt. Cover with plastic and place in cooler overnight.
2. In large saucepan, toast mustard seeds and celery seeds until begin to pop (about 2-3 minutes).
3. Drain liquid off vegetable mixture and add to toasted seeds pan.
4. Add remaining ingredients and bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer, stirring occasionally for 18-20 minutes. The chow chow mixture should be aromatic and still brightly colored. The cabbage and peppers should still have a bit of crunchiness... not totally softened.
5. Remove from heat and allow to cool. Store chow chow in air-tight container in the cooler.

Unlike a chow chow for canning, this is a "quick-pickled" version designed to maintain the color and some amount of crunchiness in the vegetables. At Cora's, we serve this chow chow atop Blackened Tuna, but it also pairs well with vegetables. It even works well as a topping for hot dogs.



Keeping Biloxi Cool

By Paige Gutierrez



Elvis Presley, center, with his Blue Moon Boys. This photo was used to promote Presley's appearance at the dedication of the air conditioner at the Slavonian Lodge in 1955. Photo from *The Daily Herald*.

The summer of 1955

In the summer of 1955 in Biloxi, air conditioning was new enough to be newsworthy. On June 23, 1955, *The Daily Herald* reported that “Sunday will be a big day in Biloxi when the Slavonian Lodge will dedicate the only air-conditioned auditorium on the Coast.” The tonnage of the new unit would be sufficient to handle a crowd of 500 people. Lodge president Vincent Rosetti welcomed all to come to the dedication ceremony and inspect the new improvement, which cost over \$30,000.

Rosetti also announced that the dedication would include entertainment, with a personal appearance by twenty-year-old Sun Records recording star Elvis Presley and his band, followed by a dance. Rosetti said of Presley, “this good-looking youngster who dresses in pink will be sure to have the young’uns—from 9 to 90—with him all the way.”

Twenty-five years later

In the early fall of 1980, the coast suffered a heat wave that lasted several weeks. Biloxi’s public schools were forced to close and send students home each day at 1:00 p.m., by which time temperatures rose to over 100 degrees inside the classrooms. Fans were in short supply and not very effective at combating such high temperatures. Some students passed out or arrived home feeling sick. Although classroom heat was excessive for parts of every school year and during summer school, the heat wave of 1980



The Slavonian Lodge, home of the Slavic Benevolent Association, opened in 1938 on Myrtle Street, and was destroyed by Katrina in 2005. Its replacement on Maple Street is officially named the Croatian American Cultural Center, dedicated in 2010. Photo from Biloxi Historical Society.

spurred parents to petition the school board. Teachers, students, and parents begged for air conditioning, which schools in Gulfport, Ocean Springs and other nearby districts already had.

Finding the money was a challenge. At that time there were no casino taxes pouring millions into the school district each year. A bond issue would be necessary, and 60 per cent of the voters would have to approve raising their own taxes. *The Daily Herald* was supportive and printed a full page of citizen comments describing the conditions in the schools, plus an editorial in favor the day before the vote. On election day, February 10, 1981, the rain was torrential and the turnout was light. Voters overwhelmingly said “no” to school air conditioning.

After the defeat, the school board appointed a study committee, which reported its findings in December, 1981, recommending another bond issue referendum to fund installation of heat pumps to provide both heating and cooling. Almost three more years passed before the second bond issue referendum was set for October 9, 1984.

This time school and city officials organized an all-out campaign to promote support for the issue and brought in a professional ad agency. Local businesses and residents raised money to pay for the ads that urged “Let’s vote for our

kids.” Teachers and students went door to door throughout the city. School administrators, city officials, and business leaders spoke at civic club meetings. One of the newspaper ads addressed voters as follows:

“Did you know that every single city building in Biloxi is air-conditioned— except our schools? Even the holding cells for city prisoners are air-conditioned. Aren’t our city’s school children just as important? It’s time to catch up.”

The bond issue passed with almost 90% of the votes in favor. A *Daily Herald* editorial praised Biloxi citizens for their unified participation in the effort and for being willing to tax themselves to improve their community. All classrooms were air conditioned before the end of the 1985-86 school year.

Biloxi schools in 1986 were finally as cool as the Slavonian Lodge in 1955. It had been a long time coming: thirty-one years had passed since a young Elvis Presley helped dedicate the new air conditioner at the Slavonian Lodge on Myrtle Street. And by the time the Biloxi schools were air conditioned, Elvis had been dead for almost nine years.

Sources: *The Daily Herald*; *The Biloxi Public Schools* by Zan Skelton



From 1984 *Daily Herald* newspaper ad by Guice & Guice.



The Biloxi house known as Beauvoir was designed by wealthy Madison County planter James Brown as his family’s summer home, an escape from the stagnant heat of interior Mississippi to the cooling sea breezes of the coast. Completed in 1852 on property facing the Mississippi Sound, the house suited the local climate, with tall windows, high ceilings, cross ventilation, an airy broad central hallway, and deep porches that shaded windows and doors. It sat high on pilings so air could circulate underneath, further cooling the house. The grounds had numerous shade trees. An extensive satsuma grove inspired Brown’s original name for the property: Orange Grove. Source: *Beauvoir: A Walk Through History* by James W. Thompson. Photo from MDAH Randazzo Collection.

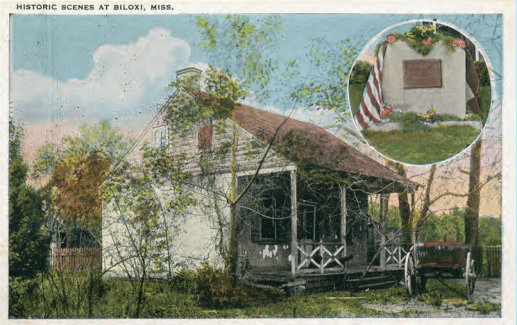


The sun’s heat does not reach the windows in this photo of the porch of Beauvoir. Photo from MDAH Randazzo Collection.

Here are some strategies used for keeping cool, before air conditioning...



History forever lost: damaged interior of Biloxi’s old Fayard house in 1936. Often known simply as “the old house,” this small dwelling was located on the east side of Porter Avenue, in the first block from the lighthouse. Here we see *bousillage* exposed inside the broken walls. *Bousillage* is a wall infill made from Spanish moss mixed with mud or clay. According to the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans, *bousillage* acts as “a thermal mass able to keep a room cool on a hot Louisiana day.” It was commonly used as a building material during the 1700s and 1800s in south and central Louisiana, places with which Biloxi shares historical and cultural connections. Local preservationists of the 1930s suggested “the old house” may have dated to the early eighteenth century. Their efforts to save the house failed. This photo was taken as part of a federal project documenting structures of historic significance. Sources: *The Daily Herald*, PRCNO. Photo from Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress.



Early twentieth-century postcard depicting “the old house” before it fell into ruins. Photo from Biloxi Library Local History and Genealogy Collection.

Shoppers walk under an awning that completely shelters the doors, windows, and sidewalk in front of the Barq building in downtown Biloxi, early 1940s. Many downtown buildings had some form of exterior solar and rain protection for their customers’ convenience and comfort. Photo by Air Force’s Technical Training Command.



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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