

# BNews Monthly

JANUARY 2024

*A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi*



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# A Thousand Words

By John Majure

Welcoming of a New Year





# Home Sweet Loan



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# Biloxi implements special events ordinances

**Thinking of hosting an event in Biloxi? Before you set the date, there are some new rules to follow to help ensure that you host a safe event.**

Throughout the year, numerous events are held in Biloxi that impact roadways and create large crowds. Take one look at the event calendar, and you will often notice multiple events on any given weekend. These events, small or large, require city resources.

To help protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors, special events ordinances were created to put rules and requirements in place to give organizers expectations to follow.

The City of Biloxi has implemented special event ordinances on the rental of municipal facilities, mobile food vending, and parades. When planning an event in the city, your first step should be to contact the city's special events coordinator at the Biloxi Police Department.

"We want to make sure everyone is on the same page," Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich said. "The special events coordinator will have the tools for events, to schedule events in the right way to not overbook or overstress the tools we have."

Here are some of the major things you need to know during event planning to make sure the event is permitted and all requirements are followed.

- Any person or organization that wants to hold an event in Biloxi is to request a special event permit.
- Permitting requirements are based on five tiers. The five tiers are categorized based on the number of extra personnel hours needed and the anticipated attendees. This ranges from more than 75 extra personnel hours and/or anticipated attendance for more than 1000 persons to no city services required.
- Applying for a special events permit is done by filling out an application with the Special Events Coordinator, Capt. Everett.
- Applications must be completed within a timeline based on the tier the event falls under. Timelines range from 30 to 60 days prior to the event to 120 to 360 days prior to the event, depending on the anticipated attendees and the number of extra personnel hours needed.
- Completed permit applications will be provided to the Special Events Committee for recommendation of approval, conditional approval, or denial by the Mayor's office/City Administration.

Before the approval of these ordinances, the city often used a parade ordinance as a guideline for events.

"We are procedurally doing the right thing to ensure safety and welcome our visitors to enjoy this safe, friendly, and beautiful city," Mayor Gilich said.

Those interested in holding an event in Biloxi should contact Biloxi Police Capt. Everett at [geverrett@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:geverrett@biloxi.ms.us) or 228-702-3121.

The Land Development Ordinances regarding recreational vehicles, storage or parking of heavy trucks, trailers, major equipment, or mobile homes were tabled from a November and December city council meeting because of language changes resulting from the approved ordinances. The LDOs are expected to be addressed at a city council meeting in January.

**Holding an event in Biloxi?  
Contact Biloxi Police  
Capt. Everett at  
[geverrett@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:geverrett@biloxi.ms.us)  
or 228-702-3121.**

## Be in the know before celebrating with fireworks

Fireworks are a New Year's Eve tradition, marking the calendar turn into a new year. But in Biloxi, fireworks are unlawful to shoot within the city limits except on certain days. New Year's Eve is one of those exceptions.

Fireworks are allowed on December 31 after 6 p.m. through 1 a.m. on January 1.

Other days when residents are allowed to shoot fireworks in the city limits are the Fourth of July and the first, second, and third day of Tet only in conjunction with the Dragon Dance which requires a special permit from the Biloxi Fire Department.

The Biloxi Fire Department is asking residents to keep safety in mind when celebrating the new year with fireworks. Residents should use fireworks correctly, only use fireworks outdoors, keep fireworks away from children when adults are not around, not shoot any fireworks near any buildings, and steer clear of wooded areas.





# Biloxi to get new ambulance service

Residents and visitors will soon see a new ambulance service rolling along the streets of Biloxi.

Pafford Medical Services has been selected as the new provider. Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich announced the future change in December before the City Council approved the agreement later in the month.

This comes after the city created its own emergency management district back in June. For decades, the city has fallen under the Harrison County contract with AMR but now it has its own district. And soon you will see a new provider serving the residents and visitors of Biloxi.

“This will allow the city to have a direct connection with the ambulance service,” Biloxi Fire Chief Nick Geiser said. “This will allow us to have dedicated ambulances with additional units staffed for non-life-threatening emergencies.”

Pafford will provide the city with a minimum of five fully staffed, outfitted, and equipped advanced life support ambulance units at all times with staff housed at a number of Biloxi Fire stations. They will also have up to eight fully staffed ambulance units available during peak hours.

Pafford will receive emergency and non-



Pafford ambulances soon to serve Biloxi

emergency 911 calls, transport general acute care and critical care, and respond to calls within 15 minutes or less. The new agreement will assist in providing residents and visitors with the highest quality clinical care and provide reliable EMS services.

“This new service agreement will also allow us to work through operational issues more efficiently,” Chief Geiser said. “This basically translates to a system that can adapt over time to address the needs of Biloxi residents and visitors.”

The city will continue to participate in the Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund, a special fund created in the State Treasury that distributes funds to counties, municipalities, and organized medical service districts. The city contribution is 15 cents per capita or approximately \$7,500 a year.



The fire department has 168 firefighters and 10 stations across the city and responds to about 180 calls a week, with two-thirds of those being for medical emergencies, minor and major.

Added Geiser: “The emergency medical service world has changed over the past several years which led to some operation issues in our local EMS system. By going through the RFP process, the city was able to evaluate multiple ambulance services and choose the best fit for our community.”

Pafford EMS, with its Mississippi headquarters in the central part of the state, has been in service for more than fifty years with divisions in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Currently, Biloxi falls under the Harrison County contract with AMR. AMR will continue to provide care in the meantime.

# Property tax statements receive a new look

Residents may have noticed that their property tax statement looks different this year.

The Harrison County Tax Collector says the new version, which was mailed in early December, allows the county to put more information on the statements, including a QR code.

“Our goal is to improve performance and efficiency and do so by using new technology,” said Harrison County Tax Collector Sharon N. Barnett. “The QR code is what everyone is using to read a menu or pay a bill. So why not us?”

The improved statements include the physical address, QR code to scan and pay by, a phone number to text for questions, an office number to call and pay over the phone, and a section to update your address instead of changing it through a phone call. Multiple statements also arrive in one envelope for convenience.

The statements are also now colored for efficiency and to help lessen errors in the posting process. Yellow is for real estate, green is for personal property (furniture taxes), manilla is for mobile homes, and blue is for delinquent personal property (furniture taxes).

Barnett asks that residents remember payments are still due by Feb. 1, 2024 to avoid interest and to make sure you look over your check before mailing it in. The legal line should match the check box, and a phone number and PPIN or parcel number should be included on the check.

The new property tax statements are a process for Harrison County. It is not state-wide.

Sharon N. Barnett  
Harrison County  
Tax Collector  
PO Box 1270  
Gulfport MS 39502

Real Property  
Tax Notice  
Tax Year 2023

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

027421

name/address  
GREENSBURG KY 42743 0436

Parcel Number  
Acres  
True Value  
Assessed Value  
County Tax  
School Tax  
City Tax  
Homestead Credit  
Net Ad Valorem Tax

DS: 2021-0032141-D-31 11/17/2023-QC  
LOT 1 BKG 1 MOBILE HOMES ADD  
LOT 2 BKG 1 MOBILE HOMES ADD 6 EXT  
BLOCK 001

PHYSICAL ADDRESS BELOW  
PINELAND DR  
Due on or before February 1, 2024

TOTAL TAXES DUE \$145.00  
TAX DISTRICT 40

Keep this notice for your records  
Please return this notice with your records

Real Property Tax Notice  
PPIN -2023 YEAR 2023  
Total Tax Due: \$145.00  
GREENSBURG KY 42743

Due on or before February 1, 2024  
Parcel:

Sharon N. Barnett  
Harrison County Tax Collector  
PO Box 1270  
Gulfport MS 39502





Mayor's Youth Council 2023-2024 – Left to right: Cole Martin, Carter McLendon, John Paul Mattina, Reece Catchot, Mayor Gilich, Palmer Toche, Madison Lockwood, and Kamaurie Thomas. Caryana Meeks is absent from the picture.

## Mayor Gilich welcomes his first youth council

Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich welcomed his first Mayor's Youth Council on Tuesday, Dec. 5. During the orientation meeting, the youngsters spent the evening with the mayor, were briefed on the program, and learned more about city government from a city council meeting.

The program began in Biloxi in the mid-80s under the Gerald Blessey administration and continued for several years before going on a hiatus for some time. Mayor Gilich wanted to bring back the

program to engage more with the youth of Biloxi, and connect them with city government, city operations, and community issues.

This year's council is made of up 11th graders from Biloxi High, St. Patrick's High, and D'Iberville High schools. The youth will attend sessions once a month from 5 to 7 p.m. through May. Topics include all city departments and Biloxi's history, culture, and heritage.

## Enhancing safety with smoke detectors



By Biloxi Fire Department

In our ongoing commitment to community safety, the Biloxi Fire Department takes a proactive stance through its impactful Smoke Detectors Saves Lives Program. Let's delve into the vital aspects of the program, addressing key questions about the importance of smoke detectors, the services offered, and the significance of the program in safeguarding our community.

### Importance of smoke detectors

A smoke detector is a crucial component of home safety, acting as an early warning system in the event of a fire. We emphasize this importance through the Smoke Detectors Saves Lives Program, recognizing that working smoke detectors significantly reduce the risk of fire-related fatalities.

### Biloxi Fire Department's Smoke Detector Program

We go beyond mere recognition of smoke detector importance. We actively contribute to community safety by offering the Smoke Detectors Saves Lives Program. This initiative installs smoke detectors for residents to have a reliable early warning system, aligning with our department's mission to protect and enhance the lives of our citizens and visitors.

### Statistics and the impact of the program

To date, the Biloxi Fire Department's Smoke Detectors Save Lives Program has installed an impressive 141 smoke alarms this year alone. These installations are more than just numbers; they represent lives safeguarded and a community better prepared to face fire emergencies.

### Importance of a working smoke detector

A working smoke detector is the key player for a home fire escape plan. When there's a fire, smoke spreads rapidly, and working smoke alarms provide

early warnings, allowing residents to evacuate swiftly. The statistics speak volumes: approximately three out of five fire deaths occur in homes without smoke alarms or with non-functional ones.

### Number of smoke detectors in a home

For optimal safety, install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Interconnected smoke alarms are recommended, ensuring a synchronized alert throughout the house.

### Maintenance tips

It's crucial for homeowners to test all smoke alarms at least once a month to ensure they are in proper working condition. Modern alarms on the market employ advanced technology to respond to various fire conditions while mitigating false alarms.

### Specialized alarms for different needs

Recognizing diverse needs is also a part of our culture and knowing that there are specialized alarms for those who are hard of hearing or deaf is crucial. These alarms include strobe lights and bed shakers, ensuring everyone can be alerted in case of a fire.

### Fire safety in businesses

Fire alarms are essential for the safety of occupants. Regular testing is crucial to ensure proper functionality. Simple setups can be tested monthly by pressing and holding the test button, while more complex systems should be handled by professional fire protection companies to comply with the city's regulations.

The Biloxi Fire Department's Smoke Detectors Saves Lives Program is not just a service; it's a commitment to community well-being. By recognizing the importance of working smoke detectors and actively installing them, the Biloxi Fire Department is making strides toward a safer and more prepared community.

**City holiday closings:** All non-emergency municipal offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 1, 2024 in observance of New Year's Day. The Biloxi Visitors Center will be opened on that day.

**Lighthouse tours:** The Biloxi Visitors Center gives tours of the Lighthouse daily from 9-10 a.m., weather permitting. Admission is \$5 for ages 12 and older, \$2 for ages 6-11, and free for those age 5 and younger. Details: 228-374-3105



**Trash/recycling:** Waste Management and Pelican will not run on New Year's Day. All routes will run one day behind.



**Drinking water:** The Mississippi State Department of Health, in its latest inspection report, stated that the city's "water system appeared to be well maintained and operating properly." To see more about

the city's drinking water, visit online at [biloxi.ms.us/waterquality](http://biloxi.ms.us/waterquality).

### Christmas Tree Recycling:

Residents can drop off green trees after Christmas through Jan. 13, 2024, at the Rodenberg Avenue parking bay on Beach Boulevard.

Remember to remove all decorations, lights, and stands before depositing. For more info, contact Harrison County Beautification at 228-214-1405.







FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS  
JANUARY 5 - 20  
8 PM - 11 PM

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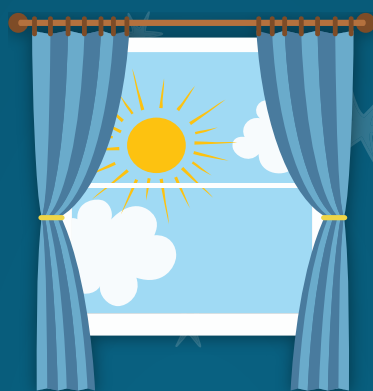
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keep the heat inside.



# Get ready to have a ball for Mardi Gras



Mark your calendars for the Mardi Gras happenings in Biloxi! Carnival officially kicks off Friday, Jan. 5 with the Twelfth Night celebration at Biloxi City Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The occasion also serves as a reminder of the religious significance of Carnival. Twelfth Night, the 12th day from Christmas, is the night before the Epiphany, the day when the Three Wise Men visited the infant Jesus, foretelling the revelation of God the Son being born as a human.

The festivities line up from there! The Second Liners Mardi Gras Club parade is set to take place on Saturday, Jan. 27 at 1 p.m. in East Biloxi. On Feb. 3, the Children's Mardi Gras Walking parade will walk and roll in Downtown Biloxi. Children will ride on decorated

wagons, bicycles, and homemade floats beginning at 10 a.m. and parade Downtown Biloxi to Biloxi City Hall.

Next up is the Krewe of Neptune. The parade will roll in Downtown Biloxi on Saturday, Feb. 10 beginning at 5:30 p.m. The parade will feature dozens of floats from New Orleans with mystical themes. The Krewe's coronation ball is set for Saturday, Feb. 3 at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum.

And then, it's the Gulf Coast Carnival Association's time to roll. On Mardi Gras day, also known as Fat Tuesday, Feb. 13. Hundreds of floats will parade Downtown Biloxi beginning at 1 p.m. The GCCA will hold its coronation ball on Monday, Feb. 12 at 8 p.m. also at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum.



- **Second Liners Mardi Gras Club parade:**  
Jan. 27, 1 p.m.
- **Children's Mardi Gras Walking parade:**  
Feb. 3, 10 a.m.
- **Krewe of Neptune parade:**  
Feb. 10, 5:30 p.m.
- **Gulf Coast Carnival Association parade:**  
Feb. 13, 1 p.m.

► For more information, including parade routes and traffic plans, visit online at [biloxi.ms.us/mardigras](http://biloxi.ms.us/mardigras)

## City assets online

Bidders easily access the auctions directly at  
[www.GovDeals.com/CityofBiloxi](http://www.GovDeals.com/CityofBiloxi)



**GovDeals**  
A Liquidity Services Marketplace

## Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan. 15, 2024

For City of Biloxi event details, contact  
228-388-7170





# A stroll down Howard Avenue

By Corey Christy,  
Biloxi Main Street

The one-mile stretch on Howard Avenue between Porter Avenue and Main Street has seen unprecedented growth over the last few years. Everything from axe throwing, a world-class blues bar, to vegan food and swank short-term rentals has popped up on Biloxi's main drag.

These new additions join an already thriving downtown district. The mile stretch that is anchored by Jazzeppi's – a Biloxi classic – and finishes at The Fillin' Station includes 18 restaurants and bars, eight specialty shops, two breweries, two museums, and 13 pieces of public art. Downtown living is also coming to the area. Howard Square Apartments added 21 apartments last year, and the newly finished Bella offers short-term stays. The much anticipated Barq's Building renovation along with a condo development will bring even more living downtown within the next six months. And let's not forget the everyday essentials: Howard Avenue is not just a

feast for the senses but a practical paradise.

With banks, a pharmacy, a 100-plus-year-old hardware store, and a nearby grocery, you can accomplish most of your daily errands while enjoying the shops, art, and restaurants. If you are willing to venture off of Howard within a block north or south, you will find even more recreation and local businesses to explore. To the north, you will find seafood markets, a brand-new disc golf course, and the historic Saenger Theatre. To the south, you will find local art at Gallery 782, the Katrina Memorial, and the oldest restaurant on The Coast – Mary Mahoney's Old French House.

In conclusion, Howard Avenue has transformed from a simple stretch to a vibrant hub of activity, making it the real MVP of Biloxi. From axe throwing to vegan feasts, this mile-long spectacle has it all, proving that Howard is not just an avenue — it's a lifestyle.

So, next time you're wondering where the heart of Biloxi beats, take a leisurely stroll down Howard Avenue where the vibes are as eclectic as the offerings!



## RESTAURANT/BARS

- Jazzeppi's
- Armond's Rock N' Chicken
- Empanola on Howard
- The Burger Burger
- Jacked Up Coffee Bar
- Altered Reality Brewing
- Fly Llama Brewing
- Martinis Biloxi
- The Toasted Yolk Cafe
- Makin' Groceries
- Boho Social House
- Cafe 871
- Brew Paddle Cafe
- Sandbar Daiquiri Bar & Grill
- Ground Zero Blues Club
- Greenhouse Biloxi
- Skal Axe Throwing
- Ole Biloxi Fillin' Station
- The Mermaid Dive Bar

## SPECIALTY SHOPS

- Peace by Piece
- The Flower Basket Florist
- Biloxi Bicycle Works
- D. Batia Interiors
- Ellzey's Hardware Store
- The Cornerstone Boutique
- Marley's Music
- Liquor Therapy
- Kay's Florist

## MUSEUMS

- Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum
- Biloxi Fire Museum

## BREWERIES

- Fly Llama Brewing
- Altered Reality Brewing

## CITY OF BILOXI PUBLIC NOTICE

### Join us for a "Fair Housing Act 101" Workshop!

The City of Biloxi and the Mississippi Center for Justice invite you to a free, informal workshop to learn more about your housing rights under the Fair Housing Act, especially if you rent your home.



**Wednesday, January 10, 2024  
at 5:00 p.m.**

**Biloxi Community Development Auditorium**  
676 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard  
in downtown Biloxi

The workshop will include a brief overview of the Fair Housing Act and will allow time for your questions to be asked and answered.

All City of Biloxi residents and interested parties, including minorities and those with disabilities that may include mobility, visual, and hearing impediments, are encouraged to attend.

If special accommodations are needed for the workshop, please contact Biloxi's Federal Programs Manager at least 72 hours prior to the workshop by telephone 228-435-6269 or email: [spickich@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:spickich@biloxi.ms.us).

Information about Biloxi's CDBG Program is available at <http://www.biloxi.ms.us/cdbg/>



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# Mississippi Coast Historical and Genealogical Society:

## Its origin, history, and meeting place

By Jane Shambra  
History and Genealogy Researcher

### Our new home

We are excited to be able to migrate to our new meeting location on Howard Avenue, the Dr. Frank Gruich, Sr. Community Center.

Years ago, this part of town was once addressed as 500 East Howard Avenue, and the land was the original estate of famed engineer and wooden lighthouse owner Baldwin Wood, who was also master of the schooner “Nydia.”

The Gruich Community Center opened in 1968 during the leadership of Biloxi Mayor Danny Guice. It was built to replace the prior Center, which was destroyed by a massive fire. The facility was designed by architect H. F. Fountain, Jr. The general contractor was Marion Brick, Tile, and Cement Company, with an initial contract price of \$286,237. Through the years, this City of Biloxi building has served the community in countless ways, including meetings, Mardi Gras balls, political rallies, fashion shows, concerts, graduations, dance recitals, plays, and wedding receptions, just to mention a few. Unfortunately, this is not the same community center where Elvis Presley once performed. That structure was on Hwy. 90.

In June 2008, the Community Center’s name was changed from Biloxi Community Center to its current name. It was renamed in memory of Dr. Frank Gruich, Sr. (1920 – 2007), a longtime physician and civic leader whose childhood began at Point Cadet.

This sturdy structure has endured the wrath of both Hurricanes Camille and Katrina. In fact, this facility was the go-to place in Biloxi for post-Katrina assistance and recovery supplies.

### The early years

On a cold winter day back in 1968, the Mississippi Coast Historical and Genealogical Society was born in downtown Biloxi, having its first meetings at the historical Spanish House on Water Street and the Buena Vista Hotel on Hwy. 90, and Mary Mahoney’s Restaurant. The very first organizers included well-known historians Julia Guice and Dale Greenwell. Julia Guice would later be designated as the City Historian for Biloxi, helping to coordinate recovery efforts after Hurricane Camille in 1969. Dale Greenwell conducted several archaeological digs throughout the Biloxi area and has authored several historical publications.

The purpose of the Mississippi Coast Historical and Genealogical Society is stated as follows: “To encourage and promote an increased interest in the history of the Mississippi Coast, the State of Mississippi, and the genealogy of the residents thereof.”

This historical society was responsible for the initial establishment of Biloxi’s “History Week,” which included days of reenactments, demonstrations, and community gatherings on the grounds of Tullis Manor and the prior Seafood Industry Museum (both destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005).

A special history art contest for young students was also featured. Our first History Week dates back to February 1990, which commemorated the anniversary of the first landing of Monsieur D’Iberville on February 13, 1699. In recent years, this event evolved into the familiar History and Cultural Expo held in the Biloxi Visitors Center, which is currently organized and sponsored by the City of Biloxi.

Through the years, this Historical Society has published over sixty historical journals as well as over ten special editions, which include family genealogies, recipes, land records, and the Biloxi Cemetery Index book. Its publications also include the “1850 Census of Harrison County,” genealogy books on the Bosarge, Ladner, Farve, and Caillavet families, and even a kid’s historical coloring book.



▲ Buena Vista Hotel Biloxi



▲ Historical Society Coloring Book, 1990



▲ Julia Guice and Dale Greenwell with others at Mahoney's Courtyard

### Meetings

The initial gathering at our new location was held on December 2, 2023. The next membership meeting is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, February 18, 2024. A reminder of the exact time and date will be posted in the February 2024 Biloxi BNews monthly edition.

This historical society has been designated as a 501-c-3 non-profit group. All meetings are free and open to the public. For membership information, contact Tim Wallis (President) at (228) 396-1543.



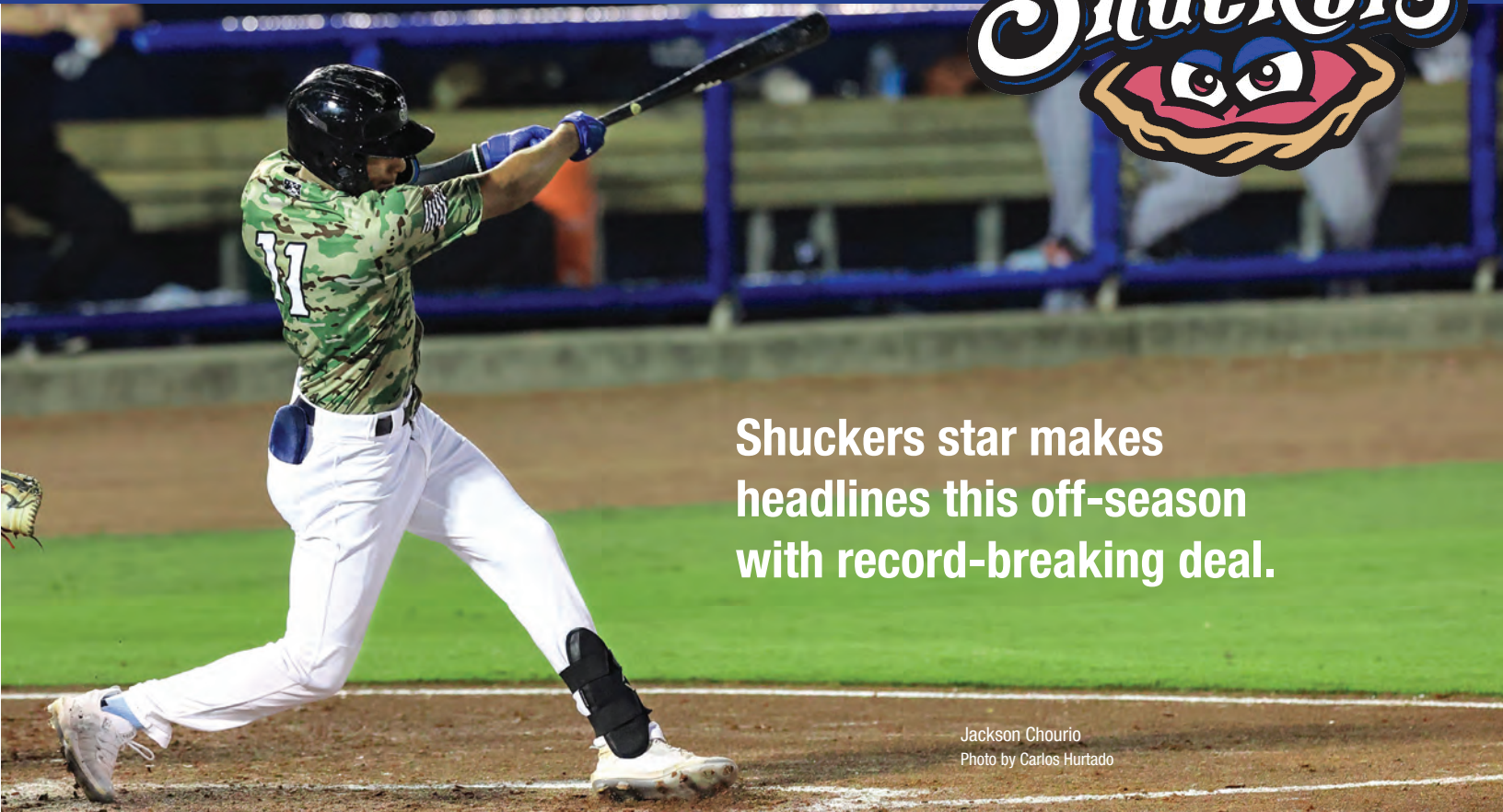
Visit our Facebook page: Mississippi Coast Historical and Genealogical Society



**Did you Know:** The Biloxi Little Theater presented its first production in the Biloxi Community Center in December 1968, featuring the play “The Fantasticks,” starring David Sheffield.



# Chourio Signs Mega-Contract, College Baseball on Deck, and More!



**Shuckers star makes headlines this off-season with record-breaking deal.**

Jackson Chourio  
Photo by Carlos Hurtado

By Javik Blake  
Biloxi Shuckers

With the holiday season finishing up and the calendar flipping to 2024, we're one month closer to Opening Day for the Biloxi Shuckers! The Shuckers are set to open the 2024 season on Friday, April 5, at 6:35 p.m. against the Montgomery Biscuits, the Double-A affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays. The 2024 season is set to be Biloxi's ninth season on the Coast.

Even in the off-season, the Shuckers and former players have made multiple headlines, including the announcement of three college games on the Coast and a brand-new contract for one of Biloxi's biggest stars from 2023.

The biggest news involving the Milwaukee Brewers this off-season, the parent club of the Shuckers, involved 2023 Southern League All-Star Jackson Chourio. On December 3, the Brewers announced an eight-year, \$82 million extension for the team's top prospect. The deal shattered the previous record for the largest for a player

yet to make their MLB debut.

Chourio, who's just 19 years old, starred in 122 games with the Shuckers during the 2023 season. Chourio became the first player in Double-A since at least 2005 to record at least 20 home runs and tally more than 40 stolen bases. He was also one of four Shuckers selected to the Southern League All-Star team, setting a franchise record, and set the franchise record for RBI in a season with 89.

Entering 2024, Chourio is tabbed as a top-two prospect in baseball by all major publications. He could potentially open the season with the Brewers, where he would become the 67th former Shucker to make their big-league debut.

The Shuckers have also announced a slate of college games at MGM Park for the spring. On February 27, Southern Miss will return to MGM Park for the first time since the 2019 Conference USA Tournament. The Golden Eagles will take

on Nicholls, who appeared in the 2023 Hancock Whitney Classic. Tickets start at \$20 for reserved seating.

Mississippi State will return to Biloxi for the 2024 Hancock Whitney Classic on March 12 and 13 against the University of South Alabama and the University of New Orleans. Tickets start at \$21 for students and Shuck Nation Members in the reserved level and \$23 for the general public.

Suites are also available for all three games through the Biloxi Shuckers Sales Department. Fans are encouraged to get their tickets in advance as prices will increase on the day of the game.

The Shuckers have also officially announced their first pitch times for all 69 home games in 2024. Fans can get tickets for 2024 Shuck Nation Memberships with a \$100 deposit by emailing the Shuckers Sales Department or by calling (228) 233-3465. Members will gain early entry to games through an exclusive Shuck Nation Gate and earn additional perks with a membership.

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



# Aim High, Sleep Deep

By Senior Airman Elizabeth Davis  
81st Training Wing Public Affairs

There are many facets to optimizing human performance, and the Second Air Force is tackling how well Airmen sleep.

Sleep issues are highly prevalent among active-duty service members and the numbered air force, responsible for training 93% of the Air Force, recognizes their responsibility to prevent sleep concerns from forming early in an Airman's career.

"While we toured the wings, sometimes we saw students who were functional zombies, living on energy drinks and no sleep," said Dr. Brian Davis, Second Air Force chief training officer. "We want to help Airmen develop the discipline to continue with the good habits they created in seven and a half weeks of basic training. Making these choices now will make them a well-rounded, better, stronger Airman for the Air Force."

The Readiness and Performance Lab (RiPL) at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas was formed through a collaboration between the Military Readiness Psychology fellowship and academic researchers from the University of Virginia and has worked with Second Air Force to research the effects of good and bad sleep.

"Sleep hygiene is just as important as proper nutrition and physical fitness," said Maj. Gen. Michele Edmondson, Second Air Force commander. "If this is something we can instill in an Airman for the rest of their lives, it will help readiness, morale and promote a healthier force."

The team created two informative videos, which will be presented to Airmen and Guardians in technical training. The videos explain some of the science behind healthy sleep and provide tips for better sleep health.

"Sleep hygiene are the behaviors we engage in on a daily basis that promote good sleep health," said Capt. Jordan Ellis, PhD, 59th Medical Wing military readiness psychology fellow. "Much like brushing our teeth, maintaining daily sleep habits prevents more problematic sleep disorders and associated physical and mental health concerns, and optimizes our mental and physical performance."

**Good sleep supports memory consolidation and learning, improves concentration, enhances productivity, boosts mood, combats anxiety and irritability, and is beneficial for overall human performance.**

According to RiPL, approximately 50 to 70% of Airmen in technical training report insufficient sleep duration or poor sleep quality. The most common causes of poor sleep health for Airmen in technical training include chronic insufficient sleep (consistently sleeping less than six hours per night), inconsistent sleep-wake times (trying to "catch-up" on sleep debt during a weekend), excessive caffeine use, drinking caffeine late into the day, and utilizing their beds as furniture to watch TV, use their phones or play video games.

Poor sleep over time can place individuals at higher risk for symptoms of depression and

anxiety. Chronic poor sleep can lead to problems with anticipating and solving problems, acting decisively under pressure, poor communication within a team and poor moral reasoning.

The first step to improve sleep hygiene is to get back to the basics.

"Perhaps the number one behavior we can change to improve sleep is to maintain a consistent wake time seven days per week," said Ellis. "This allows for our natural biological rhythms that govern wakefulness and sleep to optimize. When we sleep in on the weekends, we are often unintentionally jet lagging ourselves each and every week."

Airmen and Guardians who work swing shifts or have night classes often struggle to maintain a proper sleep schedule.

"Shift work certainly makes sleep more complicated as it often works against our natural biological sleep-wake rhythms," said Ellis. "Individuals on shift work should still work to obtain seven to nine hours of sleep per day, even if this is split into two chunks - for example, sleeping four hours after a shift then getting three more hours before the next shift starts."

Airmen of all ranks can remember that good sleep supports memory consolidation and learning, improves concentration, enhances productivity, boosts mood, combats anxiety and irritability, and is beneficial for overall human performance.

"Human capabilities will make or break our performance in any future conflict," said Ellis. "When we get our sleep right, it makes just about everything we do that matters easier and more possible."

► 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.

## Biloxi Youth Soccer League 2023 Champions

By Ronnie Seymour  
Biloxi Athletic Specialist

After a great season of soccer, the Biloxi Athletic Department and the Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department held the boys' and girls' championship games under the lights at Biloxi High School Stadium.

Games were played on Wednesday, Dec. 13 between the top two teams in the under 10 age groups from the regular season standing. Game one featured the U10 Girls Pink Flamingos and the U10 Blue Tsumani with the Blue Tsumani winning the championship. Game two followed with the U10 Yellow Minions vs the U10 Black Eagles, which came down to overtime and penalty kicks. The Yellow Minions won the title.

Thursday, Dec. 14 featured the

under 12 age group which was led off by a game between the U12 Blue Jays and the U12 Pink Panthers in the girl's championship. When the clock hit zero, the U12 Blue Jays won the title.

The final game of the championship series came down to the U12 Purple Knights vs the U12 Black G.O.A.T.s on Thursday night. The Black G.O.A.T.s pulled away in the second half and ended the season as the U12 Boys Champions.

We appreciate the hard work of the Biloxi Soccer Organization Board of Directors that made this season possible and ensured that every player had a great experience. We are also grateful for the Greg Nolte Foundation (GN3) sponsoring the championships and for the continued support of the city youth leagues by the Biloxi High Athletic Department and the Administration.



▲ Black G.O.A.T.s U12 Boys Champions



▲ Blue Jays U12 Girls Champions



▲ Blue Tsumani U10 Girls Champion



▲ Yellow Minions 10U Boys Champions

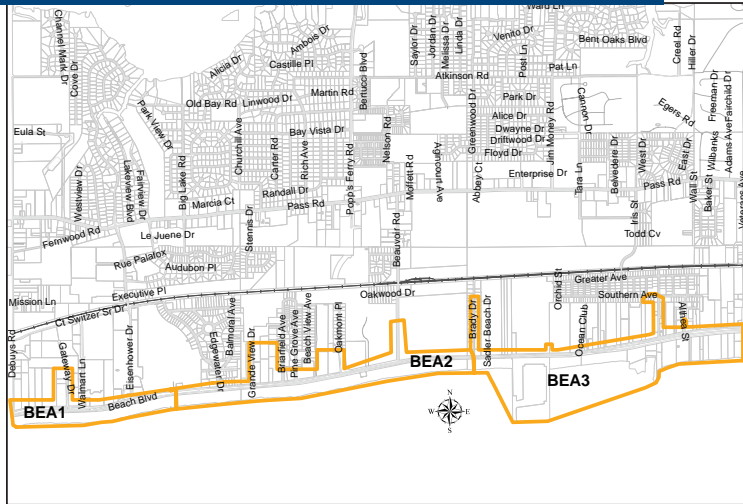
► See more about Biloxi sports online at [biloxi.ms.us/pr](http://biloxi.ms.us/pr)



# The infrastructure work in Biloxi

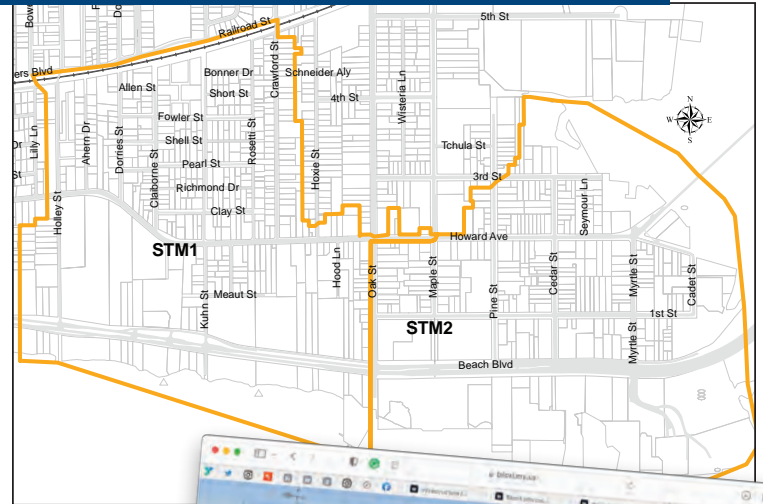
## Necaise Brothers Construction

- \$41.5 million, 900-day project install new water, sewer, and drainage lines
- Work began Jan. 4, 2021



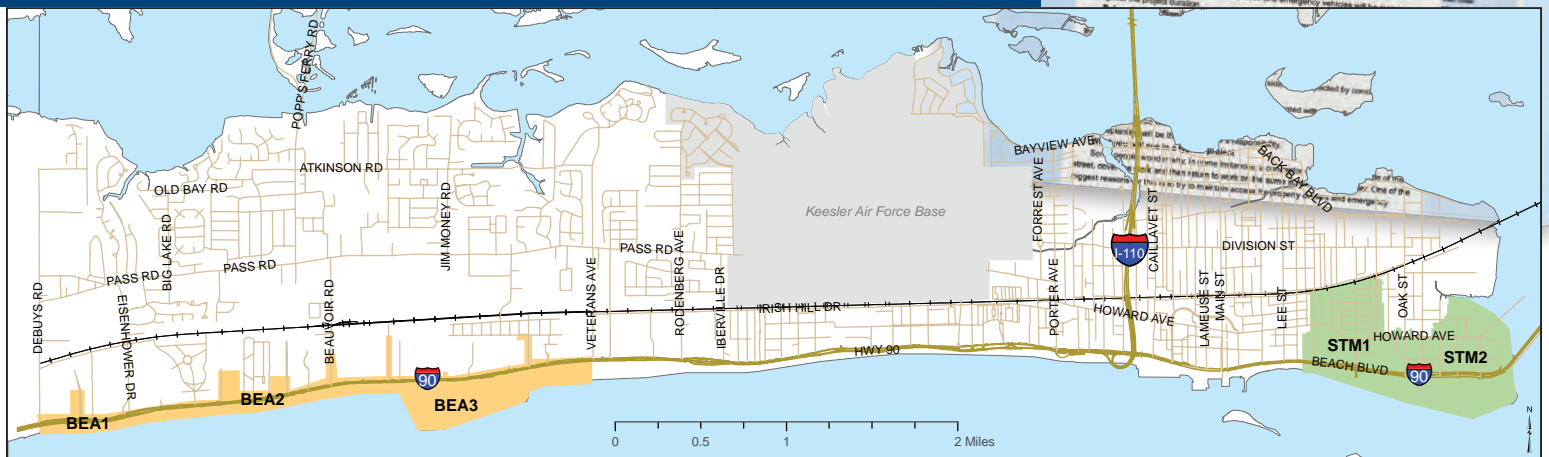
## Necaise Brothers Construction

- \$32 million, 1,080-day project to install new water, sewer, and drainage lines
- Work began July 2022



- See detailed maps and monthly update videos online at [biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/](https://biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/).

## Areawide map of infrastructure work





# Random Notes



## TIME CAPSULE:



Snowman on the Gulf Coast in 2017

## Frozen in time

We have mild winters here in south Mississippi, but every once in a while, Mother Nature hits us with a wintry surprise. That was the case back at the end of the 19th century when an ice storm made its way all the way to the Mississippi Sound with frigid temperatures that brought life to a near standstill.

In 1899, Biloxi was hit with an unexpected cold front that enveloped the coast with icy temperatures hovering around three degrees. Pipes froze, the roadways were iced over, and heating supplies diminished quickly, leaving residents huddled in their homes or turning their wagons into sleds if they dared to venture out.

January is often touted as the coldest month along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. So pay attention to the weather forecast and weather advisories so you will be prepared if Mother Nature hits us with another wintry surprise.

## Stars shine on Howard Avenue

The Ground Zero Blues Club continues to keep Biloxi entertained, with blues artists performing their timeless tunes in the heart of downtown Biloxi.

Recently, Morgan Freeman, award-winning actor and fellow Mississippian, stopped in to relax, enjoy some blues, and visit the locals. No matter how famous one becomes, Biloxi is always the shining star of hospitality on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



Morgan Freeman walking around Ground Zero



Ground Zero hostess Crystal Tate welcomes Morgan Freeman to downtown Biloxi



Ground Zero Blues Club on Howard Avenue

## Division Street, a path to the future

With the vast improvements to the west end of Division Street, businesses want to tap into the market for new customers making their way to Keesler Air Force Base.

The owners of Sweet Pepper Caribbean American Restaurant saw the potential of being along this busy roadway that sees hundreds of cars pass each day. The traffic circle is just steps away from their front door, bringing customers from north, south, east, and west past their doorstep at any given time of day.

The Division Street upgrades brought new life to the area, providing the opportunity for commercial development with high visibility to Keesler commuters. New LED streetlights, a dedicated bike path, and wide sidewalks on both east and westbound lanes make the area pedestrian friendly as well.

Watch for future development along this busy corridor as businesses reach out to the customer base traveling between I-110 and Keesler Air Force Base.

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich welcomes the owners of Sweet Pepper at a ribbon cutting in December 2023



Mural painted by Becky Desporte on the new Sweet Pepper Restaurant

Division Street looking east toward I-110







# *Biloxi 12th Night Celebration*

IN CONJUNCTION WITH FIRST FRIDAY

Friday, January 5, 2024

5:30-9 p.m. • Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lameuse Street, Biloxi, MS

6 p.m.

Mayor Gilich and King d'Iberville and Queen Ixolib with the reigning Royalty of 2023 will turn off the lights of Christmas and turn on the lights of Carnival

6:30 p.m.

Presentation of the Gulf Coast Carnival Association 2024 Flag Bearers

7-9 p.m.

Music by Bucktown All-Stars





## Best Bet!

### Warm up with a run and ride

Lace up your shoes and air up the bicycle tires for two events taking place this month!

On Friday, Jan. 6, the Salvation Army Kroc Center will host its annual Frosty Kroc Run beginning at 8:30 a.m. Runners and walkers will have three options to choose from, 1 mile, 5K, and 10K, which will take participants from the Golden Nugget over the Biloxi Bay bridge and back. Fees range from \$15 to \$20. Visit online at [krocmscoast.com](http://krocmscoast.com) for more details.



Then on Tuesday, Jan. 16, Biloxi Main Street will host its monthly community bicycle ride along the downtown streets. The ride begins at the



Biloxi Visitors Center, just north of the Biloxi Lighthouse, at 6 p.m. and travels downtown. Riders can stop at a restaurant of their choice before returning to the Visitors Center and racking their bikes. Since the ride will take place in the evening with no sunlight, cyclists should wear bright clothing and a helmet and have lights on their bicycles so that motorists will be able to see them. Details: Biloxi Main Street, 228-435-6339.

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

### Dec. 31, New Year's Eve Events:

- **2024 NYE Party** featuring RaShad The Blues Kid and The Chitlins, 8 p.m., Ground Zero Blues Club, 814 Howard Ave.
- **New Year's Eve Celebration**, 7 p.m.-midnight, Margaritaville Resort & Family Entertainment Center, 195 Beach Blvd. 3 Balloon Drops, Half-price games, & Live DJ.
- **New Year's Eve Celebration**, 9 p.m., Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, 777 Beach Blvd. Live music by After Party and Dr Doc Roc in Hard Rock Live. Live countdown country style in Road House 777.

**Children's Mardi Gras Walking Parade Registration**, through Feb. 3, Downtown Biloxi parade open to ages 12 and younger. Details: 228-388-7170, [biloxi.ms.us/pr](http://biloxi.ms.us/pr)



**Twelfth Night Celebration Meets First Friday**  
Downtown,  
Jan. 5, 5:30-9

p.m., Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lamouse St. The reigning royal courts of 2023 will kick off the Mardi Gras celebrations by switching the lights at City Hall from Christmas to Mardi Gras. The event includes refreshments, a parade and GCCA King D'Iberville and Queen Ixolib, and reigning kings and queens of the Krewe of Athena, Les Cavaliers, Les Masquees, The Revelers, and Krewe of Sirens. First Friday Entertainment is The Bucktown All-Stars! Free admission. Details: [museum@coastalmardigras.com](mailto:museum@coastalmardigras.com)



## Best Bet!

### The Second Liners Mardi Gras Parade

The Second Liners Club continues to support the community by providing youth- and family-friendly programs and activities throughout the year. And since 1995, when Mardi Gras time rolls around, it's the Second Liners' time to celebrate!



The annual Second Liners Mardi Gras parade will roll through Downtown Biloxi on Jan. 27 beginning at 1 p.m. For more details, visit online at [biloxisecondliners.com](http://biloxisecondliners.com).



## Stay in touch

**BNews:** Welcome to the 68th 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.

**BTv: Biloxi Television,** city's municipal TV channel, is a mix of current events, local history and local flavor, and monthly updates. Visit online at biloxi.ms.us/btv, and on Sparklight Channel 56.

### Contact:

Cecilia Dobbs Walton, Public 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

**Frosty Kroc Run,** Jan. 6, 1M, 5K & 10K run, race begins at 8:30 a.m. Race travels from the end of the Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino and over the Biloxi Bay Bridge. Details 228-207-1218, krocmscoast.com

**A Tribute to Anita Baker & Friends,** Jan. 13, 7 p.m., Café 871 Howard Ave. Soulful melodies tribute with live performances. Tickets: \$75 with dinner, \$45 without dinner. Details: 228-207-0143

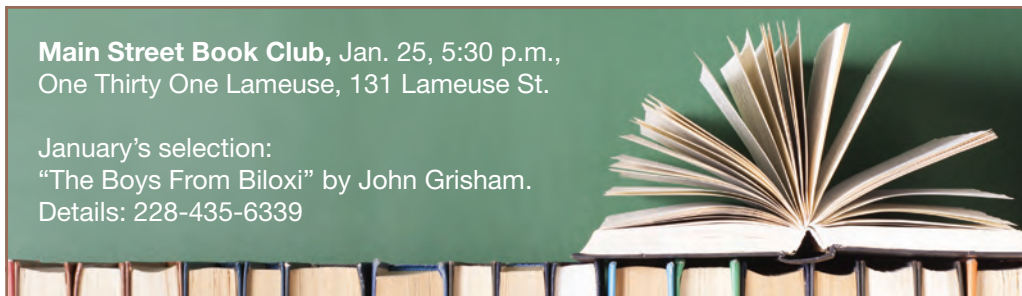


**Bike Biloxi,** Jan. 16, 6 p.m.; downtown bike ride. Begins at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd., and ends with refreshments and food at a downtown restaurant at cyclists' expense. Helmets and lights recommended. Details: 228-435-6339

**Second Liners Mardi Gras Club Parade,** Jan. 27, 1 p.m., The annual Second Liners Mardi Gras parade will roll through Downtown Biloxi on Jan. 27 beginning at 1 p.m. for more details, visit online at biloxisecondliners.com.

**Main Street Book Club,** Jan. 25, 5:30 p.m.,  
One Thirty One Lameuse, 131 Lameuse St.

January's selection:  
"The Boys From Biloxi" by John Grisham.  
Details: 228-435-6339



## Coming in February!

**Children's Mardi Gras Walking Parade,** Feb. 3, 10 a.m., Downtown Biloxi. Open to ages 12 and younger. Parade travels from under the I-110 on Howard Ave. and ends at Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Theme for this year's parade is "Leaving you Spellbound" celebrating the wonders of the world. Registration forms available at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd., and online at biloxi.ms.us. Late registration and sign-in, 9-9:45 a.m. at the parade starting point. Details: 228-388-7170.



### Biloxi Little Theatre

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

- **Mississippi Goddamn**  
Jan. 26-28 & Feb. 2-4



### Center Stage

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

- **Mark Twain Stand-Up**  
Jan. 12-14 & 19-21



### Beauvoir, The Jefferson Davis Home & Presidential Library

2244 Beach Blvd., 228-388-4400, www.visitbeauvoir.org

### Biloxi Excel By 5

Lopez School, 140 St. John Ave., 228-297-6808, susan.hunt@biloxi.schools.net

- Community-based certification program to improve child's overall well-being by age 5
- **Infinity Space Day,** Jan. 18, 10 a.m.

### 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

**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

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

575 Division St., 228-207-1218, krocmscoast.com

- **Blood Drive**, Jan. 2, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Frosty Kroc Run**, Jan. 6, 8:30 a.m. Adults \$20; Youth: \$15
- **Pottery Workshop**, Jan. 13, 9-11 a.m. Members \$35, Guests \$45
- **Paint Your Own Ceramic Pieces**, Jan. 20 & 27, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

**Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum**

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

- Open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 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**, Jan. 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, 6 p.m.
- **Karaoke with Kenny**, Fridays at 7 p.m.

**Joppa Shrine**

13280 Shriners Blvd., 601-917-1027

- **Steak Night**, Jan. 12, 6-8 p.m. Last ticket sold by 7:15 p.m. \$20. Dine-in or for carry-out. Details, 228-392-9345

**Mississippi Coast Historical & Genealogical Society**

591 Howard Ave. (2nd floor), Frank Gruich Community Center, 228-396-1543

- No meeting scheduled for January

**Our Lady of Fatima Parish Monday Bingo**

315 Tara Lane, 228-388-3887

- **Monday Bingo**, Jan. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29. Doors open at 5 p.m., early birds at 6:30 p.m., regular games at 7 p.m. Details: 228-388-3887

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

870 Howard Ave.

- **Biloxi Bingo Mania**, Tuesday nights behind Nativity Cathedral; 871 Esters Blvd. 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

**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 3:30 p.m.; Biloxi Community Development auditorium, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>31</b>  <b>New Year's Eve Events</b> Ground Zero Blues Club Margaritaville Hard Rock	<b>1</b>  <b>Monday Night Bingo</b> Our Lady of Fatima	<b>2</b> <b>Community Market</b>  <b>MS Sea Wolves</b> MS Coast Coliseum  <b>Blood Drive</b> Kroc Center  <b>Biloxi Bingo Mania</b> Nativity Cathedral	<b>3</b> <b>Children's Mardi Gras Walking Parade Registration LAST DAY</b>  <b>MS Sea Wolves/ Public Ice Skating</b> MS Coast Coliseum	<b>4</b> <b>Community Market</b>    	<b>5</b> <b>Seafood Dinners/ Karaoke with Kenny</b> Fleur de Lis Society  <b>Friday Bingo</b> Biloxi Elks Lodge  <b>MS Sea Wolves/ Public Ice Skating</b> MS Coast Coliseum  <b>Twelfth Night Celebration Meets First Friday</b> Biloxi City Hall	<b>6</b>  <b>Frosty Kroc Run</b> Golden Nugget Casino Biloxi Bay Bridge   <b>Public Ice Skating</b> MS Coast Coliseum
<b>7</b>  <b>MS Sea Wolves/ Public Ice Skating</b> MS Coast Coliseum	<b>8</b>  <b>Monday Night Bingo</b> Our Lady of Fatima	<b>9</b> <b>Community Market</b>    <b>Biloxi Bingo Mania</b> Nativity Cathedral	<b>10</b>    	<b>11</b> <b>Community Market</b>    	<b>12</b> <b>Seafood Dinners/ Karaoke with Kenny</b> Fleur de Lis Society  <b>Friday Bingo</b> Biloxi Elks Lodge  <b>Steak Night</b> Joppa Shrine  <b>Mark Twain Stand-Up</b> Center Stage  <b>MS Sea Wolves/ Public Ice Skating</b> MS Coast Coliseum	<b>13</b> <b>Pottery Workshop</b> Kroc Center  <b>A Tribute to Anita Baker &amp; Friends</b> Café 871   <b>Mark Twain Stand-Up</b> Center Stage  <b>MS Sea Wolves/ Public Ice Skating</b> MS Coast Coliseum
<b>14</b> <b>Mark Twain Stand-Up</b> Center Stage  <b>Public Ice Skating</b> MS Coast Coliseum	<b>15</b> <b>MLK Coastwide Celebration</b>  <b>Public Ice Skating</b> MS Coast Coliseum  <b>Monday Night Bingo</b> Our Lady of Fatima	<b>16</b> <b>Community Market</b>  <b>Bike Biloxi</b> Downtown Biloxi   <b>Biloxi Bingo Mania</b> Nativity Cathedral	<b>17</b>    	<b>18</b> <b>Community Market</b>   <b>Infinity Space Day</b> Biloxi Excel By 5	<b>19</b> <b>Seafood Dinners/ Karaoke with Kenny</b> Fleur de Lis Society  <b>Friday Bingo</b> Biloxi Elks Lodge    <b>Dean Cole</b> Beau Rivage	<b>20</b> <b>Paint Your Own Ceramic Pieces</b> Kroc Center     <b>Styx</b> IP Casino
<b>21</b>  <b>Public Ice Skating</b> MS Coast Coliseum	<b>22</b>  <b>Monday Night Bingo</b> Our Lady of Fatima	<b>23</b> <b>Community Market</b>    <b>Biloxi Bingo Mania</b> Nativity Cathedral	<b>24</b>    	<b>25</b> <b>Community Market</b>  <b>Main Street Book Club</b> One Thirsty One Lameuse  <b>Public Ice Skating</b> MS Coast Coliseum  <b>Music of ABBA</b> Hard Rock Casino	<b>26</b> <b>Seafood Dinners/ Karaoke with Kenny</b> Fleur de Lis Society  <b>Friday Bingo</b> Biloxi Elks Lodge  <b>Mississippi Goddamn</b> Biloxi Little Theatre  <b>MS Sea Wolves/ Public Ice Skating</b> MS Coast Coliseum	<b>27</b> <b>Paint Your Own Ceramic Pieces</b> Kroc Center  <b>Gun &amp; Knife Show</b> MS Coast Coliseum <b>Second Liners Parade</b> Downtown Biloxi <b>Mississippi Goddamn</b> Biloxi Little Theatre <b>Tool – MS Coast Coliseum</b> <b>Breaking Benjamin</b> Beau Rivage <b>Great White &amp; Slaughter</b> IP Casino
<b>28</b> <b>Gun &amp; Knife Show</b> MS Coast Coliseum  <b>Mississippi Goddamn</b> Biloxi Little Theatre	<b>29</b>  <b>Monday Night Bingo</b> Our Lady of Fatima	<b>30</b> <b>Community Market</b>    <b>Biloxi Bingo Mania</b> Nativity Cathedral	<b>31</b>    	<b>Community Market</b>    	<b>Seafood Dinners/ Karaoke with Kenny</b> Fleur de Lis Society  <b>Friday Bingo</b> Biloxi Elks Lodge	

# BTV January 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!" Mardi Gras Pasta and Crab Cakes, Biloxi Fire Dept.
7:30 a.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 a.m.	Keesler Update (15 min)
8 a.m.	Special presentation: Replays of Woolmarket & Ward 2 parades
9 a.m.	City Council meetings and other bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)
Afternoon	
Noon	A vintage vignette: "America's Riviera," B&W, 1950s travelogue (9 min)
12:10 p.m.	A vintage vignette: "America's Riviera," 1960s travelogue (14 min)
12:25 p.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)
1 p.m.	"Biloxi Cooks!" Mardi Gras Pasta and Crab Cakes, Biloxi Fire Dept.
1:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
1:45 p.m.	Keesler Update (15 min)
2 p.m.	Special presentation: Replays of Woolmarket & Ward 2 parades
3 p.m.	City Council meetings and other bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)
Evening	
6 p.m.	"Down in Biloxi," by Rockin' Ray Fournier (4 min)
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!" Mardi Gras Pasta and Crab Cakes, Biloxi Fire Dept.
7:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 p.m.	Keesler Update
8 p.m.	Special presentation: Replays of Woolmarket & Ward 2 parades
9 p.m.	City Council meetings and other bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)
Midnight	National Anthem by Ronny Broussard (2 min)



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

## It's a redo for parades

In Biloxi, we have parades for all occasions but the weather can disrupt events. That was the case in December for some of the Christmas parades. Three were scheduled on land and only two took place. So, in case you missed them, you can see replays of the Woolmarket Christmas parade and the Ward 2 Christmas parade again on BTV during the month of January.

The holiday parades are the special presentation for BTV in January and air each day at 8 a.m., 2 p.m., and 8 p.m.

These parades are a look back and a look forward to the carnival parading season set to begin at the end of this month and throughout February.

## Cooking up a Mardi Gras-inspired dish

Biloxi Fire Capt. Jason Gable whips up a creamy, savory Cajun-style dish in this month's encore presentation of "Biloxi Cooks!" airing daily in January. Take another look at Gable and fellow firefighters mixing up a Mardi Gras pasta and crab cakes, a dish Gable says is requested often at Station 10.

See the episode all month long on BTV at 7 a.m., 1 p.m., and 7 p.m.

*This month's recipe:*  
(similar to Capt. Gable's recipe)



## Mardi Gras Pasta and Crab Cakes

Biloxi Firefighters, Station 10

See Capt. Gable's version on "Biloxi Cooks!"

### Pasta ingredients:

- 12 ounces fettuccine
- 8 tablespoons butter, divided
- 1 pound medium to large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 teaspoon Cajun seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 4 green onions, sliced
- 1/4 cup diced yellow pepper
- 1/4 cup diced green pepper
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms
- 12 ounces andouille sausage, sliced
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 cup diced tomato
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/3 cup freshly grated Parmesan
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- salt and pepper

### Instructions:

- Cook pasta in salted water according to package directions. Drain.
- While water comes to boil and pasta cooks, melt 2 tablespoons of butter in large skillet.
- Sprinkle shrimp with cajun seasoning and paprika. Cook in butter until they turn pink.
- Remove with slotted spoon and set aside.
- Add remaining butter to skillet. When melted, add onion, bell peppers, mushrooms, and sausage and cook until sausage is browned and veggies are soft.
- Stir in the garlic and tomato and cook 1 minute.
- Stir in heavy cream and simmer until thickened some.
- Add lemon juice, Parmesan, and parsley. Stir to melt Parmesan.
- Check for seasoning and add salt and pepper to taste.
- Remove from heat. Add fettuccine and shrimp and mix in.

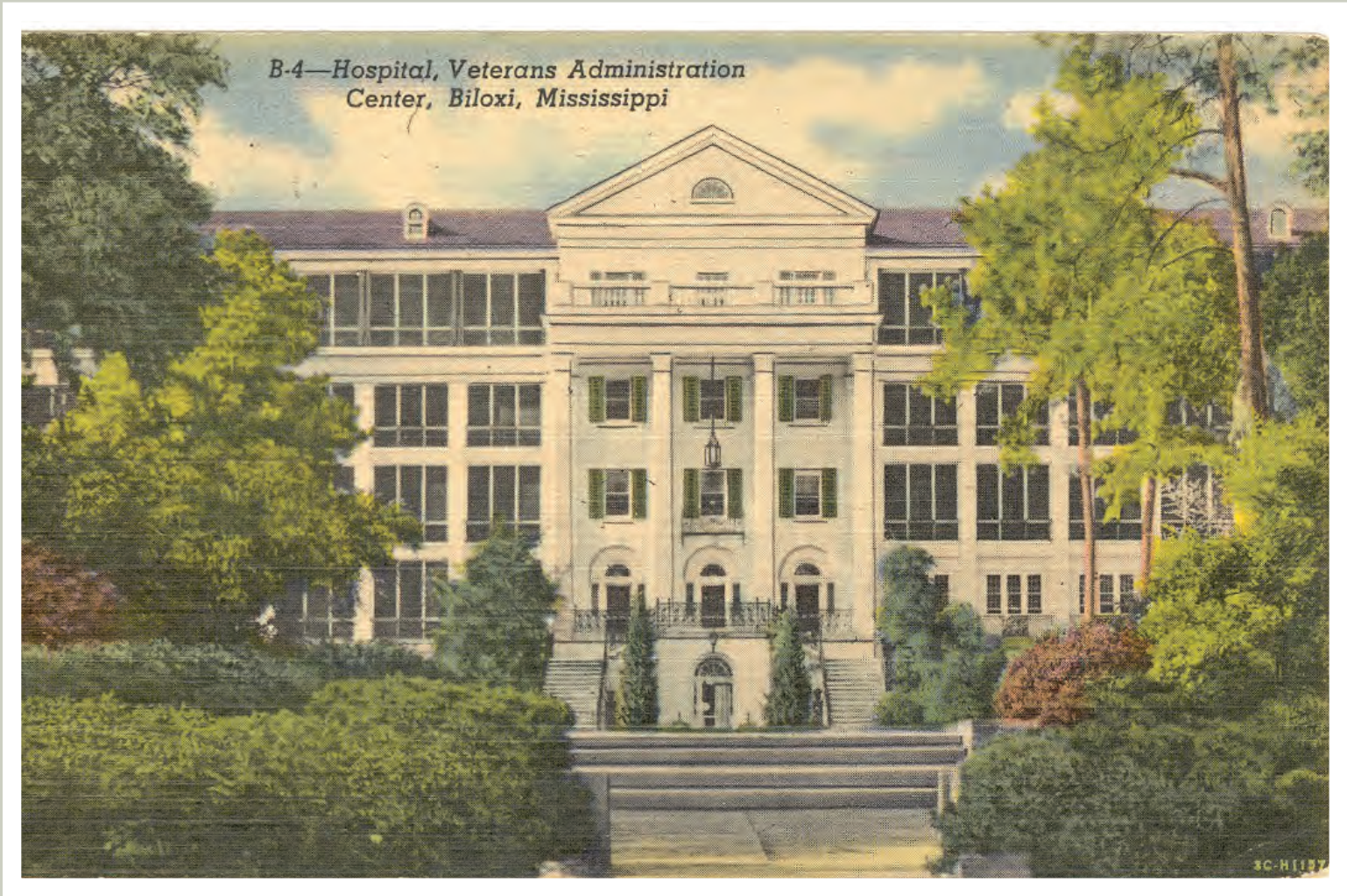
### Crab Cake Ingredients:

- 4 tablespoons butter
- 8 ounces lump crabmeat
- 6 ounces crabmeat
- 1 tablespoons dry bread crumbs
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon coarse ground black pepper
- 1 large egg
- 1 tablespoon mayonnaise
- 1/2 teaspoon hot sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon ground dry mustard

### Instructions:

1. Mix together crabmeat, bread crumbs, parsley, salt and pepper.
2. Beat together egg, mayonnaise, hot sauce and mustard. Combine with other ingredients and mix well.
3. Form into patties and place on a baking sheet.
4. Add half the butter to the large skillet and add the crab cakes to the skillet on medium heat, cooking for 5-7 minutes.
5. Flip the crab cakes with a flat spatula gently, add the remaining butter and cook for an additional 5 minutes





Original caption: Hospital, Veterans Administration Center, Biloxi. Photo: Randazzo Collection, MDAH.

# BILOXI’S SOLDIERS’ HOME

By Paige Gutierrez



Original caption says “The beautiful Back Bay of Biloxi. A scene along the Back Bay of Biloxi where evergreen trees grow to the water’s edge. This view is from the grounds of the U.S. Veterans Administration Center’s National Soldiers Home which is open to the public.” Photo: Randazzo Collection, MDAH.

**Biloxi chosen for Soldiers’ Home**  
On April 6, 1931, *The Daily Herald* headline announced the good news: “Biloxi Selected as Location for Soldiers’ Home.” President Herbert Hoover approved the choice of Biloxi after competition among over thirty sites, all of which offered free land for a new facility to meet the increasing need to take care of the nation’s veterans, especially those of World War I. Biloxi donated part of its wooded Naval Reserve Park on Back Bay, plus some adjoining land purchased by Biloxi taxpayers for the project.

**A place of beauty and healing**  
Biloxi offered more than free land: Biloxi offered a beautiful, healthy place for veterans. Selection officials liked Biloxi’s location “on an inlet of the Gulf of Mexico, where the warm Gulf helps make an equitable climate and affords bathing and outdoor water recreation year



A footbridge crosses a scenic pool at Biloxi’s Veterans Administration property. Photo: MDAH.



round.” The site was on high land “with a wealth of oak and pine trees and the atmospheric conditions conducive to cheerfulness and health.” In addition, it was noted that “evergreen” Biloxi had a clean water supply from deep wells, a good milk supply, a decrease in typhoid, malaria, and tuberculosis in the prior ten years, reliable rainfall, and proximity to Gulfport’s veterans’ hospital. Gulfport leaders endorsed the Biloxi site.  
Construction began in 1932, bringing much needed jobs during the Great Depression. The home opened in 1933.  
No expense was spared in transforming an already stunning site into a soothing and restful retreat. The bayside campus of the Soldiers’ Home, known also as the Veterans Administration facility, offered housing for veterans, nurses and staff, dining and recreation facilities, a modern hospital, and support buildings. These were connected by trails and winding roads, set amid woodland, lush gardens, and lawns.



Nurses’ residence hall, with generous screened porches. Photo: Randazzo Collection, MDAH.

A view of Sunken Gardens. Photo: LHG Image Collection/Harrison County Library System.

**Sunken Gardens**  
Biloxi’s master gardener and landscape architect Frotscher Steckler created scenic grounds with an entry avenue of oaks and natural low areas transformed into a network of pools, streams, rustic bridges, stepping stones, sitting nooks, and plantings called “Sunken Gardens,” described by *The Daily Herald*:

“The ravine was a swamp originally and now it is a dream of beauty. A stream runs through the center, and the beds are planted so there will be a succession of blossoms. The high banks on either side are being filled with mountain laurel, wild azalea and many other suitable plants. From the high bridge a beautiful vista of the garden is seen, and from the other side one looks out upon the shimmering waters of Back Bay where numerous artificial islands connected with bridges are under construction connecting the garden with the bay.”

Some resident veterans helped build the garden retreat and plant miles of flowers from the home’s nurseries.

**Caring for “those who have borne the battle”**  
In May of 1935, administrators invited the public to tour the Biloxi veterans’ hospital, which had “every modern convenience, treatment and appliance.” The newspaper invitation to the public stated the on-going mission of the Soldiers’ Home on Back Bay:  
“Today the men of 1917 and 1918 no longer are young, and the soldiers of ‘98 gradually are assuming the venerable appearance which the Civil War veterans had not so very long ago... as time goes inexorably forward, even the World War veterans grow fewer and fewer. The veterans who were stricken in battle or otherwise suffered health impairing from the war’s effects, require greater care as time goes on. War has ended. Peace has been declared but the care of the country’s casualties in peacetime, as in war, does not end as long as a veteran may need help.”

Sources: *The Daily Herald*, NPS.



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

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